

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

September 2016

Presidents' Letter – Welcome to the end of summer. The days right now are ridiculously hot and humid, and I am so thankful for my A/C. My weeds are enormous, my house is a mess, and I am hooking to beat the band.

We had a GREAT camp last week --I have decided that, for myself anyway, the title of what we did last week was Rug Hooking School, but when we are there it is camp—it is too much fun to call it school. Big **THANKS** go to Eleanor Dunker and Anndee Byers who have run the school for the last three seasons, and done a wonderful job bringing in new instructors, and leaving their imprint on our experience. We look forward to the excellent job Debbie and Lydia will do for us in the next few years. They are both such capable women. Be sure to read their article on next summer's offerings.

Speaking of next summer's event, there will be a special, one-time only, scholarship offered in Teri Dabrowski's name. Our beloved Teri is no longer hooking, and she asked Weezie to help her sell her frame and her stand. When she was given the money for the items, she handed back \$200 for the Guild, and asked that we use it for a scholarship. This scholarship will be a random drawing from the names of those members signed up (at the member by November rate). We are not sure of the date of the drawing—probably late winter, to give everyone time to sort their schedules out.

We have a lot of events being planned for this coming year, so be sure to pay your dues so you don't miss a thing! There will be three retreats (!), and great monthly meetings. There are also things in the earliest stages of planning, such as a possible hook-in sometime.

Weezie will be back in Iceland in September, so the year-long “design exploration” conversation will not start until October's meeting. But still bring in your 5” x 5” project (or even just your design) taken from the pattern you were handed at the June meeting. Please also bring your camp rug and anything else you have finished or are working on, to share with us during show and tell.

Wishing you good loops, Weezie, Jan, and Fred

PS At the end of the June meeting, Lynda Kling volunteered to be a Program Co-Chair. One can only be a co-chair if another ‘co’ is found. You won't be doing this alone—there is lots of help. Please, please, please consider helping out in this capacity. Our meetings are one of the things that make our Guild so great. (Think about what the Guild would be like without them...)

September Meeting – Friday, September 9, 2016 – 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 programs. Everyone who attended the August Rug Hooking School, please bring your finished and unfinished school projects to the September meeting. Rug Hooking School students will present their finished and unfinished projects at the September meeting. They will bestow upon Guild members their newly acquired Rug Hooking School knowledge and experiences. This will give everyone the opportunity to learn about the teachers and what each student learned about their project and themselves.

Show & Tell – Please bring and share your current projects. Members who bring a Show & Tell rug hooking item have a chance to win a gift from the Guild in June. Winners of our Show & Tell drawing in June 2016 were Sharon Ballard, Lydia Brenner, and Cheryl Halliday; each won a one year membership to HCRAG!

Hospitality – Liz Dey, Kathy Donovan, Kathy Kane, Eileen Koch, Lisa Savino, and Bonnie Saunders have volunteered to provide the snacks for the meeting. We thank them all for their contribution to the enjoyment of our monthly meetings.

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. The membership renewal form will be available at the September meeting and on our website – www.hcrag.com.

We welcome Mary Jo Gimber to the Guild. Their contact information follows:

Mary Jo Gimber
P.O. Box 16
Carversville, PA 18913
215-297-0803
Karl12@verizon.net

Jenny Morrow
511 Adams Lane
Southampton, NJ 08088
609-859-2417
jenny.morrow@comcast.net

Helen Trammell has completed her relocation from Alabama. Her new address is shown below. There is no change to her phone number or email address.

Helen Trammell
23 Georges Place
Clinton, NJ 08809

Nancy Sears has move to Maryland. Her new contact information is shown below. There is no change to her phone number.

Nancy Sears
129 Walnut Street
Ridgely, MD 21660
lambyankees@gmail.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 Ellen Dolmetsch (Delaware), Jackie Lee (Cape Cod), Carmen Mebus (Connecticut), Judy Quintman (North Carolina), and Gail Schmidt (Arizona).

Sunshine – Barbie Beck-Wilczek and Eileen Koch underwent surgery this summer. Both are recovering nicely but Barbie but did have to miss rug school.

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

October Hooking Retreat --There was sufficient interest in a fall hooking retreat for us to schedule a retreat following our October meeting. It will start 3:00 on Friday, October 14 and run through Sunday, October 16 at the Flemington Hampton Inn. The cost is still \$45 for the entire weekend. Debbie Walsh will collect money at the September meeting or checks can also be mailed to Gail Ferdinando at 4 Bonnell Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867 at any time. Any questions can be directed to Gail at gqferd@gmail.com.

Instructors Announced for 2017 Rug Hooking School -- Next year is our 21st year and we are proud to announce the teachers will be *Maggie Bonanomi, Cammie Bruce, Capri Boyle Jones, and Cindy Irwin* (see initial bios below). Rug School will begin on Monday, August 7, 2017 and run to Friday, August 11, 2017. The new registration form will shortly be available on our website.

The fee is \$200 for those who are Guild members at the time of our November 2016 meeting (November 11, 2016). A registration deposit of \$100 is required. Non-members (fee \$275) can register if there are any openings after January 30, 2017. If someone joins the Guild between November 11, 2016 and January 29, 2017, they will be able to register before January 29 but will have to pay the \$275 fee.

Registration forms will be accepted beginning October 14, 2016 which is the day of our October meeting. The forms will simply be collected – no class list established. If a class goes over the maximum number of students, we will take all registration forms for that class that have arrived by November 1, 2016 (no matter how they are received) and use a lottery system to choose the members that get into that class, and to determine the order of names on the wait list.

The following initial information is being provided so that members not familiar with the instructors can get to know them.

Maggie Bonanomi

“I never know where to begin! I grew up sewing and creating things, I have been making wool applique for at least 20 years and nearly have hooked rugs that long as well. I learned rug hooking from Emma Lou Lais; she was a wonderful teacher. I have had the opportunity to design for Linda Brannock of Star Quilt Co, Renee Nannaman of Need’l Love, Blackbird designs as well as Blackberry Primitives. I have written eight books with the Kansas City Star. I have also been published in American Patchwork and Quilts magazine as well as Primitive Quilts and Projects and Quiltmania, a French publisher bought my first two books to publish in France.

“I have traveled around the country to teach, which I enjoy very much. I went to France in 2012 as well to promote my books as well as taught three workshops and thank goodness had an interpreter for that.

“I would say my style is primitive, designs simple. Color and design are what I usually am known for and are most important to me. I enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and love to share many timesaving tips I have found. I love the whole process of a project from design to every loop or stitch. I like to incorporate other fabrics into my applique; I even added some velvet to a hooked mat once. I have been tearing and cutting my wool strips, I began to do that years ago when I was trapped at home due to a bad snow storm. I’d just started to hook with a 9 cut (about 11 years ago) well I haven’t ever gone back. I like the look of torn strips in my rugs.

“I grew up moving around, my father was in the Air Force, I married my hubby while living in California and he returned to the Army after his tour in Vietnam we moved around, with two tours in Germany. I reside now in Lexington, Missouri with my hubby of 46 years. My home is a pre-civil war home dated about 1841-1845. I have a studio/shop on Main St here in Lexington called the Purple Turnip. I have two grown daughters with their own families and wonderful grandchildren for us to enjoy. This year we finally got ourselves a West Highland Terrier puppy named Lulu, she really runs the place we only pretend that we’re in charge.”

Maggie intends to offer a mixed hooking/applique class. She will select the applique she intends to offer and we will communicate that information as soon as possible."

Capri Boyle-Jones

Capri has been developing her art in fiber professionally thru hooking, designing, dyeing, creating, and restoring rugs for twenty-four years. Owner of Capri Boyle Rug Studio, Inc., a McGown accredited teacher, member of ATHA and National Guild of Pearl K. McGowan Hookcrafters. Capri is experienced in and teaches a wide variety of styles while her personal painterly style is Impressionism, focusing on the use of light and color. You may find her artwork in *Rug Hooking Celebrations*, at Quayside Art Gallery in Pensacola (www.quaysidegallery.com), The Cultural Arts Alliance (www.CulturalArtsAlliance.com), various exhibits, art shows throughout the US, and private collections.

In this open class, any hooking style and size cut can be applied to your project. Capri will assist you in achieving your preferred outcome. From problem solving an existing project to developing new skills with your hooking, the possibilities are unlimited. Custom design is available upon request.

Cammie Bruce

Primitive and unique finishes are what you get when you take a class with Cammie Bruce. Bring your wide cuts (#7 and up) and experience the primitive arts of Cammie. She loves incorporating textures, plaids, dyed, and any other kind of wool you have into your own rug. Her work with color is subtle but definitive. Cammie enjoys playing with shapes and has created many interesting finishes, edges and borders on her rug designs. She can help you customize your pattern edge with a unique finish. Cammie has been teaching since 2002.

You can find Cammie's work on her blog: primitivejunky.blogspot.com and her patterns at www.etsy.com/shop/primitivejunky

Cindy Irwin

Cindy Irwin has been hooking rugs since 1983. She is a certified McGown teacher and holds classes in her home. Cindy is a juried member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen and President of the Conestoga Guild of McGown Rug Crafters. She is the assistant director of Northern Teacher’s Workshop, Director of Loanables for The Pearl McGown National Guild, and

on the Board of the National Rug Hooking Museum. Cindy Irwin is well known among her students for embellishing rugs with gemstones.

Cindy will be holding an open class. She has a selection of over 70 Amish patterns available. Cindy also has original purse patterns and will have four chapters in the Rug Hooking Magazine book on purses coming out in April. Her purse design patterns will be in the book and she can teach them to students who have purchased the book. Cindy also sells patterns based on the work of Lisa Arkus. These are whimsical and fun to hook. Please visit Cindy's web site @ cindyirwinrughooking.weebly.com Cindy Irwin's rugs have been included in Celebrations nine times. Her Klimt's The Virgin is in 2015 Celebrations as an honorable mention and can be seen on the Guild's website.

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. All that is required is to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day. If you chose to host two teachers, \$200 will also be allotted for your compensation. Teachers need a private room and bath and if you house two teachers, each needs their own room and bath.

If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

Rug School Scholarships Available – Two full scholarships for our 2017 Rug Hooking School will be awarded.

The Guild's Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of deceased members. It provides a full scholarship to a deserving member to attend the HCRAAG summer rug hooking school and is awarded based on nominations received from our members. The guidelines for granting the prize are quite broad: it could be used to

- say thanks to a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild;
- recognize a long-time member;
- welcome a new member;
- acknowledge someone who has shown a real commitment to rug hooking; or
- for any other purpose that seems appropriate.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, or if you would like to be considered yourself, please contact Jan or Weezie by December 1, 2016. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the December meeting. One position in each teacher's workshop is being left open until the Scholarship is awarded so the winner can select the teacher of her/his choice.

Teri Dabrowski is sponsoring a Rug School Scholarship (see Presidents' Letter). This scholarship will be a random drawing from the names of those members signed up (at the member by November rate). The date for the drawing has not yet been established but will probably be late winter. Thank You Teri!

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 10 & 11, 2016) – 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 17, 2016 – 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, 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.
- Apple Butter Frolic (October 1, 2016) – The Frolic is held on the grounds of the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA. This popular autumn festival has been enjoyed by the local community for over 40 years. The Frolic is an opportunity to learn how the Mennonites lived over 100 years ago and it is great fun for young and old alike. An apple food tent, folk craft demonstrations, delicious Pennsylvania German food, children activities and farming demonstrations are all part of this fun day. Contact Pat McDonnell, our event coordinator, at drpmcdonnell@aol.com or 610-584-8844 with questions or to volunteer.
- Colonial Market Day (October 1, 2016) – Historic Court Street and Centre Avenue in Newtown, Pennsylvania is the site for this well attended event featuring crafters, artisans, fine arts, entertainment, and food from 10-4. Folk music, children activities, games, horse drawn hayrides and a colonial militia encampment are all part of the day. Free admission. This popular event presents an opportunity for the Guild to spread the word about traditional rug hooking, to support the community and to publicize the Guild. Lydia Lewis is our event coordinator. Contact her at 215-968-3278 or misspid2@aol.com if you are available to help or if you have any questions.

Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild Hook-in (October 22, 2016) – The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild’s 11th Annual Autumn Hook-In will be held on October 22, 2016 at the 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/2016-hook-in.html>.

Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair Ribbon Winners Announced – We had entries from within the Guild and the community 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 2016 Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair:

Narrow Cut

Best of Show: Gail Ferdinando – “University of Delaware”

Second Place: Weezie Huntington -- "Tahoe"
Third Place: Marsha Moyer-Payne -- "Halloween Night"

Wide Cut

Best of Show: Debbie Kolodziej -- "Sunrise Fishing"
First Place: Sharon Ballard -- "Piggy"
Second Place: Sharon Ballard -- "Tilly's Garden"
Third Place: Sharon Ballard -- "Photo"

Mixed Media/Three Dimensional

Best of Show: Kathryn Kane -- "Crazy Chicken"

Mini Punch Needle

Best in Show: Nellene Beaton -- "Scrimshaw"

Regular Punch Needle

First Place: Mary Passerello -- "Rabbit" Chair Mat

Wearables

First Place: Kathy Donovan -- "Purse"

Best of Show Overall: Debbie Kolodziej -- "Sunrise Fishing"

Viewer's Choice: --To be awarded at end of the Fair

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

Charter Member Virginia Sutton Celebrates 100th Birthday -- Virginia Sutton celebrated her 100th birthday on July 14, 2016 surrounded with family and friends. Guild Members Ann Gagnon, Sharon Ballard, Barbara Lugg, Barb Perry, and Linda Reitz joined her family and other friends at a special birthday party. They all noted that "She was sharp as a pin!"

Virginia was first introduced to rug hooking at a night school course offered in Phillipsburg, NJ over 60 years ago. When our Guild was formed in 1977, Virginia was at the first meeting making her a charter member. (She was our Featured Member in the June 2006 issue of The Loop.) Over the years, she held most officer positions including Secretary, Historian, Vice President, and President. Virginia found that her fine cut (#3 and #4) work was much admired and that others wanted to purchase her hooked pieces. A popular item was her hooked brick doorstep. She estimates that close to 200 were completed over the years and were sent all over the country and to Germany and South America. Virginia also found a market for her small hooked dollhouse rugs and larger 3'x6' rugs.

The richness of our Guild has been enhanced by Virginia Sutton's membership. We all join in wishing her many more birthdays!

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 is responsible 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.

Hooking School Door 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 door 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!

Joy Anderson	Heavens to Betsy
Norma Batastini	Homespun
Beeline Art Tools	Nancy Jewett
Blue Tulip	Rug Hooking Magazine
W. Cushing & Co.	Iris Simpson
Gail Dufresne	Ali Strebel
Early American Life	Wool 'n Gardener
Rebecca Erb	Wool Street Journal
Karl & Mary Jo Gimber	

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 6 and 7. The Fair attracts large numbers of families who enjoy seeing the farm animals and farm related demonstrations and activities. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate this year. Saturday morning started off fine but the skies opened up in the early afternoon with heavy downpours that soon flooded the fields. Our demonstrators were dry under the large tent and continued to talk with visitors. When there was a pause in the rain, we decided to call it a day. The forecast for Sunday was for more of the same so we did not attempt to set up.

We are grateful to Eleanor Dunker, Karl Gimber, Lois Grieves, Kathy Kane, and Martha Thieling for braving the weather and sharing their enthusiasm for traditional rug hooking with visitors who attended the Fair on Saturday. At least one visitor signed up for our beginner's workshop held the following week at our annual rug school.

Lois Grieves and George Thieling, Martha's husband, took photos on Saturday which will be posted on our website.

We want to acknowledge Cathy Heilferty, Kathy Kane, Robin Nissenfeld, Barb Perry, and Dee Rosebrock for volunteering to represent the Guild on the rained out second day of the Fair.

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.

We are grateful to Mary Passerello and Diane Liberto for coordinating our involvement in this popular event 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 programs.

Guild Members Recognized Nationally -- Several of our talented members have had their rugs recently appear or featured in national publications.

- The August/September 2016 issue of the ATHA Magazine focused on primitive style rugs. Rugs hooked by Eleanor Dunker, Karl Gimber, Jen Morrow, Mary Passerello, and Betsy Warner were included in this special issue. A bed rug created by former member Carol Orlove who now lives in Kentucky was featured in a separate article as was Karl Gimber's Widow Brown's Tavern rug.
- The Celebration XXV Readers' Choice winners were announced in the June/July/August 2016 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine. Therese Shick's rug "Little Bear" was one of the winners. "Belgians & Berners" designed and hooked by Barbie Beck-Wilczk was selected for Celebrations XXVI (2016). Judy Quintman received honorable mention recognition.
- Story Rugs & Their Story Tellers by Paulette Hackman includes rugs designed and hooked by Nina Seaman.
- Annie Edwards' first rug will be featured in the "First Rug on the Last Page" article in the October 2016 issue of Rug Hooking Magazine. We all enjoyed watching Annie's rug evolve at our hooking retreats.

HCRAG Library Continues to Grow -- We wish to thank the following for their donations to our library:

- Barbara Lugg donated three issues of A Celebration of Hand-Hooked Rugs, Volumes X(2000), XI(2001) and XIII(2003). Celebrations is produced by Rug Hooking Magazine.
- Teri Dabrowski donated two catalogues -- Lib Callaway Patterns for Hooked Rugs (this catalogue dates from before 2013) and DiFranza Designs (2000).

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.

Lucy Trask Barnard and Her Rugs (Part 3) -- The May 2016 issue of Maine Antique Digest has a fascinating article by Mildred Cole Peladeau on rugs hooked in the mid-1800s by Lucy Trask Barnard. We continue the story by quoting from the article:

“Certainly the red doors and style of the outbuildings in the Caputo and “Betsy” rugs were created by the same craftsman. Oversized birds in the foreground are singular to the Caputo rug. In addition to the obvious pair of central birds, Barnard seems to have deliberately obscured two additional birds, one in each lower corner. They blend in so well with the flowers they are (purposely?) difficult to discern.

“The cranberry rug is the most personal of the six known Barnard rugs. While the four scenic rugs obviously were intended or at least hoped to have public approbation as works of art, the cranberry rug is believed to be a rug design created only to please Barnard while experimenting with the use of grain bags as the foundation fabric. She even played with the unusual shape for this rug, making it half round with two oblique angles in the rounded arch.

“Several clues support the premise that the rug is a thought-provoking and intellectually designed rug. Cranberries are white when formed and turn red when ripe, a trait Barnard has accented by outlining each berry in white and adding a splash of white at each center. The shade of red seen in both leaves and berries could well have been created from dyes actually made from cranberries. Typical cranberry leaves frame the outer edge. This increases the overall artistic impression and adds interest by emphasizing that the red berries are at their peak of ripeness.

“The central focus of this rug is truly unique – just four leaves! Two leaves from the powerful oak tree are seen sheltering two delicate leaves from the cranberry. Those four leaves provide the reason for hooking the rug. It is a masterpiece.

“The gift to the Farnsworth also included a second hooked rug, this one believed to have been made in the last quarter of the 19th century. Although it appears to be an original design, it lacks the depth of perception of the cranberry rug and the Dixfield house rugs. With its elaborate scroll frame and central bouquet, it is strongly suggestive of the popular Edward Sands Frost printed patterns so prevalent in the 1870s. It is also possible that this rug was the cranberry rug that took first honors at the 1850 Oxford County Fair.

“Although the Caputo rug on linen is the logical candidate for that honor because old grain burlap bags were available on a limited basis at the beginning of the 1850s, the cranberry rug is a contender.”

The story will be continued in future issues of The Loop.

Report from 2016 Rug Hooking School Directors – Eleanor Dunker, Co-Director, filed the following summary report on our 2016 rug school:

“Goal Accomplished! HCRAG has provided another successful five day rug hooking school. Two key reasons for the Hunterdon's success are that we get the best of the teachers. This was our third year of providing four teachers. Norma Batastini, Nancy Jewett, Iris Simpson and Ali Strebel were our instructors this year. From what we are hearing and what we also observed was that everyone was thrilled with their teachers and the rugs generated. The second reason for success was all of you who sign up and attended. Not only do you come for instruction but also for inspiration. Many of you were trying new styles and techniques.

“The organizing behind the scenes relies on volunteers and we thank all of you who generously signed up to provide teacher housing (*Sharon Ballard, Barb Boyko and Cindy Boults*), teacher lunches, delicious snacks, and lots of help unloading and loading our teachers' wool and supplies, keeping our rooms clean and the hospitality table stocked and clean. Two husbands of our members, Jean Gagnon (Ann's husband), and Tom Wooden (Aggie's husband), faithfully show up each year to help Ron finish with set-up and unload our teachers and students. I think they really enjoy helping us. I appreciate Gail Ferdinando's help with getting our supplies back to the storage center on Friday. We can't do this school without all this generous help. Ron makes our morning coffee all week and then Karl and the hospitality crew take over. Karl is always helping with the coffee pot cleanup duty.

“We had thirteen beginners this year. Cheryl created another new pattern that was a lovely basket of flowers. She organized donated wool into color bundles so that our new prospective hookers could select a color family they preferred. Our beginners were invited to join us in the cafeteria for lunch and an afternoon of working on their projects. We had a large selection of your completed rugs to inspire them and I know many of you engaged in conversation and pep talks with them. Thank you for your usual kindness to these ladies. However, not one man joined this beginner's group this year. Keep trying Karl and Fred. Many of you donated beautiful wool and quality cut wool that were the specific colors Cheryl needed for the kits. She expressed how generous you all are. We got a great deal of wool from Teri Dabrowski and Pat McDonnell. We are able to provide an inexpensive and complete kit with cut wool because of this generosity. Thank you Cheryl for a fabulous job.

“We limit our class size to 12 to 14 and this year we had 50 students plus 13 beginners which is a total of 63. The Throw Down on Thursday, is truly a fun stroll through the halls to see what we all have accomplished during the week. I kept hearing the positive comments and admiration about everyone's work and, again, the "inspiration" for their future projects.

“As I have traveled to some other schools, biennials, etc., I keep hearing glowing comments from other teachers, ATHA Board members, Rug Hooking Magazine's Debra Smith, and from other guilds that they are learning about HCRA. They are impressed with our size in membership and the expertise of our members. That is a well deserved compliment. One of the reasons that our information is spreading is due to Karl and his very informative newsletter. Barbara Carroll mentioned that she can't wait to read it every month. I think it is only second to *Rug Hooking Magazine* and *ATHA-Art of Rug Hooking*.

“We missed some of our regulars who could not attend this summer due to weddings, trips, surgeries and illness. Hopefully, they will be able to join us next summer. We were so very happy to see Judy Quintman back with us this summer. We also had some new members join us for our school (Jen Morrow, Marsha Moyer-Payne, Linda Ehly, Aggie Harris, Anne Penkal, Robin Nissenfeld, Jane Anderson). Sorry if I missed one of you and thought you were a regular.

“Anndee and I have enjoyed running this program for you. It has been fun and a learning experience. One of the advantages we had was that we got to know all of you better and that was a very nice benefit.

“Lydia and Debbie are ready to take over next year's school and have four wonderful teachers lined up for 2017.”

HCRAG Website -- Our Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) is an important source of Guild and rug hooking information. The site includes a wealth of information for rug hookers that is updated monthly.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Karl Gimber at karlg12@verizon.net. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug, as follows: Lastname.Firstname.Rugname. Without this identification protocol, we cannot assure that rugs will be uploaded to the site. Members who cannot attend meetings now have an opportunity to share their rugs.

Members are requested to grant the Guild permission to include their rug photos on the website.

Meet Featured Member – Barbara Lugg – Barbara Lugg was first featured in January 2007. Her story has been updated and is being shared anew.

The rugs hooked by Barbara Lugg have an ageless look that reflect the skills of someone who has been hooking for many years. She was attracted to hooked rugs when she first saw an old rug in an antique shop. While she was fascinated by the rug, it was not until 1997 that she began hooking. It was shortly after her husband passed away and Barbara felt the need to get involved with something that would be outside the house. She saw an ESC School flyer that mentioned an upcoming meeting of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild. She went to the meeting and was befriended by Helen Buchanan. The meeting was the last one before the summer break, so Helen invited Barbara to meet with the Everittstown Group. She soon learned the basics from Helen Buchanan and Hildegard Von Tenspod who was also a Guild member.

Barbara “loves pictorials” and “prefers to hook things she knows about.” She works mainly with a #6 cut and uses both new and recycled wool. Her wool comes from local vendors and from the occasional class that she takes. Barbara has been involved with fiber arts most of her life. She “tried all the crafts at one time or another” and took art lessons when she was 12. That background equipped her to design her own rug patterns. Barbara rarely works with someone else's patterns. While Barbara was not attracted to painting as such, she sees herself “painting with wool.” Her rug creations confirm that assessment.

Dyeing wool is something that Barbara does less than in the past. “There is so much wonderful new wool available that I am less inclined to dye today. What I know about dyeing wool, I learned along the way.” One year Helen Wolfel who was a perennial HCRAG rug school instructor conducted a class with the Everittstown Group. Bev Conway has been an influence too. Barbara studied with Bev for three years at Cape May. She looks forward to our Guild's rug schools and has only missed one since becoming a member. Barbara's rug school teachers have included Norma Batastini (multiple times), Jayne Hester, Kris Miller, and Cynthia Norwood. “I have learned from all of them,” she notes.

Many of Barbara's rugs have a personal connection, so she has trouble giving them up. However, she has sold rugs that do not have the personal or family attachment. At one time Barbara hooked and sold flower pins and wonderful purses. In 2006 someone gave her a purse kit and she found it addictive. Her purses were knitted with various yarns, lined with silk and trimmed with beads. Barbara has hooked “memory rugs” for her family. She has a son (Rick who lives in Pennsylvania), two daughters (Kathy who lives in Maine and Suzanne in Flemington), eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Her memory rugs have a series of blocks, like a friendship rug, and are designed with the family. Each block relates to something special. For example, Barbara's husband enjoyed watching red tail hawks fly over their home in Frenchtown. The block of a red tail hawk reminds them of him. The grandchildren have birth rugs and footstools hooked by their grandmother.

Barbara is proud to be one of the “Tiger Ladies” whose rugs were exhibited at The Nassau Club in Princeton, NJ in 2004. Her rug titled “Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright” was inspired by a poem by William Blake. It, along with the other rugs by the Tiger Ladies, appears in Jessie Turbayne’s book, Hooked on Rugs – Outstanding Contemporary Designs. Three of her rugs are featured in Modern Hooked Rugs by Linda Rae Coughlin. Barbara always submits rugs for the Guild’s display at the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair. They attract much attention and praise! Of all of the recognition Barbara has received, she is most proud of having her rug, “To Everything There is a Season,” selected in 2011 as one of two hooked rugs exhibited at the Baron Art Center’s show “In Memorium: A Creative Response to 9/11.”

Barbara has been a steady member of HCRAG from the time she joined in 1997 and is a member of the Hospitality Committee. She enjoys meeting the different members and talking about rug hooking. “There is a strong social element of being with people who have the same interests.” Barbara also draws inspiration from the work of the other members. The Guild is richer for having Barbara Lugg as a member.

Go to the Featured Member page of our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Barbara’s wonderful rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina’s Notebook – The email arrived this morning with its gentle plea...please submit your article for the September newsletter. The breeze on the beach this morning had a wee edge, suggesting cooler days are on their way. On the drive home I spotted some red leaves on the trees, a sure sign fall is coming in. The fuchsia and the red and pink roses that greeted me this June are now filled with orange red rose hips, pointing again to a change in seasons. The fruit flies are dying but the mice are deciding it may be time to look for a winter home. Not this house, I proclaim loudly, hoping in vain to persuade them to look elsewhere.

All these hints of fall bring both joy and sadness. I am mourning the end of summer with its days filled with family and friends; skiffs and sail boats, dinners and coffee hours. The summer was one of the best in years, weather wise; continuous days of sun, warm water and breezes followed by cooler nights. Best of all there were celebrations of lives well lived with more days ahead, milestones of accomplishment and talk of exciting adventures ahead for all of us. Hooking groups met every week so there was an opportunity to see the work of my Nova Scotia hooking friends and hear their plans for fall projects.

I shall miss sitting on my deck with its view of the open ocean and watching the sun make the water appear as if there were diamonds sprinkled on the surface. The full moon casts its light also, bringing back memories of years past when we would sail out to the big clanging bell buoy with just the moonlight as our guide.

All these remembrances of summer will keep me warm during the cooler days of fall. The red leaves of the changing season will hopefully inspire a new series of rugs celebrating the fall. So join me in welcoming this new season and the challenges it brings to the artist that lives within each one of us. Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips from Heloise – Hooking with Three Strips of Wool – Heloise had the opportunity at our Rug School to observe Weezie Huntington hook simultaneously with three strips of wool that created an impressionistic look. Weezie has shared her creative technique with us.

“In order to achieve an "impressionistic" or "pointillist" painting effect, cut several different wools in #3 or #4 cuts, and hook with three strips at a time. The strips can be each a different color, two of one color one different, or all three the same. If your strips are different lengths, as one runs out, replace it with a strip of a different color. This makes subtle changes. Hooking three strips at a time is equivalent to using a #8 - #8.5 cut. Be careful not to pack. Also be aware of "striping." If you hook higglety-pigglety your loops will tend not to line up in a row. If you are hooking a section that is a straight row, twist your strips underneath in order to have the colors shift places on the top side (twisting is not appropriate for floor rugs).”

Recipes – Linda Ehly’s Five-Layer Bars -- Members who attended our rug school were treated to Linda’s Five-Layer Bars. She found the recipe in the October 12, 2011 issue of the Burlington County Times newspaper and it was part of the Cookies for Kids Cancer: Best Bake Sale Cookbook published by Willey in 2011.

Ingredients

8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted
2 sleeves graham crackers, crushed
1 cup sweetened flaked coconut
2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk (I used Eagle brand)
2 cups pecans, lightly toasted and coarsely chopped (see note)

Note: To toast the nuts, heat oven 350 degrees. Place the nuts on dry baking sheet and bake until golden, 10 to 15 minutes

Preparation

- Heat oven 350 degrees.
- Lightly coat a 9 x13 inch baking pan with butter or cooking spray.
- Line the pan with parchment paper, allow enough overhang on the long sides to lift the bars from the pan after baking.
- In large bowl, combine the butter and graham crackers.
- Transfer the mixture to the prepared pan and pat into an even layer to form the crust.
- Sprinkle coconut evenly over the crust.
- Sprinkle the chocolate chips over the coconut.
- Pour the condensed milk evenly over the chocolate chips.
- Sprinkle the pecans evenly over the condensed milk.
- Press the layers down lightly.
- Bake in 350 oven until lightly browned, about 30 minutes.
Set aside to cool completely, then cut into 24 bars.

A tasty recipe and easy to do! Thank you Linda!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Rugs by the Sea, Cape May, NJ (September 11-16 & 18-23, 2016) – The popular rug school will feature instructors Cammie Bruce, Jon Ciemiewicz, Kay Leisey, and Michele Micarelli during the first week and

instructors Lucille Festa, Jen Manuell, Kris Miller, and Diane Stoffel the second week. Visit rugsbythesea.wordpress.com for more information.

The Country Inn Rug School (September 11-16, 2016) – The Woodbound Inn in Rindge, NH is the site for the annual Country Inn Rug School. Betty McClentic, Gail Walden, Sarah Guiliani, and Beverley Mulcahy are the instructors. For additional information contact School Director Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar at 908-757-5257 or Bechtoldt@comcast.net.

Hooked in the Mountains XVIII (October 19-23, 2016) – The Hooked Rug and Fiber Exhibition sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. The Featured Artists will be Davey DeGraff, Jackye Hansen and Liz Alpert Fay. Workshop information is available at www.hookedinthemountainworkshops.com.

Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild 11th Autumn Hook-in (October 22, 2016) – This popular gathering of rug hookers will be held at the Kimberton Fire Company in Kimberton, PA 19442 from 9-4. To register or for more information go to www.brandywinerughookingguild.org/2016-hook-in.html.

“Signs of the Times: Hunterdon Taverns & the Placards that Attracted Patrons” (November 1, 2016) – The Hunterdon 300th Organization is sponsoring a presentation by Dan and Marty Campanelli that will be followed by an exhibit and brief discussion of hooked tavern sign rugs created by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber that were inspired by historic Hunterdon taverns. The event will be held at the Main Branch of the Hunterdon County Library at 7:00 pm. For further information, please check -- www.hunterdon300th.org -- or call 908-788-2030.

Olde Cape Cod Rug School (November 11-14, 2016) – The rug school is held at the Hyannis Resort & Conference Center on Cape Cod. The teachers will be Nancy Blood, Betty McClentic, Angela Foote and Lucille Festa. Register by going to their website – www.oldecapecodrugschool.com.

Hooked Rug Exhibit – “Tavern Signs: Contemporary Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell” -- (November 19, 2016 to February 18, 2018) – An exhibit at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA will feature the tavern sign rugs designed by Guild members Karl and Mary Jo Gimber. Many of the rugs exhibited are included in the recently published book by the Gimbbers. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit www.schwenkfelder.org.

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.

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 Julienne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or jls7952@gmail.com.

Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Informal gatherings allow those who cannot attend Guild meetings to be with friends with similar interests. The groups listed below are open to anyone who wants to attend. Some require a small donation to cover the cost of the meeting site.

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.
- A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or lindarz16@gmail.com.
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net.

HCRA G Calendar of Events --

September 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – General Business & Rug Hooking School Review*
September 10 & 11, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Sheep & Fiber Festival, Ringoes Fairgrounds, NJ
September 17, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Historic Fall Festival, Hilltown, PA
October 1, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Colonial Market Day, Newtown, PA
October 1, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Apple Butter Frolic, Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA
October 14, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – History of Rug Hooking - Mid 1800s Waldoboro to Vintage McGown Hooked Rugs (Kathleen Herbert) *
October 14–16, 2016 – Hooking Retreat, Flemington Hampton Inn
November 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Restoration (Cindy Comly) **
December 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting -- Holiday Luncheon *
January 13, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Surprise Speaker -- Location TBD
February 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting -- Annual HCRA G Auction -- Location TBD
March 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Hook-in -- Location TBD
April 14, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – TBD – Location TBD
May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – TBD – Location TBD
June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon & Show & Tell Gift Drawing - Location TBD

*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 – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or jantique@ptd.net

Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com

Vice President – Membership -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

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

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

Camp Directors – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or lbrenuva@comcast.net

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.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 frejja2@verizon.net

Mentoring – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com

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

Secretary – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or jasuanderson@gmail.com

Special Events – Chris Coslet – 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net

Spring 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.

.....

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

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

