THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

November 2010

Presidents' Letter –. We hope that you are enjoying the wonderful fall weather. The leaves are falling and the colors are lovely. As the pace of the season picks up, we hope that you take a moment to enjoy the beauty all around you. There are an abundance of ideas for wonderful rugs to hook over the winter.

In October, we had an opportunity to demonstrate at the Howell Farm. We had a perfect day and lots of visitors to the farm. There was a great deal of interest shown in rug hooking and Carol, Gisele, Karl, Martha and I answered lots of questions. Hopefully, we've encouraged a few more people to try this art form.

We'd like to take this time to thank Sharon Bennett, Cindy Boults, Margaret Brightbill, Joyce Combs, Anne Edwards, Anne Geiger, Karl Gimber, Margaret Lutz, Joanne McIllmurray, Gisele Meader, Marian Michele, Dee Rosebrock, Therese Shick, Sue Woodworth and one anonymous donor for donating items for the ATHA basket. We really appreciate your support of this Guild activity.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Enjoy the fall! Dee and Joyce

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

Guild Program – Guild member Weezie Huntington will share a special wool dyeing technique she learned at camp this summer. In her program, One Way of Dyeing Painted Backgrounds, Weezie will demonstrate a dyeing technique that produces very special wool that allows the rug hooker to "paint" her/his rug. The wool used for the sky in Dee Rosebrock's award winning rug, Hooked on Bass, was dyed using this technique.

Show & Tell – November is a month for thankfulness. Bring in your hooking projects that signify thankfulness. They can be a remembrance, a celebration, a gift, or a beautiful scene. Again, works in progress are always welcome!

Those who participate in Show & Tell are eligible for a special raffle prize. Last month's winners received tickets to the Howell Farm Corn Maze, candy corn and several ears of colorful Indian corn. Remember you need to bring a rug or project to share in order to participate in the raffle drawing.

Hospitality – Sharon Ballard, Ingrid Cosmen, Lydia Lewis and Dee Rosebrock have volunteered to bring refreshments. We thank them in advance for providing the snacks that help make meetings more enjoyable.

November Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month – Karen Cascella (11/23), Ellen Di Clemente (11/16), Jamie Gartelmann (11/5), Barbara Kimbrough (11/16), Carol Kindt (11/11), Marion Michel (11/28), Linda Reitz (11/16) and Kay Weeks (11/15). Enjoy your day!

Membership -- We welcome Marilyn Ellison and Fran Hulette to our Guild. Marilyn came to our camp last summer after learning about it from Joyce Combs with whom she hooks in upstate New York. Marilyn's contact information is shown below.

Marilyn Ellison	Fran Hulette
11 River Ledge Road	38 Lawrenci Drive
Hammond, NY 13646	Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
315-882-3436	609-895-1465
mellison574@gmail.com.	f_hulette@hotmail.com

Karl Gimber has a new email address – karlg12@verizon.net.

A membership renewal form is attached for those who have not yet paid their dues.

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

Guild News & Events

Townsend Fabric Cutter -- The Bee Line Company, of Bettendorf Iowa, announced an agreement to acquire the rights to manufacture and market the Townsend fabric cutter from Townsend Industries of Altoona Iowa. Bee Line plans to receive orders through the Bee Line Townsend website and an 800 number, with shipment of product in early November.

Bee Line Company is the leading manufacturer of wheel alignment and collision correction equipment for heavy duty trucks in North America. The 90 year old business has been owned by the McLaughlin Family since 1979. Bee Line is well known for producing a high quality product with top notch customer service and is looking forward to applying those same characteristics to the rug hooking business.

HCRAG Supports ATHA Biennial Fund Raiser – Thanks to generous donations from Guild members and creative packaging by Annie Edwards, a large basket of rug patterns, books, wool, dye packets, instructional CDs, punch needle kits and a hand crafted felted hat was presented to the Goat Hill Rug Hooking Guild for their auction at the Brandywine Hook-in on October 30, 2010. Proceeds from the auction support the ATHA Biennial Conference that will be held in Lancaster in October 2011.

Rug Hooking in Maine and Beyond – Exhibit at Farnsworth Museum – Guild members continue to rave about the exhibit at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland,

Maine that runs through the end of December. Sharon Ballard reported on the magnificent Waldoboro rugs at the October meeting.

Previously Jamie Gartelman reported that "The exhibit showed some wonderful examples of rugs made in Maine and a few special ones from Canada to illustrate the beginnings of the craft of rug hooking, very worthwhile to see."

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

The July issue of Maine Antiques Digest reported on the Exhibit. Much of its coverage focused on a rare pattern by Edward Sands Frost -- "A long-forgotten Frost hooked rug pattern has surfaced! It is being shown publicity for the first time at an exhibit of historical hooked rugs at the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, Maine, closing December 31.

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

There is still time to travel north to enjoy the exhibit.

Strong Interest in Annual Hooking Retreat – Eighteen members have already registered for the Guild's popular hooking retreat that will take place from January 14-16, 2011. Our room can only accommodate 25 hookers, so sign up now to be assured of a place.

After our January meeting, retreaters will parade over to the Flemington Hampton Inn where we will hunker down for a weekend of hooking and fun from Friday afternoon until Sunday at 4:00. You can commute or stay overnight. Call 908-284-9427 to make your room reservations. Mention our Guild and you will receive a special discounted room rate of $112 plus tax. The rate applies up to the day of the retreat, if rooms are available. You can save by sharing a room with a friend.

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

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

Geometrics Workshop Fully Booked -- Sandra Brown's workshop on geometrics that will be conducted at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, April 29 to Sunday May 1, 2011 is now fully subscribed. Event coordinator, Weezie Huntington, is maintaining a waiting list for anyone who wants to sign up. See the October 2010 issue of The Loop for details on the workshop. You can reach Weezie at weezie711@gmail.com or 609-466-1882 for current information.

Plans for Camp 2011 Underway --Our Guild's 15th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 15, 2011 though August 19, 2011. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors -- Jane Halliwell Green, Kris McDermet and Iris Simpson – will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. At the present time, there is one remaining opening in Jane Halliwell Green's workshop. Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh are our camp directors.

Our Teachers and Their Classes:

Jane Halliwell Green (Pictorials) Jane is known for her pictorial and floral rugs. In this workshop, Jane will offer a fresh approach to hooking houses, water, skies, trees, grass, flowers, rock walls and other pictorial elements. Participants will learn how to apply techniques such as pixelating, bundling, shagging and meandering to bring a new level of excitement and skill to their hooking projects. Jane will lead her class through a series of mini-lectures and demonstrations of techniques. She will also work with students on an individual basis. Students may work on a commercial pattern or an original design with wide or narrow strips.

Jane will also teach wide-cut florals that she calls "Close Ups." These rugs or wall hangings are hooked in a wide cut, anything from a #8 cut to a ripped strip of wool measuring close to one inch. The rugs are extremely fast to hook and dramatic in their appearance. Size can vary from a 16" pillow square to a 48" X 48" wall hanging. Jane frequently uses dip dyes to create the petals. She will have a number of her own patterns available or students may design their own.

Jane is the author of two books on pictorial rugs, including her most recent, *Pictorial Hooked Rugs.* Her latest rug "Botanical Fantasy" was chosen for the cover of the 2010 edition of *Celebrations*. Jane teaches at rug hooking schools throughout the United States and Canada. She was the first rug hooker to teach at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC and was a guest of HGTV in 2001. Jane is also a painter and signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society. She resides in Annapolis, Maryland. Visit her website at http://www.rugandwool.com and http://www.woolofthemonthclub.com.

Kris McDermet (After the Hooking Comes Braiding) Braids can frame, compliment or add contrast to a hooked project. They can be used as a border or center with endless possibilities for switching back and forth between hooking and braiding. This class will look beyond traditional rug borders to help you add texture and interest to your projects. Kris will present the many steps of braiding on hooking with easy to understand directions and hands-on instruction. Students will learn how to add braiding to a variety of hooked shapes and to the inside or outside of any hooked wall hanging or rug. Students are asked to bring a variety of small hooked shapes to class.

Kris lives in Dummerston, Vermont and teaches braiding on hooking around the country. She is a member of the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild. Please visit her website at www.krismcdermetrugs.com.

Iris Simpson (Open Workshop) Iris will offer an open class where anything goes and all levels of rug hookers are welcome. Students can use a commercially designed pattern or create one of their own (with or without help from Iris). They can choose any subject and use any cut from #2 to #9 or hand cut. The variety of choices made by the students will set the stage for what will be taught. Iris will teach her class through a series of mini-lectures on different topics, such as, Primitives, Orientals, Fine Shaded Fruits or Flowers. Hints, tips and techniques for each style will be shared. In addition, students will learn about materials (traditional and unusual), technique, design, color and finishing. Iris encourages questions and dialogue in her class and fun and laughter are always welcome.

Iris, an educator by trade and a hooker by choice, loves hooking and teaching at schools and workshops in Canada, the United States and England. She is an Ontario Hooking Craft Guild and McGown certified teacher, holds a Fiber Arts-Traditional Rug Hooking Certificate from St. Lawrence College and is a certified Oxford Punch Needle teacher. Iris enjoys all aspects of rug hooking, from mini-pictorials in a #2 cut to primitives in a #9 cut. She values close communication with students prior to, during and after class. Iris is well versed in all styles and subjects and loves to share information and fun. Her latest work combines hooking with mini punch needle for an interesting effect.

Registration/Instructional Fees – The fee for camp is $175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2010. For all others, the fee is $250. A non-refundable deposit of $25 is required to make a reservation for camp. The balance of the fee is due by May 30, 2011. For all reservations received after May 30th, the camp fee must be paid in full at the time of registration. Checks made payable to HCRAG can be sent to Debbie Walsh at 51 Spruce Street, Cranford, NJ 07016.

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2011, the camp fee less the $25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 10th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.
For more information, contact Debbie Walsh at 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

Guild Demonstrators Active Last Month – October was another busy month for Guild demonstrators who supported HCRAG and the community by demonstrating rug hooking at Colonial Market Day (Newtown, PA), Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ), Millbrook Days (Millbrook, NJ) and Pohatcong House Tours (Phillipsburg, NJ). These events allowed us to increase public awareness of rug hooking and our Guild.

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

Ingrid Cosmen	Gisele Meader	Martha Theiling *	Deanna Kinney
Karl Gimber	Marion Michele	Margaret Brightbill	Joan Lucas
Carol Kindt	Dee Rosebrock	Lydia Lewis	

* First time participant!

Meet our Historian – Sonia Force -- Sonia Force was introduced to rug hooking when she received a hooked rug on burlap with rows of brightly colored strips for a wedding present. Her husband's grandmother belonged to a church rug hooking group in Lambertville, which met every week. "She used rags and old things for her rugs" recalls Sonia. "Being a young wife and a very fastidious homemaker then, these rugs got washed too often and you know what happened to the burlap. Needless to say now, I wish now I knew more about their care." Sonia notes.

A love for working and creating with her hands was instilled in Sonia from an early point in her childhood. When she was in junior high school, she made her first dress after shopping for the yard goods all over Trenton, NJ, her hometown. Sonia says she "sewed everything for our three little girls and myself." Her interest in hand work led Sonia to take up quilting, counted cross-stitch and latchet hooked rugs. All 13 grandchildren have a quilt made by their grandmother. A trio of matched latchet hooked rugs made in the early 1960s is still being used in her living room.

For years Sonia enjoyed seeing hooked rugs in antique shops and at fairs where enthusiastic, generous-hearted rug hookers shared the love of their craft. About five years ago, Sonia and her daughter attended a program at the Hunterdon County Arboretum taught by Trish Becker. There were three evening sessions devoted to learning rug hooking basics while working on a traditional mug rug. After the classes, the project was put aside, but last summer Sonia was drawn back to it and finally completed it.

Sonia learned about our Guild from articles in the local papers. Finding the time to come to a meeting was always a challenge. However, last fall she and her niece, Loriann Fell, attended a Guild meeting and both soon became members. Sonia recalls that "The show and tell portion of the meeting was particularly exciting. Guild members were so supportive to one another and so welcoming to us. The beauty of the rugs I saw at this meeting and the ones to follow continue to be an inspiration to me. Most of all I saw reverence for enjoying and furthering this time-honored craft."

Hooking in the primitive style is the direction in which Sonia is moving as she develops her rug hooking skills. Sonia tries to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge that is present when Guild members come together. Before each meeting, she thinks of a hooking question and then asks as many members as she can to get various opinions. Sonia also takes advantage of the Guild's extensive library and says "I pore through the books several times each month". "Everyone has been so supportive" Sonia notes. She is especially thankful for the encouragement received from Margaret Brightbill, Karl Gimber, Deanna Kinney and Karen Worthington.

Sonia tries to hook a little every day. She has been gathering recycled wool for her stash and did buy some new wool for her current project. As she expands her rug hooking knowledge, Sonia says "I know I will get into the dyeing process, but am content for now to buy what I need".

Our Guild's annual rug hooking camp in August presented an opportunity for Sonia to really immerse herself in her first rug project. She participated in the workshop conducted by Cherylyn Brubaker. Initially, Sonia was going to work on a prepared pattern and actually started to transfer it to her linen backing. However, she followed her urge to draw her own pattern. The inspiration for the pattern was John's favorite ancient flannel shirt notes Sonia. The Western shirt had a strong Indian type pattern with turquoise and pipestone red colors. The pattern was drawn on the backing before camp so that Cherylyn was able to help Sonia get started. The rug is being hooked with 6 and 8 cuts.
Sonia looks forward to when she can soon share her completed rug with the Guild and say "My first rug is finished!" We know the Guild will applaud.

After receiving her college degree in 1972, Sonia taught first and third grades in Robert Hunter School in Flemington, NJ. She and husband John have been active collectors of antiques for most of their 59 years of marriage. Sonia concentrates on collecting antique buttons, some of which she shared at camp. John has an extensive collection of vintage milk bottles. They live with them and enjoy them totally.

Sonia and John live in Flemington, NJ. At one time they owned Paul Bunyon's Village in Flemington which John built. The Village was a series of specialty shops including a restaurant and ice cream parlor that they operated. They have one son, Dan, and three daughters – Amy, Holly and Joy. Dan also lives in Flemington and is the owner of Pete's Bike Shop. His wife Patricia is a special education teacher. Their daughter Meredith lives in Upper Montclair with her husband James. Their daughter Lindsay who is also a special education teacher lives in Ewing, NJ. Amy is also a teacher who lives in Three Bridges, NJ with her husband Ed and their three children Eddie, Elise and Emily. Holly, a teacher, and her husband Bob live in Wellsboro, PA with their three children – Jacob, Jesse and Luke. Joy lives in Ivyland, PA with her husband Rob and their children, "RJ" and McKenzie. Keeping with the family tradition, Joy is also a teacher.

As the Guild's Historian, Sonia is responsible for maintaining our historical scrapbook that is a record of articles on the Guild and our members and paper items that relating to HCRAG activities.

Hooking Information & Technique

Working in Thrums -- The January/February 1988 issue of Rug Hooker News & Views contained an article written by Mary Sheppard Burton entitled "Working in Thrums – A Surface Technique as Old as the Hills". (See note below) A portion of the article was presented in the October 2010 issue of The Loop. An additional segment is repeated below.

"Nomads travelled from summer highland grazing to lower level winter grazing. It is known that sheep were domesticated in 8500 B.C. in the near East and that goats were domesticated in Persia by 7800 B.C. The market places became the collecting spots for wool. Bills of lading listing the transport of 'woolens' and woolen products remain in existence from the earliest times. They tell us of the quality and quantity of that miracle fiber and its place of origin and destination. Woolens by the bale, and in the form of completed carpets and rugs eventually

found their way to seaports. There trade tugged at the winds of the universe. That this was so is evidenced by the inventories of the great throughout Europe.

For as long as even the simplest boats raised sail on water there appeared a strange shaggy hot-dog shaped object between the sail and the mast. What was this weird object that had great resemblance to a sheep dog? It seems logical that eons ago the sailor or traveler observed the thrummed mats on the backs of pack animals and got the idea of putting a mat to a different use upon the top-most part of his sail where the wind whipped the sails against the masts. Thus was born the prodded pad or 'proddy rug'. Instead of pulling a loop with a hook through a woven backing, the sailor took a prod (a pencil shaped stick) and pushed the thrums through the backing. It is most likely more practical to do it this way as there was no loop to be snagged. Only the long shaggy ends were buffers for the winds. Prods have become a standard equipment throughout many centuries of seagoing by sail. Of the few sailing ships remaining in the late 20th century – the prod may still be seen protecting the precious sails from the winds.

Thus the lowly thrummed and prodded mats have travelled the roads of history. The plundering Norsemen in their travels from 500 A.D. and onward wore long shaggy thrummed and prodded clothing. Made of wool of course – yarn thrums that insolated them against the rigors of the Northlands. It is known that they travelled all the rivers of Northern Europe and made their presence felt in the countries in which they travelled. These great sailors and warriors sent woolens home to warm their families. The North countries were not all wool producing countries, but they quickly became aware of the wonderful properties of wool fiber."

To be continued in subsequent issues of The Loop.

Note: Mary Sheppard Burton passed away on July 1, 2010.

Tips From Heloise (aka Lydia Lewis) – Foundation -- the word brings up many thoughts.....but get your mind back on hooking. One definition from the dictionary for FOUNDATION "is a body or stock or ground material on which anything is built up". Many hookers have used burlap (some still do), linen, monk's cloth, wool, and rug warp. The main concerns for backing materials are loose weave, strength and non-elasticity.

One must prepare the backing for use. Various methods can be used to prevent the edges from raveling. Masking tape or duct tape folded over the edges, zigzag stitching on a sewing machine, or painting a one inch band of diluted white glue along the edge is another option. (That one seems very messy to Heloise). Once you have your foundation prepared you are up and running and ready to draw your pattern and begin hooking!

Thinking about the upcoming holiday- Is the TURKEY (it is a body) a foundation since we prepare it with a stuffing (hence building it up)? Happy Thanksgiving!

From Nina's Notebook -- This fall I am off to visit friends in California...what to take as a house gift? Since I am flying, a large gift, or taking my hooking along to create something special on the spot is out of the question.

Last spring Michael's was selling small, wooden picture frames, suitable for a 4 x 6 picture for $1 each. I picked up about 10 of them thinking that they would make perfect frames for a small hooked piece, and indeed they have been!

I place the picture frame on the linen and draw around it, which tells me how large the hooked piece will be. After I have finished the hooking, I allow about 2 inches all around and cut away the excess backing. After steaming the hooked piece, I carefully staple it to the frame, mitering the corners. Then I take a piece of art paper, write the name of the piece, whom it is for, my name and the date and cut it to cover the back of the frame. Using double faced tape, I apply the art paper to the back of the frame, making a very neat cover for the staples, backing and hooking.

Subject matter for the small hooking...whatever comes to mind! I have done a small vase of flowers, using roving for the blossoms. Christmas season I will do Santas and primitive Christmas trees. I also like to hook two or three fish and then use various plaids to hook them as well as using a blue yarn for background. Colored yarns will also give you a very bright tropical fish.

Voila ... a small hooked piece for a friend or family member!

Happy Hooking – Nina Seaman

Favorite Recipes -- We thank Debbie Walsh for sharing her popular Cranberry-Pistachio Biscotti recipe.

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup light olive oil
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 eggs
- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1 1/2 cups pistachio nuts

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C).

2. In a large bowl, mix together oil and sugar until well blended. Mix in the vanilla and almond extracts, then beat in the eggs. Combine flour, salt, and baking powder; gradually stir into egg mixture. Mix in cranberries and nuts by hand.

3. Divide dough in half. Form two logs (12x2 inches) on a cookie sheet that has been lined with parchment paper. Dough may be sticky; wet hands with cool water to handle dough more easily.

4. Bake for 35 minutes in the preheated oven, or until logs are light brown. Remove from oven, and set aside to cool for 10 minutes. Reduce oven heat to 275 degrees F (135 degrees C).

5. Cut logs on diagonal into 3/4 inch thick slices. Lay on sides on parchment covered cookie sheet. Bake approximately 8 to 10 minutes, or until dry; cool.

HCRAG Library – Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact her by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net.

Members who borrow books are reminded that they need to be returned in a timely manner, so that the books will be available for others members.

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

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Rug Hooking in Maine and Beyond – The Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, Maine is the site of a special exhibit of forty splendid examples of hooked rugs that include Waldoboro, Arts and Crafts, cottage industry and other types of rugs. The exhibit is open until December 31, 2010. For more information contact the museum at www.farnsworthmuseum.org. or 207-596-6457.

Hooked Rugs—A Labor of Love will be on view at the Gloria Cachion Gallery at the Southbury Public Library from November 1 through November 30, 2010. This one-woman show features the work of Beth Kempf, a contemporary hooking artist. Each piece was designed and executed by the artist, who is a regular contributor to Newtown Hooked Art Shows' annual competition. The Southbury Public Library is located at 100 Poverty Road, Southbury, CT (203) 262-0626

This is an eclectic show, demonstrating a diversity of ideas, materials and techniques, and pieces were chosen as a representation of the breadth of work being created in this medium today. Originality, innovative use of materials, sculptural and three-dimensional forms are evident in the work presented. In many cases the technique of traditional rug hooking is paired with other art forms.

Harvest Celebration at the Wool Studio – October 18- 23, 2011 – Rebecca Erb is hosting this special event at the new location of her studio which is half an hour north of Lancaster, PA . Participants will include Homespun (Kay Leisey), Jim Brewley (hand-turned wooden snippet

bowls), Misty Pond Primitives (Pat Donoho), Wool'n Gardner (Jan Cole), Wood Crest Rug Design (Joanne Gerwig) and the Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb). Visit www.thewoolstudio.com for directions and more information.

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

Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington (weezie711@gmail.com) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.

A "Gathering" of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.

HCRAG Calendar of Events

November 12, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – One Way of Dyeing Painted Backgrounds (Weezie Huntington)*
December 10, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon & Ornament Exchange *
January 14, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Auction & White Elephant Sale *
January 14-16, 2011 – Rug Hooking Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
February 11, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Tavern & Trade Sign Hooked Rugs (Karl Gimber) *
March 11, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Round Robin led by Members *
April 1-30. 2011 – Hooked Rug Exhibit – Hunterdon County Library, Rt. 12 Flemington, NJ
April 8, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Mola Mats Lecture & Workshop (Norma Batastini) *
April 29- May 1, 2011 – Spring Fling – Geometrics (Sandra Brown) Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
May 13, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Proddy Mats (Kay Weeks) *
June 10, 2011 -- Monthly Meeting – Annual Picnic *
August 15-19, 2011 – HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp (June Halliwell Green, Kris McDermet and Iris Simpson) – ESC School, Lambertville, NJ.
August 16, 2011 – HCRAG Beginners' Workshop – ESC School, Lambertville, NJ.

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address, which does not appear on the road, is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

Co-Presidents – Joyce Combs – 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net
Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com
Vice President – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com
Historian – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net
Hospitality – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net
Programs – Lydia Lewis – 215-968-3278 or misspid2@aol.com
Gisele Meader – 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net
Public Relations/Newsletter -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
Secretary – Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or lkling@epix.net
Special Events – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or
thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com and
Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net
Sunshine – Janet Santaniello – 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com
Treasurer – Margaret Brightbill - 215-968-2711 or margaretbrightbill1@gmail.com

Guild's Email List Policy - The HCRAG Email list is not for commercial purposes, internally, or externally. The Guild does not make the list available to vendors outside the Guild, and asks that vendors within the group not solicit the membership as a whole.

The Loop is the newsletter of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.