

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

September, 2015

Presidents' Letter – We have just finished up a week of “good camp”, and those of us who were there are both excited and exhausted. Lots of new rugs got started, and some may have been finished by the time this is published. There was lots of color everywhere, and lots of laughter. We all learned a lot, and ate a lot. Good food, good times. A big THANK YOU to Anndee and Eleanor for all their work, and also to those who helped out and to those who provided food.

With that in mind, we are curious....have you unpacked all the stuff you brought to camp, or is it still in the bags, boxes, and laundry baskets you brought it in? (Has it made it into the house, or is it still being driven around?) This speaks to “hooking hygiene”, as we are going to call it.

Think about these questions (answer them in the privacy of your own home)—do you loosen your rug from your frame over night? Do you periodically clean your gripper strips of all that disgusting lint? Do you clean your cutter blades (Townsend owners)? Do you throw your snippets on the ground or do you put them in something? Do you put away wool and supplies when you have finished using them? Do you actually put the wool back in its appropriate bin or just toss it on the table in your supply room? Is everything jumbled together? Do you store your rugs flat or rolled up? If rolled up, are the “loops out”? Do you have a system for storing your wool so you can find what you are looking for?

Lots of things coming up this month—dues are due (\$25 this year)—the Festival is fast upon us (you must be a member of one of the four guilds if you want your work shown), the Sheep and Fiber Festival is September 12-13, and we want to see what you worked on at camp. A new year of wonderful things is about to start.

Wishing you even loops. . Weezie and Therese

September Meeting – Friday, September 11, 2015 – 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 for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although there is no street number on the building. The meeting runs from 10:00 -2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – We will catch up on summer hooking activities, and spend time on the upcoming Festival.

Show & Tell – Please bring and share your current projects. Of course, we will want to see projects started last month at our rug hooking school.

Hospitality – Kathy Donovan, Jean Graham, Amy Korengut and Therese Shick have volunteered to bring treats. Our Guild is fortunate to have members who share their baking skills and treats with us. We thank them all for their contribution to the enjoyment of our monthly meetings.

August Birthdays – We extended belated birthday wishes to members who celebrated birthdays last month: Jan Cole (8/8), Sandy Denarski (8/6), Lynda Kling (8/25), Deb Leshner, Brigitte

Levine (8/2), Mary Passerello, Jeanne Surdi (8/30), Martha Thieling (8/19), Bernadette Andrejco (8/16), and Janet Williams (8/6).

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

Membership – Dues (\$25) for the new program year are now payable. Please note that dues have been increased \$5. The membership renewal form will shortly be available on our website – www.hcrag.com.

We welcome Joyce DiGregorio to our Guild. Joyce was in Cyndy Duade's class at our rug hooking school and we are pleased to have her as a member. Her contact information follows:

Joyce DiGregorio
72 Valentine Road
Northboro, MA 01532
508-400-2131
digregoriojoyce@gmail.com.

Gisele Meader completed her move to North Carolina and now has a new phone number – 919-494-1495.

Sally Jagoe has moved to Stockton, NJ. -- 26 Risler Street, P.O. Box 3, Stockton, NJ 08559. 609-483-2988. Her email address did not change.

Anndee Byers has a new email address – abyers@premierpremier.com.

It is always nice to see members who live far away at our summer rug hooking school. This year we were able to visit and catch up with Barbie Beck-Wilczek (New Hampshire), Ellen Dolmetsch (Delaware), Cyndy Duade (New Hampshire), Jackie Lee (Cape Cod), Carmen Mebus (Connecticut), Gail Schmidt (Arizona), and Roberta Smith (Vermont).

Sunshine – Our deepest condolences are extended to Kathryn Kane at the passing of her husband in June. He was in the Toms River Hospital for several weeks after collapsing at the shore.

Longtime member Bernice Smith passed away on July 28 after a courageous battle with cancer. She left behind her husband Barrett and son Evan. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to the family.

We also extend our condolences to the family of Susan Woodworth who passed away on July 3, 2015 after a period of time in hospice care. Look for Susan's favorite corn flake cookie recipe later in the newsletter.

Jan Cole's mother passed away this summer after a long illness. Our sympathies are extended to Jan, Fred and their family.

Several Guild members suffered accidents or underwent surgery this summer. We wish them all a speedy recovery.

- Lydia Lewis shattered her wrist in August, but it did not deter her from going on a planned family trip to Alaska.

- Debbie Walsh fractured her wrist in August. She was still able to come to rug school and hooked away!
- Dee Rosebrock underwent knee surgery last month. The procedure did not slow her down for long; she still collected rugs for the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair!
- Jeanne Surdi had rotator cuff surgery in July.

Inform our Sunshine Chair Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com), of any member who is ill or in need of a note of cheer.

Guild News & Events –

Laurie Rubinetti Retires as Webmaster – The demands of Laurie’s full time job as a graphic designer made it increasingly difficult for her to continue as our webmaster. In addition, Laurie has become very immersed in painting the last few years. (Some of her work can be seen on www.Loladesign.net/personal.) In the last few years, she slowly dropped clients as the demands of her job grew. She hung on to us until the end. Laurie created our website in 2008 as a requirement for a course she was taking. Being a rug hooker and Guild member, Laurie brought special insights to our website. Her work as our webmaster helped bring our Guild to the attention of a national audience of rug hookers. Laurie will continue to maintain the Rug Festival website.

With Laurie’s assistance, we located John Austin as her successor. John is an IT professional with significant experience. John actually handled the June website update. We welcome him to the HCRAG family!

Instructors Announced for 2016 Rug Hooking School -- Next year is our 20th year and we are proud to announce the teachers will be *Nancy Jewett, Diane Phillips, Norma Batastini* and *Ali Strebel* (see initial bios below). The new registration form will shortly be available on our website. Registration this year is by **mail only** and begins on October 10, 2015. The process will assure that all members have the same opportunity to sign up.

The week our school has normally been held has been moved forward a week to August 8-12, 2016 to avoid a conflict with Rug Hooking Week at Historic Sauder Village. This will allow members to go to Sauder Village and allow us to consider teachers who will be at Sauder’s Rug Hooking Week.

The following initial bios are being provided so that members not familiar with the instructors can get to know them:

Norma Batastini -- Norma has been hooking since 1995 and is a certified McGown teacher. She teaches nationally and privately a variety of workshops in a variety of themes such as primitive embellished pineapples, handbag design and finishing, Rufus Porter primitives, designing primitives, log cabin, dyeing, geometrics, the Mola, and the Grenfell hooked mat. She is the Co-Director of Rugs by the Sea held in Cape May New Jersey every September. Norma currently on the editorial board of Rug Hooking Magazine and has written several articles

The class will be an open class where you can hook on any commercial pattern or your own design. In class there will be mini-lectures on current topics as well as student requests.

Nancy Jewett -- Fluff and Peachy Bean Designs was launched in October 2003 by Nancy D Jewett, a self-taught artist and proud 4th generation Vermonter. All of Nancy's hand drawn designs are inspired by her imagination, life stories, words and quotes with her sense of whimsy. Her abiding love and joy for music, nature, animals and unwavering belief in focusing on the abundance and beauty in life is reflected in her patterns.

Diane Phillips -- Diane Phillips began her rug hooking journey in the mid-1990s when she responded to a classified ad in her local newspaper. The ad mentioned that rug hooking materials were being offered as part of an estate sale. At the time, all Diane knew about rug hooking was contained in a few pages of the book, Little Quilts: All Through the House by Alice Berg and Mary Ellen Von Holt. After the sale, Diane says, "I must have read the rug hooking section of that book 100 times, hoping I would find answers about what to do with all of the #3-cut strips of wool I had purchased!"

Ali Strebel -- Alice has been teaching fiber art nationally and internationally since 1986. Her business, Ali Strebel Designs for Kindred Spirits, is located in Dayton, Ohio; where she sells the extensive line of books and patterns she has published as well as hand dyed wool, yarn, roving and other fiber art supplies. She has also developed a line of fiber and fiber art inspired jewelry. Beside her own books, Alice's work has been featured in Rug Hooking Magazine's Designs for Primitive Hookers, The Wool Street Journal and numerous other publications.

Festival Update: We are now a month away from our second Festival and there is a lot to be done!

- **Volunteers:** There will be a volunteer signup sheet available at our September meeting. If you have not stepped up to take a role in the Festival, now is the time! There are lots of options for you and many ways to help. We need everyone to make this a success!

We need two additional people to help with organizing Hunterdon's rugs as they are taken down on Sunday at 4pm. Since our Guild is providing the bulk of the rugs, we need to divide the rugs into three groups for final distribution. All the specifics will be provided as the date nears. Please contact Eleanor Dunker or Nancy Sears if you can assist that day.

- **Rug Delivery:** Rug collection for the show will occur at the September meeting. It is important that you bring each rug you have previously registered. At this point no new rugs or substitutes will be accepted unless approved in advance by Weezie. It is also important to note that no rods or hanging devices are to be included with the rugs. If you cannot make the meeting please send your rugs with another member since this is the only collection time. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Denarski at 609-298-1595.
- **Raffle Tickets:** Remember that we are asking each guild member to sell two booklets of tickets each. If you need more than that, please contact Debbie Walsh at 908-272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.com. We will be selling the tickets at each of our demonstrations leading up to the Festival. Thanks to all the volunteers participating in that.

- **Postcards:** With an estimated 80% of Festival visitors living within a radius of 50 miles, local publicity is our most successful means of drawing attention to the Festival. We rely on members to distribute and share Festival postcards and posters within their communities. Likely locations include:
 - Quilt and fabric shops
 - Antique shops
 - Auction sites
 - Retirement communities
 - Local eateries like bagel shops
 - Farmers' markets
 - General stores
 - Craft shops & shows
 - Other fabric/craft guild meetings
 - 4-H Fairs

Postcards and posters will be available at the September meeting. Contact either Therese or Karl Gimber to obtain postcards if you will not be at the meeting.

- **Boutique:** This is the time to bring your boutique items. Sharon Ballard will be collecting boutique items for sale or donation. We will tag and if time allows price each item. She will store them until the Festival.
- **Mini Raffle --** If you have completed items to donate to the Mini-Raffle please bring them in September for collection by Cindy Boult. If they are not completed please indicate "work in progress" so we can plan on spacing. We have donations from vendors and will be creating wonderful offerings grouping items...so any additions appreciated. These can be added to at the time of the Festival

Thanks to everyone. This is going to be great and we are getting excited! Contact Therese with any and all questions.

Hook-In at Hagley Saturday, September 19, 2015 (9:30 to 4:30) -- The Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Delaware welcomes rug hookers to gather and collaborate, share ideas, and enjoy a day together. You can also opt in for a tour of their historic residence showcasing hooked rugs in the museum's collection, a boxed lunch, admission for a spouse to tour the museum, and museum membership. Lunch and tours must be pre-ordered and pre-paid with your hook-in registration. Register now at: <http://www.hagley.org/hookin>

For more information, contact Vanessa Spence at (302) 658-2400, ext. 306, or vspence@hagley.org.

A Call for Fiber Artists -- The ACE Quadrant Gallery in Easton, PA is sponsoring a fiber art show to promote art made with fiber – tapestries, hooked rugs, knitted and crocheted art pieces, needle felting sculptures or wall hangings, felting, weaving and quilting. The show will be hung during the last week of September and come down the first week in November (dates not yet established). Those interested in participating should send pictures of their work to Abigail Diaz-Crofts at woolcrofts@gmail.com. Questions can be directed to her at 646-246-9094.

Colonial Rug Hookers ATHA Chapter Hook-in – A Remembrance of Elizabeth Black with Gene Shepherd (November 17 & 18, 2015)

-- The Colonial Rug Hookers (CRH) is coordinating a special hook-in with Gene Shepherd in Harrisonburg, Virginia on November 17 & 18, 2015. The event will be held at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA. The \$25 fee includes the following:

- Hook-in Tuesday evening and Wednesday day
- “Throwdown” and remembrances of Elizabeth Black led by Gene Shepherd
- Sale of wool and tools from Elizabeth’s private stash
- Gene Shepherd talks about his many years of friendship with Elizabeth
- Lunch
- Gene Shepherd speaks about “Using Color in your Rugs”
- Silent Auction
- Live Auction

Overnight accommodations at Massanetta Springs Conference center are available. Advance registration for the hook-in is required. Contact CRH President Helen Vance with questions at vance.helen@gmail.com or 703-787-8369.

Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair Ribbon Winners Announced

– There were a total of 27 hooked rugs/pieces submitted. We had entries from Pennsylvania and New Jersey with a variety of designs and themes represented in the rugs. Some of the artists were inspired by special moments in their lives, their love of their families, homes and pets and a respect for our country's history. Others celebrated the holidays, the solar system and nature. Many of the submissions were original patterns. The instructors from our rug hooking school served as the judges.

Congratulations to the ribbon winners shown below for the Hooked Rug Division for the 2015 Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair:

Narrow Cut

Best of Show: Dee Rosebrock "Owl - AI" - Lawrenceville, NJ

Second Place: Gail Ferdinando "Circles & Squares" - Pittstown, NJ

Wide Cut

Best of Show: Nellene Beaton "Edgar" - Toms River, NJ

Second Place: Ellen DiClemente "Queenie" - Flemington, NJ

Third Place: Nellene Beaton "The Plaid Cat" - Toms River, NJ

Mixed Media/Three Dimensional

Best of Show: Dee Rosebrock "Seasonal Sampler" - Lawrenceville, NJ

Second Place: Laura Robinson "Indian Corn" - Doylestown, PA

Third Place: Kathryn Kane "NJ Cow Farm" - Asbury, NJ

Mini Punch Needle

Best in Show: Nellene Beaton "Man Feeding A Bear" - Toms River, NJ

Wearables

No submissions

Best of Show Overall

Overall Best of Show: Nellene Beaton "Edgar" - Toms River, NJ

Viewer's Choice (We had a three way tie.)

Nellene Beaton "Edgar" --Toms River, NJ

Karl Gimber "Frogs Pond Tavern" -- Carversville, PA

Dee Rosebrock -- "Seasonal Sampler" -- Lawrenceville, NJ

We thank Dee Rosebrock for organizing and collecting rugs for our participation in this important local event. The rugs and other hooked items were displayed at the Fair.

Casual Hooking Fridays -- Our Casual Hooking Fridays resume on the first Friday of each month at our alternate meeting site – the Court Room within the Police Station in the Raritan Township Municipal Building. Come out and hook for a couple of hours at the beginning of the month starting on Friday, September 4th at 10:00 AM.

Fall Demonstration Schedule – Volunteers are needed to support our Guild's active demonstration schedule this fall when we will be demonstrating at the:

- The Garden State Sheep Festival (September 12 & 13, 2015) – The Festival will be at the Hunterdon County Fair Grounds in Ringoes, NJ. This popular event draws large crowds of people interested in fiber arts. We need demonstrators for both days. Amy Korengut is our event coordinator. Let her know if you can help out with this fabulous event – akorengut@gmail.com or 980-221-9061.
- 8th Annual Historical Fall Festival & Open House (Historical Society of Hilltown Township) – September 19, 2015 – The Festival is held at the Hartzel-Strassburger Homestead (407 Keystone Dr. & Bethlehem Pike, Sellersville, PA 18960) from 10-4 and includes tours, local artisans, and historical demonstrations. Free admission. Wares will be for sale as well as antiques and collectibles and refreshments. Contact Karl Gimber, our event coordinator, at karlg12@verizon.net or 215-297-0803 with questions or to volunteer for this event.

Both of these events will be an opportunity to promote the Hooked Rug Festival as well as our Guild.

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

Amy Korengut has assumed responsibility for our Mentoring Program. Anyone interested in having a mentor just needs to let Amy know. Her contact information can be found under the Officer/ Chair listing at the end of the newsletter. We thank Dona Kolznak for successfully launching and nurturing the program.

Textile & Hooked Rug Mounting Resource – Weezie Huntington has identified a local resource for having rugs professionally mounted. K. Wilson & Co. mounts textiles and hooked rugs for antiques dealers, museums, collectors and artisans. Ken and Kathy Wilson’s studio is located in Point Pleasant, Bucks County (215-297-0806).

Directors Report on HCRAG’s Hooking School – Our Guild’s 19th annual rug hooking school was held at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ during the week of August 10, 2015. Our camp co-directors, Anndee Byers and Eleanor Dunker, did an excellent job organizing and running the school. They provided the following summary and report:

“Another great week with fabulous teachers: Michele Micarelli, Cyndy Duade, Diane Stoffel and Kris Miller. The work generated from the students and guided by the teachers was amazing.

“The wider cut detail of shading from those in Cyndy's class was inspiring. They all worked very hard and had many dye classes. They used wool that they dyed themselves for this crewel project.

“The rugs from Michele's class were breathtaking and each person had a unique pattern. There were birds, water, gears and paisley and so much more. Of course her marvelous colors were evident in all the rugs.

“Kris' class really produced this week. The class had daily lessons on technique and there is a rumor of a technique book going to print in the future. Her wool is lovely and was well used this week.

“Diane Stoffel brought her usual talent to all the very unique rugs her students were working on. She also taught lessons daily and we were amazed at what we still are learning. Wait until you hear about her rug finishing and blocking technique. She has laser eyes with her color planning and problem solving.

“We had 11 beginners this year and Cheryl Halliday did a fabulous job. Many stayed after lunch and continued to hook with us in the main room. We may have some new members join our Guild. The pattern Cheryl designed this year was a snowflake. She incorporated multi-media material to add sparkle and interest. Laura Robinson's daughter joined us and I think she is hooked. With her art degree and native talent, she is off and running. Thanks Cheryl for a great job with the newbies.

“Our giveaways were plentiful and fabulous and we thank all the teacher's and companies for their generosity. See the list of donors and mention our school if you make a purchase, please.

Ann's husband, Jean, and Agnes' husband, Tom, showed up to help Ron and others with set-up early Monday morning. Thanks for all your help. You are a big part of getting this show on the road. Thanks to all those who arrived early Monday morning to help with room set-up and to assist the teachers. It takes many people to make it all happen.

“A very special thank you goes out to Laura Robinson who housed both Kris and Michele, Sally Jagoe who housed Diane and Cindy Boults who housed Cyndy Duade.

This was Sally's first year at our school. All reported that it was a fun filled week after hours at their homes. Laughter, dinners in and out, and something about beverages were being talked about.

"We could not run this event on the budget we have without the generosity of those who provided lunches and all the delicious snacks. A big thanks to all of you who contributed.

"If you noticed that we are trying out the word "school" instead of "camp," there is a good reason. Diane Stoffel pointed out to us that using the word camp does not give credit to the high caliber of the rug hooking art form and the tremendous talent that our own artists show in their rugs. She feels it is our duty to change our week to a school instead of a camp. So, we are trying this on for size and fit.

"We really enjoyed our week this year and feel everyone had a very informative and productive week. Great, fun people like you made this a very successful week."

Eleanor and Anndee

Hooking School Raffle Prize Donors --Anyone who has attended one of our rug hooking schools will attest that an anticipated highlight each day is when names are pulled for the daily raffle prizes. Those prizes are possible because of generous donors who support our Guild. We want to recognize our donors by listing them below and by encouraging Guild members to patronize them whenever possible. Let them know we value their support!

Primitive Quilts & Projects Magazine	The Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb)
Rug Hooking Magazine	Joy Andrews, Masseuse
Wool St. Journal Magazine	Cynthia Norwood
The Blue Tulip (Karen Worthington)	Goat Hill Designs (Gail Dufresne)
American Country Rugs (Lucille Festa)	Weezie Huntington (HCRAG)
Early American Life Magazine	Anndee Byers (HCRAG)
Homespun (Kay Leisey)	Heart & Hand (Norma Batastini)
Wool'n Gardner (Jan Cole)	Kris Miller (2015 teacher)
Heavens to Betsey (Betsy Reed)	Diane Stoffel (2015 teacher)
W. Cushing & Company	Cyndy Duade (2015 teacher)
Bee-Line Art Tools	Michele Micarelli (2015 teacher)

Please show our appreciation and gratitude by supporting our donors!

Guild Volunteers Support Community Events – A Busy Summer -- Guild members were active this summer supporting the Guild by demonstrating at the Mercer County 4-H Fair and the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair.

Howell Living Farm was an ideal site for the Mercer County 4- H Fair on August 1 and 2. The Guild demonstrated on both days with the support of Karl Gimber, Kathy Kane, Sally Jagoe, Eileen Koch, Barb Perry, Dee Rosebrock, and Therese Shick. The Fair is free and attracts large numbers of families who enjoy seeing the farm animals and farm related demonstrations and activities. The weather could not have been better. Many visitors stopped to talk with our demonstrators and learned more about traditional rug hooking, the Rug Festival, and our

workshops for beginners. There was much interest in the Festival Raffle Rug that was on display. About \$100 of tickets were sold.

The Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair is one of the largest regional Fairs. As in the past, various Hunterdon County Guilds exhibited their members' creative skills in glass display cases. Visitors have the opportunity to vote on their favorite viewers' choice. Guild brochures and information on the Hooked Rug Festival were eagerly taken by visitors. Over \$100 was earned towards the Festival from the sale of raffle rug tickets and lapel pins made by Sharon Ballard.

The following members provided support with rug collection, set-up, take-down, rug demonstrations and publicity:

Sharon Ballard	Karl Gimber	Cliff Ballard	Debbie Walsh
Cindy Boult	Jean Laurence	Teri Dubrowski	
Kathy Donovan	Dee Rosebrock	Gail Ferdinando	

We also want to recognize the members listed below who submitted their work for the Guild's display. This allowed us to present the talents of our skilled members to the community.

Sharon Ballard	Kathy Donovan	Dee Rosebrock
Cliff Ballard	Gail Ferdinando	Laura Robinson
Cindy Boult	Karl Gimber	Therese Shick
Ellen DiClemente	Kathryn Kane	Debbie Walsh
Barbara Dalrymple Lugg	Brigitte Levine	Lucy Walsh

We are grateful to Dee Rosebrock for coordinating this popular event again this year.

Our participation in 4 - H Fairs fulfills several Guild objectives. We support our community organizations, spread the word about rug hooking and publicize our Guild and our programs.

Guild Members Enjoy Demonstrating for the First Time -- Our team who represented the Guild at the Mercer County 4-H Fair included veterans who have done this before and some for whom this was a new activity. For Sally Jagoe and Barb Perry this was their first time. It was the second time out for Kathy Kane. We asked them to comment on their experience.

“This was the first time I volunteered to demonstrate. Your statement that I might know 90% more about hooking rugs than the person stopping to see what we are all about was indeed comforting.

“I arrived early so that I could get the lay of the land. I walked through the fair and realize that the experience renewed my faith in America's youth. The 4-H kids are so polite and informative. I realized I had my work cut out for me. I was surprised (and delighted) to hear that folks drove down from Newark, the shore and Trenton to get to the fair.

“I heard, more than once, ‘Oh, my grandmother hooked rugs’ and then they would ask more questions and buy a raffle ticket or two. Barbara was so patient with the children who tried to hook a loop. Some stayed with it for several minutes while others lost interest when they found it not too easy. All in all it was a great afternoon and time well spent.” (Sally Jagoe)

“Many children were interested in trying their hand at rug hooking. They chose their favorite color worm so the cow design you so nicely provided became quite colorful. Their interest was inspirational to me so I kept inviting more passersby to give it a try. It was nice to see so many families out together enjoying the fair.

“There was nice comradery among Kathy, Sally, Therese, and me. We covered the crowds and got the job done while having fun.

“I thoroughly enjoyed helping out and recommend anyone looking for a fun way to support the Guild to sign up for demonstrating.” (Barb Perry)

“This was a first time at 4-H for me and I enjoyed the day. Surprised to see so many very young people interested in such an old craft, more so than adults. I found so much interest in the art of proddy. It was a great weekend.” (Kathy Kane) Note: Kathy was a natural when it came to selling raffle tickets!

Guild Library Continues to Grow – Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, reports that the following items have been added to our library over the summer. They will be available at the September meeting.

Books

Field, Jeanne

Shading Flowers The Complete Guide for Rug Hookers 1991

Hornafius, Pat

Victorian Cottage Rugs How to Hook 16 Traditional Patterns 1995

Norwood, Cynthia Smesny

Primitive Hooked Rugs for the 21st Century 2015

Rug Hooking, Various Authors

A Hooker's Garden 10 Experts Teach You How to Hook a Veritable Bouquet of Blossoms

Ed. IV Rug Hooking Magazine's Framework Series 2000

Dye books and booklets

*Elliot, JaneColor Flow 2, 1970

Cushing

*Hicks, Lydia

Triple Over Dye Jar Method Book II formulas 104-163 & novelty dyeing,1959

Matthews, Janet(daughter of Lydia Hicks) Triple Over Dye Jar Method Book III formulas164-269, Cushing

*Donated by Juliana Kapusta

Christoff, Beatrice

Hooked On Transcolor Swatches 1986

Cushing dyes

DeRoos, Claire & MacLennan, Nancy

1) Prisms #1 [updated] 66 Spots, 35 Oriental Backgrounds, 99 Formulas for Rug Hookers

2) Prisms #2 [updated] 57 Straight Gradations, 102 Transitionals, 159 Swatch Formulas For Rug Hookers

3) Prisms #3 Color In Motion Abrash, Watercolors, More Spots, 80 Formulas for Rug Hookers

Cushing Dyes

We have added a second notebook of ATHA newsletters from the library of Virginia Sutton. Issues #174 through 186 Dec. 2008 through Jan. 2011

#189 through 195 June through July 2012

Also, from Virginia 13 issues of Rug Hooker News and Views have been added to notebook #2 of the News and Views collection.

We thank everyone for their continued generous donations to our library.

The full listing of books in our library can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). All you need to do to borrow a book is to contact Kathy Donovan 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.

Hooking Frame Survey -- Thank you to members who completed the survey on our hooking frame preferences. The responses are being compiled and should be reported in the next issue of The Loop.

Featured Member – Chris Coslet – The New York State Sheep & Fiber Festival held at Rhinebeck, NY attracted Chris Coslet for many years. Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy) was one of her favorite demonstrators. Chris would always stop to admire Betsy's hooked rugs but always claimed that she "did not need another hobby" when the suggestion of learning how to hook rugs came up. Chris was an avid knitter and was not looking for another activity. When Chris' mother died in August, 2013, she started to think of finding a hobby that she and her sisters, Janet and Linda, could do together.

The next time they saw Betsy at Rhinebeck, she showed Chris how to pull loops. Chris bought a basic kit. Linda and Chris started to learn rug hooking, but Janet never got into it. Chris continued to learn more about rug hooking by watching YouTube videos. She shortly heard of Jeannine Happe and her Two Old Crows rug hooking studio and became a regular at her Saturday open studio sessions where she honed her skills. Jeannine became her mentor and most influential to Chris' development as a rug hooking artisan.

Chris prefers to hook with #6 cuts. She tried to hook with #8 cuts of wool but found it painful on her hand when pulling the wider strips. Fred Cole did suggest another way to hold her hook that reduced the stress; however, her preferred width remains a #6 cut. Chris does not have a fixed hooking style; she enjoys hooking with various techniques.

When it comes to finding her wool, Chris goes back to those who helped her get started – Betsy Reed and

Jeannine Happe. The internet is another source for her. Chris tends to work with commercially available patterns although Jeannine was helpful in taking a rug idea from Chris and designing rug patterns for her.

Not long ago Chris and Linda ventured into the world of wool dyeing. They had been collecting and reading books on the subject and picking up assorted pots and dyes. They spent a day dyeing wool for a project. Chris notes that “The results were ok. Not exactly what we wanted, but ok. We will try it again.”

When Chris “is into a project,” she will hook for hours at a time. She is normally up at 5:30 a.m. and will hook for an hour or two before leaving for work. It is not unusual for her to go back to her rug after dinner for three hours or more. Lately she has been spending more time spinning wool which is another of her avocations. Chris tries to attend the Guild’s annual hooking retreat in January. She also hooks with the group that meets at the Midland Park Library each month.

Our Guild came to Chris’ attention one day when she was on line looking for local sources for rug patterns. She found our website and was sufficiently impressed to take a vacation day so that she could attend our next meeting. While she is not able to attend many meetings because of her work, Chris believes “the cost of membership is worth it just to keep the art form alive.” She currently serves as the Guild’s Special Events Chair.

Like other Guild members, Chris is attracted to fiber arts and has “always been making things.” Knitting and crocheting are long time interests of hers. More recently, Chris has taken up spinning wool – first drop spindle and more recently wheel spinning. The wool she spins is used in her knitting. When it comes to rug hooking, Chris finds its primitive northern New England origins appealing. She likes how rug hooking got started. “It’s an old art form and I am pleased to play a role in keeping it going.”

Chris and her husband, Chuck, live in Ringwood, NJ with their four dogs (Gotti – Italian Greyhound, Johnnie -- Greyhound, Mack -- Bulldog, and Odie – Mini Pinscher) and three birds (Cockatoo, Amazon Parrot and Lovebird). Chris and Chuck owned and operated a pet supply store for 10 years until he became ill last March. He is undergoing dialysis and on the waiting list for a kidney transplant. Chris is currently working for a medical device company in human resources. Previously she worked in finance.

Go to the Featured Member page of our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Chris’ hooked projects.

Hooking Information & Techniques –

From Nina’s Notebook – September is for many of us the beginning of a new year. Summer is coming to an end. Labor Day, thoughtfully late this year, is just around the corner reminding us that it is time to go back to school, work or just resume the normal routines of the year. Those lazy, hazy days are now replaced with the mundane duties of life as we mentally replay those carefree times of summer.

Even those of us who are retired recognize a change in the rhythm of the days and weeks. As I sit in the dining room of my summer home in Nova Scotia, I can see the last roses of summer showing their pink and fuchsia petals. They had been missing for many years, eaten by the herd of deer that made their home on the island and regarded all the flowers, wild or in a garden as their personal salad bar. Now the deer are few and the roses have rebounded to my joy.

This summer the flowers, bushes and grasses have been lush and abundant. The snows of winter, which rivaled the snowfall of Boston, nourished and protected the dormant plants while battering

most of the trees. My wild English garden never looked better and the clematis vine has more flowers than in any previous years.

This summer I have spent most of my hooking time working on a large piece for the Hooked Rug Festival as well as a show here. It was a challenge and now I am ready for new, smaller projects. One of the learnings that come from doing a large artistic piece was to allow the design to evolve. As I finished the first part, the hooking of the word Inspire, I let my mind riff on the shape of the letters and then created designs from that inspiration. As I finished working on the design inspired by the N, I was pondering what I could do with an E.

My usual routine for doing a mat is to create the design, draw it on the linen, color plan the entire rug and then hook the first loop. Of course I made changes as I went along, but they were usually minor. This time I was working out of my comfort zone, and I found I learned so much more and I came to trust my instinct and judgement. If I later thought it was wrong, out it came but it happened very rarely. For my next project, I will do the same. This time it is an adaptation of a watercolor of lichens and I will have fun experimenting with yarn, roving and sari silk as well as letting the piece evolve.

At the beginning of this "new year" I resolve to be less uptight and controlling about design and color and be led by the original inspiration for the mat.

Enjoy these last days of summer and resolve to let inspiration come from wherever and be translated in a beautiful piece of hooking. Let the color and texture be your guide to being the artist that lives within each one of us. Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Ideas From Cyndy Duade's Dye Pot – Tips For Dyeing With An Open Pan -- When dyeing with an open pan on the stove, do not start with the water hot. Use room temperature or tepid water. This allows the dye to be absorbed slowly and deeply into the fibers of the wool. Uniodized salt shaken into the dye bath will also help to level the rate of absorption. Add the dye to the pot first then the wool. Turn temperature up to high or medium high for 10 - 15 minutes, stirring if you want smooth saturation. Add acid and stir until you SEE the water change color. Simmer for 10 minutes or so. Then turn stove off and let the wool cool in the dye bath in order to get all or as much as dye as possible into the wool. Have fun!

Tips from Heloise – Diane Stoffel's Unique Rug Blocking Technique -- At one of her informative rug school teaching sessions, Diane Stoffel shared a technique for blocking rugs that was new to her students. Diane provided Heloise with the following explanation.

“When you are through hooking your rug, place it upside down on a heat resistant surface with a large towel or wool blanket covering the surface. If you are working on a very large rug, place it on a hard surface like a garage floor and proceed following the same steps. Then take another towel large enough to cover the rug, dampen the towel really well. Set your iron on **dry on linen**. Do not use steam. Place the damp towel over the rug. Starting in the center, push the iron out to a diagonal corner counting to 10 once at the corner and the edge of the rug. Lift the iron up and go back to center. Push out to the opposite diagonal corner. Repeat so that all four corners have been done and you have formed an x. However, you will need to do a large rug in sections and rewet the towel and move it to a new spot until you have blocked the entire rug.

“Now go back to the center and push up to edge of rug. Again you will count to 10 before you lift the iron to go back to center and push down to the opposite edge. Go back to center and push out

to the other two sides in same manner. You have formed a cross. There are now pie shaped pieces left. Do each section always going opposite the one you complete until the rug is done.

“DO NOT move the rug but remove damp towel from surface. Let the rug dry for 24 hours before moving the rug to finish the edge in the manner of your choice, whip stitch, show binding, bias cotton rug tape, crochet, or turn under.

“The reason for pressing in this manner is to bring the rug back to size. You have been pulling loops up between the warp and weft threads to form your pile and in doing so you are pulling the warp and weft threads closer together which has made your rug smaller than when you started .You need to block it back to size. Before you hook any rug, measure the backing and note the size. When you block your rug, aim to bring the hooked rug back to the original size of the pattern.

We block needlepoint, counted cross stitch, crewel, and knitting. Why don't we block our rugs? They block hand knotted rugs by soaking them in the river and beating them with stones to size. So we should block our rugs.”

Recipes – Susan Woodworth’s Corn Flake Cookies – Susan’s corn flake cookies are a Guild favorite. Her recipe is presented this month in memory of her passing.

Ingredients

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1 tsp cream of tartar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 2 cups corn flakes

Preparation

- Cream butter, sugar and vanilla
- Sift flour, cream of tartar and baking soda together, gradually add to the butter/sugar mixture
- Add pecans and corn flakes
- Roll into tiny balls and place on greased cookie sheets
- Press down with fork
- Bake at 350 for 12 minutes
- Allow to cool slightly before removing from cookie sheets

Makes about 5 dozen

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

ATHA Biennial (September 9-12, 2015) – Join ATHA Region 9 for the 2015 Biennial in San Antonio, Texas. Go to www.atharugs.com for details on the classes, exhibits, vendors, tours, etc.

Hook-In at Hagley (September 19, 2015) -- The Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Delaware is hosting a hook-in from 9:30-4:30 on September 19. A tour of their historic residence showcasing hooked rugs in

the museum's collection, a boxed lunch, admission for a spouse to tour the museum, and museum membership are available. Lunch and tours must be pre-ordered and pre-paid with your hook-in registration. Register now at: <http://www.hagley.org/hookin>. For more information, contact Vanessa Spence at (302) 658-2400, ext. 306, or vspence@hagley.org.

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill (October 3 & 4, 2015) – Historic Prallsville Mills in Stockton, NJ is the site for the 2nd biennial Hooked Rug Festival sponsored by four area rug hooking guilds -- Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter, Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild, Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter and the Wool Whisperers ATHA Chapter. Hundreds of rugs will be exhibited for the first time. Beginners' workshops, handcrafted boutique items, vendors, demonstrations, raffle rug, rugs for sale, and presentations are part of this special event. More information is available at the Festival website –www.rugfestival.com.

TIGHR Triennial Meeting (October 4-7, 2015) – The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) holds its 8th Triennial in Victoria, BC, Canada. Visit www.tighr.net for more information.

Michele Micarelli Workshop at Longstreet Farm (October 12-16, 2015) -- Longstreet Farm is hosting a week long open class with Michele Micarelli from 9-3. The Farm is located at 50 Longstreet Road in Holmdel, NJ. The cost of the workshop (\$170) is being subsidized by the Monmouth County Park System. Call 732-842-4000 ext. 1 for assistance.

Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild Hook-in (October 24, 2015) -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild's 10th Annual Autumn Hook-In will be held on October 24, 2015 at their new location --Kimberton Fire Company, 2276 Firehouse Lane, Kimberton, PA 19442 -- from 9am to 4pm. Registration forms as well as the box lunch descriptions are available on their website <http://www.brandywinerughookingguild.org/2015-hook-in.html>.

Colonial Rug Hookers ATHA Chapter Hook-in – “A Remembrance of Elizabeth Black Featuring Gene Shepherd (November 17 & 18, 2015). This special hook-in will be held at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA. The fee is \$25. Advance registration is required. Contact Chapter President Helen Vance with questions at vance.helen@gmail.com or 703-787-8369.

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.

HCRAAG Calendar of Events --

September 4, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **
September 11, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD
October 3 & 4, 2015 – Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill (Prallsville Mills, Stockton, NJ)
October 9, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD
November 6, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **
November 13, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD
December 4, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **
December 11, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon
January 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD
February 5, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **
February 12, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD
March 4, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **
March 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting
April 1, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **
April 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD
May 6, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **
May 13, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD
June 3, 2016 – Casual Hooking Day **
June 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Picnic
August 8-12, 2016 – Annual Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School
August 9, 2016 – Beginners Rug Hooking Workshop – ESC School

*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 a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

** 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 for a GPS is 1Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

Co-Presidents -- Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

Vice President – Membership -- Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.com

Director – Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net

Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net

Camp Directors -- Anndee Byers -- 856-829-7179 or anndee@hookandhistory.com

Eleanor Dunker -- 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com

Historian -- Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net

Hospitality -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
 Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
Librarian -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net
Mentoring – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com.
Programs -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com
Rug Festival -- Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.
Secretary -- Open
Special Events – Chris Coslet – 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net
Spring Retreat & Hook-in -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
Sunshine -- Gail Ferdinando -- 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com
Treasurer -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net
 Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

Guild’s Email List Policy -- The HCRAE Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the 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 karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.

HCRAE CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

Fraser Model 500 Wool Cutter

\$275.00 or best offer (Plus Shipping)

Contact sueberges@icloud.com or call 1-808-640-7539

WANTED

Cushings Dyes (Any Colors to start a dye stash)

Contact Mary Passerello – (908-421-0594) or mpassere@comcast.net

Please submit any items to be included on the Classified Section of “The Loop” to Mary Passerello at mpassere@comcast.net or 908-782-1765 by the 20th of the month prior to when you want the item included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads. The following information must be included with each submission:

- Description of Item for Sale or Wanted
- Asking Price for sale items
- Contact Information

SUBMISSIONS

