

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

September 2012

Presidents' Letter – There is nothing like a quick drop in evening temperature and humidity to announce the beginning of our new year at HCRAAG. While we will surely have a few more warm days, the long hot summer of 2012 seems to be fading, leaving us memories of a summer that we hope included wonderful adventures, family gatherings, great meals and opportunities to hook in both familiar and new settings. We are eager to share these experiences at our September meeting with inspired rugs and their stories.

Members have been busy all summer demonstrating at several venues and attending workshops, both local and distant. Details of these events follow in the newsletter. Our August camp gathering for the week of August 13-17 was once again a resounding success that seemed to fly by fueled with creative intensity. On Thursday we shared our week's work on the floor of very long corridor and truly each rug was astonishing and generously appreciated by the participants. Rug hookers seem to have a unique capacity to validate each others efforts, not to mention share suggestions, expertise and wool! And thank goodness for smart phones. If we needed to know what a Hubbard Squash coloration looked like, what the schedule for a workshop was, or the name of that wonderful book, someone was always able to fill in the blanks!

This is the third year that Debbie Walsh, Gail Ferdinando and Judy Quintman have taken on the responsibility of running the camp. We are all so thankful for their considerable talent at organizing an event that runs so smoothly and provides an opportunity for learning, laughing, reconnecting for distant members and joyful extended time to HOOK.

We also deeply appreciate the contributions of many to our local vendors and friends. They are as follows:

- Create & Decorate Magazine
- Rug Hooking Magazine
- Wool St. Journal Magazine
- Early American Life Magazine
- Two Old Crows (Jeannine Happe)
- The Blue Tulip (Karen Worthington)
- Goat Hill Studio (Gail Dufresne)
- Heart in Hand (Norma Batastini)
- Homespun (Kay Leisey)
- Wool'n Gardner (Jan Cole)

And our teachers – Arline Bechtold, Jeanne Benjamin and Lucille Festa – as well as two of our members -- Janet Williams and Debbie Walsh

Many of the members who have volunteered thus far for positions for the Hooked Rug Festival at

the Mill have been busy throughout the summer. Several visits to the Mill have been made to map out space for rugs, boutique and vendors. This is an on going process but great strides have been made thus far. We now have a beautiful poster that has been created for advanced advertising at our various demonstrations. This was accomplished on a moments notice by Annie Edwards and Karl. Details and discussion of the Festival will be a considerable part of our program this September.

Show and Tell for this September hearkens back to requests made in May and June. Remember when you returned to school in September those "What I Did This Summer" essays? No writing necessary for this assignment. Please bring projects started this summer either in workshops, camp, hiding from heat or travel adventures. Although many may not be completed we would like to share works in progress inspired by this summer and their "stories".

The program will be as discussed by our Festival Boutique Committee. In June, we asked that over the summer you think about, and perhaps create, some items for sale at the Festival. So we will be discussing those ideas for our program. We need to begin to move forward on a plan to create and collect wonderful exciting items. Additionally we will be making available the holiday trees for hooking for the membership and for sale at the boutique. We will be assembling the trees as the November program.

Which brings us to last words of inspiration...."We can do it.". The operative word is WE. If you watched the Summer Olympics perhaps like us you were inspired by the Gold Medals won by a team. In so many events the efforts of the group pulling together won the day for the athletes and the nation. It seems an important message for both grand and local endeavors and an inspiration for our Guild as we go into this exciting year. Cindy and Therese

September Meeting – Friday, September 14, 2012 -- 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 and discussing plans for the coming program year. We will learn more about the special October program when Evelyn Lawrence will bring her Magdalena Briner rugs. We anticipate hearing ideas for boutique items to be sold at the Rug Festival. Boutique tree patterns for the November meeting will be available.

Show & Tell – As noted in the Presidents' Letter, S & T this month is rugs started or completed during the summer including those from various camps and workshops you attended.

Remember there is a raffle ticket for those who show and tell with a chance to win one of our many prizes. Any member donations for raffle prizes are greatly appreciated. If you could send Barbara Boyko or Sharon Ballard an email message or call to let them know you are bringing a prize, it will be helpful in planning the quantity of prizes at any one meeting. We thank you for your support!

Hospitality – Members of our Hospitality Committee will be traveling this month and are requesting that we all pitch in and help with set-up and break down. Several of us get to the building early and can set-up but as yet there are no volunteers with treat donations. What

would a meeting be with out all those Divine Goodies, so if you can bring something please do and we will surely begin the year in abundance.

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), Jean Laurence (9/28), Cyndi Lott (9/23), Debbie Ryan (9/16), Gail Schmidt (9/25), and Roberta Smith (9/2). We wish them all the happiest birthdays.

Membership – Janet Williams and her husband, Ted, are moving to South Africa where they will be living for the next five years. Ted has been appointed to the position of Director of the South African Astronomical Observatory in Capetown. They will be selling their home in New Jersey, but are planning to keep the family home in Maine as their "US Headquarters" for when they can come back for visits. Their daughter, Emily, lives in Portland, Maine so they will be close to her during their visits. Janet and Ted will not be leaving until late December or early January; we will have time to say "Good Bye". Janet hopes to stay in communication through a blog, email and Skype. She will be missed, but we wish her and Ted all the best. Wonder if we will soon see a rug hooking guild in South Africa?

Our program year begins this month, so it is time to renew your membership. The renewal form is attached.

Sunshine – Members Sharon Ballard and Karl Gimber are recovering nicely from surgery they underwent during the summer.

Guild News & Events

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 8 & 9 | Sheep & Fiber Festival | Gisele Meader |
| • September 15 | Hilltown Historical Fall Festival | Karl Gimber |
| • October 6 | Apple Butter Frolic | Joanne McIllmurray |
| • October 6 | Newtown Colonial Market Day | Karl Gimber |
| • October 20 | Howell Living Farm (Quilt Day) | Carol Kindt |
| • November 3 & 4 | Thanksgiving in the Country | Joyce Combs |

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!

Rebecca Erb (Wool Studio) is Having a Sale (September 4 – 9, 2012) – Rebecca Erb is hosting "Shopper-Tunity Days" at her Wool Studio from Tuesday, September 4 to Sunday, September 9. The hours are 10-5 on Tuesday thru Saturday and 10-2 on Sunday. Rebecca notes "I have been hooking since 1989 and really cleaning house for the first time. My husband is delighted!" Lots of vintage wool is being unearthed. The sale includes:

- Pound goods – camelhair/cashmere and other solids at \$12 lb (about \$10 a yard)
- Woolen odds and ends -- \$10 lb (about \$8 a yard) – price reduced on Saturday.

- Hundreds of 15 yard bolts for wholesale purchasing
- Specially priced yardage and regular inventory available
- Patterns by Spruce Ridge Studios (Kris Miller) and Woodcrest Designs (Joanne Gerwig)

Please call 610-678-5448 or email Rebecca at thewoolstudion@comcast.net with any questions.

Hook a Carpet Bag Workshop at the Mennonite Heritage Center on

September 29, 2012 -- The Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Rd, Harleysville, announces a *Rug Hook a Carpet Bag Workshop* scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2012 from 9 am to 3 pm. This workshop is led by rug hooking designer and instructor Cindy Irwin. Participants will create a beautiful hand dyed wool carpet bag with a hooked tulip motif.

Cindy will teach workshop participants how to hook onto wool, eliminating the necessity of using a hooking fabric background. She will also show how to construct a bag with an internal frame and then attach feet to your bag and how to reinforce it.

The registration is \$55 (\$50 for Heritage Center members) and participants can choose a large bag kit with a 14" internal frame for \$85 or a small bag kit with a 10" internal frame for \$63 in either brown or dark blue hand dyed wool. The kit includes the hand-dyed wool for the bag, hand-dyed wool to hook the motif, internal frame, and feet. (The kit does not include lining and handle.) Some rug hooking experience is helpful. Preregistration is required as class size is limited. To register, contact the Mennonite Heritage Center via email info@mhep.org, call 215-256-3020 or check the website www.mhep.org.

Annual Rug Hooking Retreat – January 11-13, 2013 -- 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. A discounted room rate of \$118 is available to those who will be staying over. Just call the Hampton Inn at 908-284-9427 and mention our Guild. Weezie Huntington is coordinating this highly popular event and will have more details shortly.

Guild to Exhibit Rugs at Hilltown Historical Society – March 16, 2013 -- The Hilltown Historical Society has invited the Guild to exhibit our rugs at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead on March 16, 2013. In addition to displaying our members' one-of-a-kind creations, we will demonstrate rug hooking during the day. More details will follow.

Rug Repair Assistance Sought -- During the Hunterdon County Agricultural & 4-H Fair, a visitor sought the name of a resource for repairing a hooked rug. Bambi Kuhl from Lambertville, New Jersey has an antique rug (2 x 3) that needs a repair. If you can provide assistance, please contact her at 609-731-5896 or by email at bambikuhl@gmail.com.

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

Once again our Guild participated in the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair which was held in August. Fourteen members of our Guild, plus Cliff Ballard, submitted

a total of twenty-eight items for the exhibit in the categories of Narrow Cut, Wide Cut, Mixed Media/Three Dimensional and Mini Punch Needle.

The exhibit showcased a wide spectrum of work including portrait, pictorial, floral, animal and Mola hooked rugs, wearable masques, 3-D chicken and sheep. Other pieces included a hooked flag, doorstep, geometric stepstool and a miniature punch needle top for a wooden trinket box.

Nationally recognized hooking instructors, Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar, Jeanne Benjamin and Lucille Festa judged the pieces submitted. Congratulations to the ribbon winners for the Hooked Rug Division for the 2012 Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair, as shown below:

Narrow Cut

- **Best of Show:** Gail Ferdinando " At The Beach"
- **Second Place:** Therese Shick "Sammy"
- **Third Place:** Cindy Boults "Tree of Life"

Wide Cut

- **Best of Show:** Barbara Dalrymple Lugg "Memories - Tribute To My Dad"
- **Second Place:** Therese Shick "When Harry Met Sally"
- **Third Place:** Carol Collin "Red Salt Box with Willows"

Mixed Media/Three Dimensional

- **Best of Show:** Kathy Donovan "The Masque"
- **Second Place:** Ellen DiClemente "Clara"
- **Third Place:** Cindy Boults "Mardi Gras Mask" (purple)

Mini Punch Needle

- **Best of Show:** Janet Santaniello "Padula"

Wearables

- No submissions

Best of Show Overall

- Gail Ferdinando "At The Beach"

Viewer's Choice

- Gail Ferdinando "At the Beach"

Thanks to everyone who submitted items for the exhibit and to Cindy Boults, Kathy Donovan, Weezie Huntington, Gisele Meader, Dee Rosebrock, and Joan Shymko for demonstrating. 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.

Gail Ferdinando Recognized by Celebrations! -- Each year Rug Hooking Magazine conducts an international juried exhibit of hooked rugs that is published in A Celebration of Hand-Hooked Rugs, commonly known as "Celebrations". For those interested in seeing how their rugs compare to others, being selected for Celebrations is considered the pinnacle of recognition in the rug hooking community.

Gail Ferdinando's rug "Animal Crackers" has received this coveted recognition by being selected for inclusion in the Celebrations XXII. Gail joins her sister, Debbie Walsh, and

her stepmother, Judy Quintman, who were previously recognized in Celebrations. What a talented family!

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild has a proud history of the rugs hooked by its members being recognized by Celebrations. As a Guild, the designation is an indication of the artistry found within our talented membership. Our informal records reveal that a total of 18 rugs hooked by HCRAAG members have been selected by Celebrations over the years. (See list sent with the newsletter.)

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill – Update -- Several members of HCRAAG have been quite busy over the summer getting organized for the Rug Hooking Festival at the Mill in October 2013. Many of the committees now have chairs, and we will be looking for additional volunteers to help with the work that needs to be done on those committees. September's meeting will include an update on where we are and where we need to go so that this will be an awesome event. We are excited and looking forward to sharing news with you at our first meeting. Thanks so much to all of you who have put time in so far!

“Freshman” Special Events Coordinator Needed -- We are currently looking for someone to step in as the “Freshman” Special Events Chair to comply with the Guild's by-laws and to maintain continuity when Amy Korengut completes her term as of June of 2013.

Our by-laws define the duties of the Special Events Chair as follows:

“The Special Events Committee Chair will oversee and lead a committee of no less than 4 people to consider and organize any special events, such as a weekend retreat, a hook-in, opportunities to demonstrate hooking, opportunities to exhibit our work, or any necessary fundraising.”

Amy will work together with anyone on this project and help out so that no one person will bear all the responsibility. She would appreciate if those interested in getting additional information would see her at the September meeting as we do need to fill this position.

Review of By-Laws Planned -- It has been several years since the Guild's by-laws were last reviewed. We are planning to review them this fall to make sure they are applicable to the way we are running the Guild. This is a necessary process from time to time since over time, things change and then we need to adjust our policies. Let Cindy or Therese know if you have ideas on changes that should be considered or want to help in the review.

Weezie Huntington Assumes Treasurer's Role -- Weezie Huntington has agreed to assume responsibility for being the Guild's Treasurer. We thank Jana Laidlaw for her past service to the Guild.

2013 HCRAAG Camp Instructors to be Announced -- Plans for our Guild's 17th annual camp are already underway. The line-up of teachers will be announced at our September meeting. Registration for the 2013 camp will also be accepted at the meeting.

An email announcement will be sent out following the meeting for those not in attendance.

Heritage Center of Lancaster County Closes -- Guild members will recall our enjoyable bus trip to the Heritage Center of Lancaster County in 2008 for its landmark exhibit “Rags to Rugs: Hooked and Handsewn Rugs of Pennsylvania”. Sadly it was recently announced that the Heritage Center has closed its doors. The announcement noted that 2012 was “a year of transition” and that it “no longer has the resources to engage in daily museum operations.” The Heritage Center’s collection has been put in safe storage off premises. Historic objects are available for loan to other institutions. Extraneous material, most not made in Lancaster County, is being sold. The Lancaster Quilt & Textile Museum building is up for sale and the main museum building has been returned to the city.

Historic Sauder Village’s 16th Annual Rug Hooking Week – A Report -- Sauder Village’s annual Rug Hooking Week takes place the same week that our Guild normally has its rug hooking camp so we tend not to have many members make the journey to Ohio for this special week. This year Pat McDonnell, Therese Shick and Mary Jo and Karl Gimber attended. The trip to the town of Archbold in northwestern Ohio takes about 10 hours, but it is a relatively easy drive straight across Rt. 80 to the exit for Archbold.

Sauder Village is the largest living history museum in Ohio. Historic buildings from other sites have been relocated to form a small museum town with many artisans demonstrating their crafts and costumed interpreters sharing the history of the area during the 1800s. The Barn Restaurant and the Sauder Village Inn are part of the complex.

Rug Hooking Week attracts an estimated 5,000 plus visitors who come to see the large exhibit of rugs, attend workshops, shop the vendors and visit the historic village. The rug exhibit had several components –

- Featured Artisans – Barb Carroll and Mary Jo/Karl Gimber
- Celebration of Hand-Hooked Rugs XXII
- Special Exhibits – Eye See You II (Judy Carter and Lenny Feenan)
-- Zodiac Collection – Susan Feller (Curator)
- Theme Challenge 2012 -- Olympic Grandeur
- Group Exhibits
- Main Exhibit – U.S. and International work by category

Guild members and friends were well represented in the various exhibits – Norma Batastini (Celebrations and Eye See You II), Arline Bechtoldt (Eye See You II), Judy Carter (Eye See You II), Mary Jo/Karl Gimber (Featured Artisans), Susan Feller (Zodiac Collection), Gail Ferdinando (Celebrations), Patty Mahaffey (Eye See You II), Pat McDonnell (Main Exhibit), and Janet Williams (Eye See You II).

Workshop offerings ranged from half day to two and three day sessions conducted by regional and nationally know instructors. The longer workshops, which are called “retreats”, were conducted like a rug hooking camp. Participants stayed at the Inn with some meals provided.

There were 13 vendors including some of our favorites such as Rebecca Erb (Wool Studio), Susan Feller (Ruckman Mill Farm) and Dorr Mill Store as well as regional vendors we do not see often in our area..

Therese Shick, who attended for the first time, shared the following thoughts about her week at Sauder Village:

“This was the first year I attended Sauder Village and it was wonderful! What a great week at a beautiful location in northwestern Ohio. The special exhibits included a wonderful complete collection of Karl and Mary Jo Gimber’s rugs and the Eye See You II rug collection put together by Judy Carter and Lenny Feenan. I took a class with Donna Hrkman on portraits and learned so much. The rug show proved inspirational with all the rugs on display including many of the winners for Celebrations 2012. So, not only did I learn a lot, but was quite inspired by what others are doing. It was a great opportunity and I would love to go again another year!”

Pat McDonnell is a regular Rug Hooking Week attendee. She reflects on this year’s experience in her following message:

“2012 was my eighth trip to Sauder Village. It may well be called the "Mecca" of the rug hooking world, expanding to include many more teachers, and 560 truly exquisite rugs on exhibition as of this year (over 700 if counting the rugs exhibited by the vendors). The rugs are hung in the Founders Hall, a sort of sophisticated round barn, by volunteers who contribute their time to make this a memorable experience for the public and rug hookers. The parking lot is filled with cars bearing license plates from all over the USA as well as Canada.

Visiting Sauder has been a special time for me, learning new ideas from each of the teachers over the years as well as making new friends (an easy thing to do because everyone seems to go out of their way to be friendly) and enjoying the surroundings. Erie Sauder created a beautiful hotel (the word "hotel" doesn't seem adequate to describe it) rising high among the fields of corn and soybeans. It is here that we hook and let loose all of our creativity.”

Kathy Wright, Rug Hooking Week Director, and Dawn Hauter, Special Events Coordinator, along with their enthusiastic team of volunteers worked hard to assure that things ran smoothly and that the event was a memorable experience.

Vermont Rug Hooker Invites Guild Members -- Earlier this summer Cindy Boults received the following email message.

“Cindy, I stumbled onto HCRAAG completely by chance. What a great website!

I live in the Lake Champlain Islands of Vermont and belong to the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild. I have been hooking since 2005 and am completely hooked - eat, sleep, dream, hooking!

We have a group (Champlain Islands Fiber Bees) that meet every Thursday. from 11 - 4. If any of your members are ever up our way, please extend them our invitation to stop by and visit and/or bring their hooking and spend the day. I also

belong to a group during the winter in Stuart, Florida. So, if anyone is wintering in that area, I would love to hear from them.”

Lynn Soule
North Hero, VT
802-373-0628 (cell)
802-372-5353 (home)

2012 Camp a Big Success! -- Fun was had by all at our 16th annual summer camp! We hooked, we ate, we talked, we ate, we laughed and we ate. The camp was a success thanks to our three wonderful teachers and our campers who helped out so generously. We would like to thank 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. We enjoyed the massages and delicious sticky buns brought to us by our masseuse Joy. A special thank you goes to our dedicated and hard working camp directors – Debbie Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh.

Beginners Workshop -- We would like to thank Judy Quintman for doing a great job teaching the beginner class. The seven students in the class had fun and did a great job; they 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 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 other members.

Guild Demonstrates at Mercer County 4-H Fair -- Howell Living Farm was the site for the Mercer County 4-H Fair on July 28, 2012. Karl Gimber, Therese Shick, Joan Shymko and Martha Theiling represented the Guild at this popular family event. A late morning downpour had the crowd retreat to the Visitors Center, but they reappeared when the rain subsided. There was much interest in rug hooking with several registrants signing up for the beginners workshop conducted at camp.

Rug Repair Inquiry Triggers Memories – Just before our summer break, the Guild received a request for help on repairing damage to an old family heirloom. The request triggered reflections and advice from former Guild President, Janet Kovach. Her response to the SOS message follows:

“Way back when--way back--I attended some of Patsy Becker's classes in her back yard in the summer in Holmdel NJ off the Garden State Parkway. These classes were very illuminating to me. We all brought our own lunch and Patsy furnished the iced tea. We were allowed to roam the house and that was a role model for keeping your rug hooking out and available. A small frame with a ship was right on the kitchen table. There was a beautiful ship rug on the bathroom floor and more nautical rugs scattered in the other rooms of this old home. Patsy's famous dining room rug was right there under her dining room table and we all walked on the flowers and leaves and maybe fruits.

Outside in the yard Patsy taught me some of the rudiments of dyeing over a gas stove with tanks and her lit cigarette was always dangling out of her mouth. I was horrified that the tank would blow up, but it did not and I learned much from her. One class after lunch she gave a mini class on what to do if your dog chewed a hole in your rug. She first cut new backing to match the old and then sewed and affixed it across the hole. Then she had a new patch to hook on and the repair was successful. Very simple. I consider myself fortunate to have had these classes with her and the other women there. One person I sat next to was skilled in her dog rugs (do not remember her name).

For whoever has the time to help Karen repair her Mother's rug, it's really not that hard to do. She might also consult Jessie Turbayne's books or write Jessie a letter. She is a most helpful person. I met her and Joan Moshimer one summer day in Kennebunkport in search of blueberry muffins when my husband and I were on vacation. They were setting up this yard sale on Joan's store's front lawn and told me all about this new-to-me art of rug hooking. I had no idea at that time how famous they would become. I bought a few garbage bags full of wool remnants and a small house pillow kit from Joan while my husband wondered now where will this lead. One never knows how certain people will influence one's life." From Janet Kovach

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

Featured Member – Janet Kovach -- Janet Kovach's rug hooking journey began in the 1970s when she observed a woman hooking while on a house tour. Her interest was reinforced during a vacation trip to Kennebunkport, Maine where she met Joan Moshimer and Jessie Turbayne (see previous article above).

A private lesson with Margaret Lutz got things moving. Janet recalls going to Margaret's home to learn rug hooking basics and how she had to step over Margaret's large Irish Setter as she viewed Margaret's rugs that were on the floors throughout the house. She still pictures a long rug in the upstairs hallway. They sat in the living room and started work on a small rug with an image of a cow. Margaret told her "Put your hook in and pull up a loop. Now you know how to hook!" The pillow pattern purchased from Joan Moshimer was Janet's next project.

Like so many local rug hookers, Janet soon learned about Gail Dufresne and continued her development at workshops and open studio sessions. One important lesson learned from Gail was that you can combine wide and narrow cuts in a rug. It does not have to be one or the other. That approach can be seen in the rugs that Janet creates. "The pattern and style is determined by who the rug is intended for and their interests. That being said, I am not inclined to do fine shading", Janet notes.

As a multi-talented artist, Janet prefers to create rugs that are inspired by her own drawings and art work. Her passion "is the art". In addition to hooking rugs, Janet weaves on floor looms, weaves tapestry on a large Fireside loom, spins on several spinning wheels and her collection of drop spindles, dyes, laces, knits constantly (she belongs to the Rocking Sock Club of Blue Moon Fibers out west), crochets, quilts, draws, and paints in watercolors and oils. Two of her paintings can be seen on the kitchen wall

in the photo on the website of her hooking a new rug on her frame. This rug depicting fish in Alaska is being made for her children who love to vacation there.

Janet was familiar with Elizabeth Black's work and was hoping to study with her. She learned from her hooking and weaving friend, Andrea Dallesandro, that Elizabeth was scheduled to give a workshop at Gail Dufresne's Studio. While at the workshop, Janet first learned of the Hunterdon Guild from the participants who were discussing an upcoming meeting. She was invited to attend.

At that time the Guild met in the "Yellow House" in Flemington. "I was blown away by the women at the meeting, especially Helen Buchanan who was the Guild's President at the time. They were farmers, raised sheep and hooked rugs! They reminded me of my mother and her friends. How wonderful to hook with them ." Janet remembers Madeline and Margaret Brightbill, Ingrid Cosmen, Andrea Dalessandro, Kathy Donovan, Jo Knobloch, Barbara Lugg, Laurie Rubinetti, Bernice Smith, Virginia Sutton, Kay Weeks, and Mary Jean Whitelaw from those early days with the Guild. There was also Marion Michel with her wonderful moose rug with the knitted borders. She was surely thinking outside the box. "They were all so extremely friendly and welcoming", Janet recalls. "These women reminded me of times spent on farms near Columbus, Ohio growing up with my parents' Ohio State University friends." Trips to the Ohio State Fair were her favorites.

In 1995 Janet lost her husband, Lou, and mother both to cancer within five months. "My world collapsed", Janet recalls. Then in 2000 her son, Jeff, committed suicide due to a broken engagement. The total grief strain eventually led to a stroke, which put Janet in a wheelchair, unable to walk. Janet entered into a difficult rehab program at the JFK Stroke Rehab Facility in Edison, NJ. She remembers the nurse saying "you will walk and drive again"; that kept her going.

While in the hospital, Janet can still picture Kathy Donovan bringing her a bouquet of white daisies in a large blue vase and Andrea Dallesandro setting up her frame and hooking in her room. Andrea's husband, Andy, just happened to be Janet's mailman at the time of recovery. Every day he would walk the mail up to her back door with a big dose of encouragement that was greatly appreciated. During rehab there was an arts and crafts exercise where participants "made a rug". The sunflower pattern was painted, not hooked! Janet named the rug "Growth" and it still hangs over her stationary bike which she rides every day. Janet looks back at this difficult time and observes that "you can go down to nothing and come back with sheer guts, determination and a very strong faith".

The stroke occurred in January and Janet was scheduled to run the HCRAAG camp in August. She was committed to do it. The Guild was mystified when she showed up for camp. What they did not know at the time was that it was necessary for Janet to go to her car several times during the day to rest. Patti Ann Finch kept watch over camp while Janet slept on the front seat of the car. She was very grateful for Patti Ann's help. After camp, Joyce Combs was particularly kind, encouraging and supportive in the kitchen helping Janet know she could lead meetings and not break down crying. Janet served as the Guild's president from 1999 to 2003. She was also active in the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter where she served as Vice President.

Over the years, Janet attended many of the HCRAAG camps and ran them for four years. During that time, she worked with the various camp instructors as well as Jon Ciemiwicz,

Gail Dufresne, Marjory Judson and Elizabeth Black. Margaret Lutz, Gail Dufresne and Marjory Judson have been influential in different ways. She recalls Gail sitting on a chair with a hoop and thinking “look what she can do with a simple hoop”. “Marjory encouraged us to look at everything outside from the way pine needles grew to reflections in windows.” When questions came up on how to hook something, Marjory would say “It is all out there. You are just not looking at it.”

Janet dyed wool long before formal classes were being offered. She has taken formal classes, but prefers natural dyes instead of commercial ones. Flowers, nut hulls and other natural ingredients find their way into her dye pot. Janet will “work with anything”, however; she prefers new wool to recycled. Most of her wool comes from local suppliers, but she is also a big fan of Dorr Mill wools and Winterberry Cabin.

As an artist, it is natural for Janet to design most of her own patterns, although she does buy an occasional commercial one. Janet designed a series of rugs that were hooked with wool from family members’ clothing -- Pendleton skirts from her mother and pants and jackets from her husband and son. Each of her children received one of the rugs which she jokingly calls her “dead people’s rugs”. Creating the rugs was part of the healing process.

Janet was born in Columbus, Ohio and spent her early years there. She was raised in Pittsburg, PA and remains a Steelers fan. Janet started her professional career in nursing with a degree from the University of Pennsylvania. As her family grew to five children, Janet decided to change careers to teaching and went to night school at Rutgers University where she earned a Bachelor and a Master degree in English. She taught English for 30 years after which she went back to nursing at local doctor offices, but soon “missed the kids”. Her next career change built upon her long passion for the piano. Janet has played the piano since age five and continues to take lessons twice a week in piano technique and jazz. She now teaches piano from her home and has established a large clientele and has the kids she missed.

Janet and Lou raised five sons -- Stephen, Neil, Craig, Jeff, and Christopher. She has five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Stephen and his wife, Jennie, live on a ranch in Houston, Texas. Stephen is a safety engineer for Chevron and travels the world from jungles to cities to oil fields. Jennie, in between ranch work, home-schools her two grandchildren, Arwyn and Isaac. Zack, Arwyn’s and Isaac’s father, is a police officer who served in Iraq with the Air Force and is now in the Air Force Reserves. We thank him for his service. Janet’s granddaughter, Katlin, is presently in Africa doing missionary work.

Neil lives in Flemington, NJ with his wife, Patty. He is a cabinetmaker and is currently building a new addition to their house. Patty is an engineering contractor at Merck and also a splendid quilter. Their daughter, Erica, a second year resident doctor at Hunterdon Medical Center, and her husband, Will, who is an environmental engineer, live on Will’s large dairy farm in Washington, NJ. Their son, Willem, is two years old. Janet took the Morton House pattern (see page 74 in Gail Dufresne’s book [Geometric Hooked Rugs](#)) with the image of a primitive cow and added a stethoscope and fancy shoes to reflect Erica’s profession and fondness for shoes. The rug was a wedding present for Erica and Will. Go to the Guild’s website (www.hcrag.com) to enjoy this special family heirloom.

Craig and his wife, Irene, live in Manalapan, NJ. He is a middle school English teacher and Irene is a private music teacher.

Christopher and his wife, Selina, live outside of Milwaukee in Saukville, Wisconsin. He is a ceramic engineer who is Vice President of Signacast in Hartford, WI. Selina is active in CBS Bible groups. They have two daughters – Samantha and Charlotte. Samantha is a jazz trumpeter and music major in her senior year at DePauw University in Indiana. Charlotte is a junior at University School in Milwaukee and is an artist/pianist and soon-to-be harpist.

It is interesting to see how Janet's artistic and musical talents are shared by her family.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook -- September for me is the beginning of the year. I am a former school teacher and when Labor Day came it was time to go back to work after a summer filled with friends and family, travel adventures, and time at our summer house in Nova Scotia.

Our dear Aunt Virginia often said to us, "Fill your memory bank because when you are unable to travel and do all the things you love, you will have plenty to remember". When I look around my house I see the mats I made to remind me of a trip we had taken, the view from our window in Nova Scotia, the fishing boats, a gorgeous sunrise or sunset. It takes me right down memory lane.

My favorite rug in this year's show at the La Have Islands Marine Museum is a long runner (24 x 102) made by a local rug hooker. It is done in a hit or miss style with scenes of everyday sights from the window of her house mixed in. An osprey, blue jay, squirrel, a sunset are hooked into some of the blocks. As you walk down the hall you would be reminded to look out the window and enjoy the sights of the day.

This summer I hooked a rug to be presented to our nephew as a wedding present. I hope that it will be part of the memory bank of his special day and that it will remind him of the love and commitment he and his wife made on that day.

So think of those special memories from this summer and put them into a design for a rug. It will bring you such joy and pleasure each time you see it and will help to preserve those times which will fade a bit down the years. Happy fill your memory bank month! "Create beauty everyday" Deanne Fitzpatrick says. To which I add... "yes, indeed!"
Nina Seaman

Tips From Heloise – In a meeting earlier in the year Weezie Huntington gave a presentation on wool dyeing. There was considerable interest in the gloves she used to remove hot wool from the dye pot. Information on the gloves was shared in a subsequent email message. Not everyone received the message so Heloise is sharing the information again.

Weezie found the gloves on line at www.QCsupply.com. They are neoprene work gloves and come in two lengths --12" for \$9.04 and shorter ones with cuffs for \$7.02. Weezie bought the shorter gloves, but recommends the longer ones.

Recipes – The cookies that Susan Woodworth brought to camp were the hit of the week. Susan recalls that her mother always called them “Wausau Wonders”. We thank Susan for sharing the recipe.

CORN FLAKE COOKIES

Ingredients (makes 5 dozen)

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 ½ cup flour
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 2 cups cornflakes

Preparation

- Cream butter, sugar and vanilla
- Sift flour, soda and cream, of tartar together
- Mix into the butter mixture
- Add pecans and cornflakes
- Dough will be fairly stiff
- Roll into tiny balls and place on greased cookie sheets
- Press down lightly with fork

Bake at 350 for 12 minutes

Allow to cool slightly before removing from cookie sheet, otherwise they will break when transferred to cooling rack.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Architecture in Contemporary Hooked Rugs and Traditional Folk Art Exhibit – March 18 – September 7, 2012 – Susan Feller is the curator of an exhibit of hooked rugs to accompany works from the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center that reflect the use of architecture in folk art. On view in particular will be glorious Schwenkfelder townscape wool needlework pictures. The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center is located in Pennsburg, PA. For more information visit its website – www.schwenkfelder.com.

Rug Hooking Artists Featured at the Artisans Gallery (September, 2012) -- Five talented rug hooking artisans – Judy Carter, Cindy Irwin, Peggy Hannum, Pat Levin, Marie Sugar, and Margaret Wenger – will have their rugs exhibited at the Artisans Gallery, 114 North Prince Street, Lancaster, PA throughout the month of September. (Go to <http://114artisansgallery.com/> for more information) This is the first time some of the rugs have been shown and the first time any of them have been offered for sale. Special events include:

- Wednesday, September 5, 2012 - special opening reception, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

- Friday, September 7, 2012 - 1st Friday reception, 5:00 - 9:00 pm
- Saturday, September 8, 2012 - demonstrating Noon - 3:00 pm

Please plan to visit the show and see a wide variety of rugs. This is an exciting opportunity to spotlight the work of contemporary rug hookers.

“Rugs by the Sea” Workshops – September 9-21, 2012 – The 25th “Rugs by the Sea” Camp will be held in Cape May, NJ from September 9-21, 2012. The line up of instructors for this year is Bev Conway, Lucille Festa, Cindi Gay, Kris Miller, Laura Pierce, Judy Quintman and Sharon Townsend. For details contact Norma at g_batastini@msn.com or 973-746-2936 or Linda at Linda.woodbury@gmail.com or 973-743-6835.

Buckeystown Workshop – October 7-10, 2012. – Judy Carter is conducting a three day workshop based on her “Eye See You” rug at Buckeysville, MD. She will be teaching a full face Tiger, the full Mother's Comfort, or the baby giraffe. Anyone who may be interested should contact Pat Duggan at masondixonatha@gmail.com for information.

Historic Longstreet Farm Rug Hooking Camp – October 15-19, 2012 – Longstreet Farm has a rug hooking camp this fall from Monday October 15 through Friday October 19 (9 am to 3 pm). This year’s teacher will be Sarah Guilliani. The cost of the camp is \$190. Go to the Monmouth County Parks website to register or call Ronnie Grothusen for more information at 732-946-3758.

Hooked in the Mountains XVI (November 10-17, 2012) – The Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild holds its annual hooked rug and fiber art exhibit at the Shelburne Museum from November 10-17, 2012. Over 450 works of hooked art will be on display. More than 20 vendors will be on site for the week. Three day workshops with nationally known instructors will be offered. For more information visit www.gmrhg.org or call 802-434-8191.

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.

Wool Whisperers ATHA Chapter meets one Sunday each month from 10 to 4 at Foulkeways, in Lower Gwynedd, Pennsylvania. For more information contact Cheryl Halliday at havewenewool@yahoo.com or Patty Mahaffey at McMahaffey@comcast.net.

HCrag Calendar of Events

September 14, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Catch-Up and Planning Discussion*

October 12, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Hooking Traditions with Magdalena Briner Eby (Evelyn Lawrence) **

November 2012 – Guild Exhibit – Bucks County Library, Doylestown, PA.

November 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Construction of Christmas Trees *

December 14, 2012 -- Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon with mitten themed gift/ornament exchange *

January 11, 2013 -- Auction & White Elephant Sale *

January 11-13, 2013 – Annual Hooking Retreat (Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ)

February 8, 2013 -- Proddy Demonstration (Barbara Boyko) *

March 8, 2013 – Festival Boutique Items – Ideas & Patterns *

March 16, 2013 – Hilltown Historical Society Rug Exhibit (Hartzel-Strassburger Homstead)

April 12, 2013 – Member Led Round Table *

May 10, 2013 – Program TBD

June 14, 2013 – Guild Picnic *

*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.

Co-Presidents – Cindy Boult – 908-730-0146 or cboult@gmail.com.

Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Vice President – Membership – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.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 freija2@verizon.net

Programs – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410 or stancot@comcast.net

Barbara Boyko – 267-544-0371 or boykobarbara@yahoo.com

Public Relations/Newsletter -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net

Secretary – Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com

Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net

Special Events – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net

Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.

Treasurer – Weezie Huntington – 609-466-1882 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.