

# THE LOOP

## The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

April 2012

**Presidents' Letter** – Thanks to Cindy Boult for sharing the following poem with us.

Spring Equinox 2012

*Every spring is the only spring – a perpetual  
astonishment. Ellis Peters*

Solar flares, equinox,  
ice floes, ancient rocks,  
great circles, wheels in wheels,  
this is the way beginning feels.

New day, new year  
Iris blade, asparagus spear,  
cherry pink, forsythia gold,  
new life from old.

Sap rises, winds blow  
buds emerge above and below,  
bird song announces dawn –  
rabbit, chickadee, squirrel, fawn.

Carry on, dance around,  
praise the sun, kiss the ground;  
carry on dance, around,  
praise the sun, kiss the ground

Drum beat, bell ring  
wonder of wonders,  
again spring!

Amy Hannon – Raritan Valley, NJ

March 20<sup>th</sup> marked the first day of spring with all its promise of new beginnings and renewal. For those members who attended HCRAG's Spring Fling, this promise was fulfilled as they learned new techniques and methods for hooking. Cyndy Duade led an inspirational workshop on making masks. She encouraged students to be imaginative and creative and to use mixed media materials along with traditional woolens. Initially, some of the attendees were tentative and feeling a little out of their element. By the end of the weekend, everyone was smiling and had a real feeling of accomplishment. The results are outstanding! All of the masks are works of art – each different, personal and very special.

Angela Foote led the second of the two workshops and her passion for using color and a variety of wool in hooking was evident in her instruction. Angela was adept at moving from student to student and providing the support that each needed to hook their particular project. The common thread running through her instruction was how to work with color. The results were wonderful. At the end of the two days, there were rugs showcasing beautiful sunflowers and trees, colorful cats and geometric gears, a stunning grasshopper, and children with flowing skirts, plus a detailed pictorial with quilts on a line, and a tranquil meadow scene with deer, sheep and trees.

In addition to the lovely hooked project that everyone took home, each person left with beautifully dyed wool and mixed media embellishments.

We thank Cyndy and Angela for a great and very productive weekend. We give special thanks to Cindy Boults for selecting and housing the instructors and for coordinating the workshop.

We hope the great weather and the beautiful trees and flowers have inspired everyone to come out of hibernation, shake off the cobwebs and embrace the new season. Happy Spring to all our members!

Dee and Joyce

**April Meeting – Friday, April 13, 2012** -- The April 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. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road. Our meeting begins at 10:00 and ends at 2:00. Guests are always welcome.

Guild Program – The program will be a fun filled, educational Round Robin of member led demonstrations. Our talented line up will cover diverse subjects, as listed below:

- Hooking in crewel stitches - Cindy Bolts
- Proddy flowers from my garden – Barbara Boyko
- Dyeing with linings - Karl Gimber
- How to make a worm carrier - Cheryl Halliday
- Carding and spinning – Robin Perelli

Show & Tell – With April showers, do you have your garden planted yet? Bring in any garden themed rugs: landscapes, fruits, vegetables etc. April 27<sup>th</sup> is Tell a Story Day. Do you have any rugs that tell a story that you would like to share? Bring them in – we'd love to hear the story.

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

The S & T raffle winners for March were:

Sharon Ballard – Piece of Crystal

Gail Dufresne – Homemade Pin  
Margaret Lutz – Box of Truffles  
Pat McDonnell – Cheese Spreader & Truffles  
Janet Santaniello – Piece of Wool & Purse  
Bernice Smith – Dozen Farm Fresh Eggs  
Dee Rosebrock – Issue of Early American Life Magazine  
Agnes Wooden – Jar of Gourmet Olives

Our generous donors were Joyce Combs, Ingrid Cosmen, Karl Gimber, Cheryl Halliday Gisele Meader, Dee Rosebrock, and Nina Seaman.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks for the meeting – Sharon Ballard, Deanna Kinney, Joan Lucas, Lib Ryman, and Debbie Walsh. Your efforts help make our gatherings more enjoyable.

**April Birthdays** -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month. Susan Atwater (4/15), Cindy Gustafson (4/25), Tony Townsend (4/13) and HCRAAG (4/1) celebrate birthdays this month. Happy Birthday!

**Membership** – We welcome Colleen Conrad, Cindy Gustafson and Eileen Koch to our Guild and look forward to seeing them at upcoming meetings.. Their contact information is shown below.

Colleen Conrad 58 Nedslan Ave. Titusville, NJ 08560 609-818-9275 <a href="mailto:Carkhuff59@hotmail.com">Carkhuff59@hotmail.com</a>	Cindy Gustafson 3 Cynthia Ct. Annandale, NJ 08801 908-735-6255 <a href="mailto:rev13t@embarqmail.com">rev13t@embarqmail.com</a>	Eileen Koch 447 Ridge Road Stroudsburg, PA 18360 570-992-7841 <a href="mailto:efmk2003@yahoo.com">efmk2003@yahoo.com</a>
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A memorial service for Margaret Brightbill will be held at the Titusville United Methodist Church on Route 29 in Titusville, NJ, on April 14th at 10:30 a.m.

**Sunshine** – We were delighted to see Carol Kindt up and about at our March meeting after undergoing knee surgery. Go girl!

## **Guild News & Events**

**BREAKING NEWS -- Regional Rug Show Planned** -- Plans are underway for a regional show of hooked rugs to be held at Prallsville Mill in Stockton, NJ on October 5 & 6, 2013. Planning is in the early stages, but the Goat Hill, Pinelands and Spring Lake ATHA Chapters have expressed interest in joining with HCRAAG for what promises to be a major rug hooking event. Several other guilds have been invited to participate. Vendors, boutique tables, raffles, demonstrations, door prizes and food are all anticipated to be part of the activities. Stay tuned as our plans develop.

**Our Guild Turns 35!** – Our Guild was born in April 1977 with Jo Knobloch as the midwife. At the time Jo was responsible for establishing a series of craft guilds under the umbrella of the Hunterdon County Adult Education Program. Thirty five years later most of those guilds still exist. From our humble beginning with just a few members, we have grown to almost 100 members who live in eight states. Our programs and activities

are known nationally. We are grateful to those who have gone before us who helped build and maintain HCRAAG.

### **Quilts Uncovered – The History of Quilting in America from 1800-1950**

**(April 5, 2012)** – Guild members who are quilters or who appreciate old quilts will have an interest in an upcoming presentation on the history of quilting in America sponsored by Rural Awareness, Inc.. The presentation by quilt expert, Judy Grow, is scheduled for Thursday, April 5 at 7:30 PM at the Snyder Research Farm, 140 Locust Grove Road, Pittstown, NJ. Admission is free.

Ms. Grow will speak for one hour, discussing numerous patterns and the ways that textiles and quilting coincided with the industrial revolution, and the ways to date quilts based on the dyes used. All points will be illustrated with quilts from her own historical collection, built over the last 25 years. Guests are invited to bring their own quilt for “show and tell” if they want to know more about it. Financial appraisals will not be made.

**Officer Elections This Month** – April is the month in which we select our officers/chairs for the coming year. The slate is as follows:

- Co-Presidents – Cindy Boults and Therese Shick
- Vice President – Debbie Walsh \*
- Historian – Sonia Force \*
- Hospitality – Deanna Kinney \*
- Librarian – Kathy Donovan \*
- Programs – Barbara Boyko and Robin Perelli
- Public Relations & Newsletter – Karl Gimber \*
- Secretary – Susan Woodworth
- Assistant Secretary – Linda Kling
- Special Events – Amy Korengut \*
- Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando
- Treasurer – Jana Laidlaw \*
- Assistant Treasurer – Jean Laurence

\* incumbent

The combination of incumbents who will continue for another year and new leaders augers well for another successful year for our Guild. Our heartfelt appreciation is extended for those who served the Guild in the past year.

### **HCRAAG Returns to Historic Peter Wentz Farmstead for Hooking**

**Demonstration – April 14, 2012** –The Peter Wentz Farmstead was established in 1744 and was George Washington’s headquarters during the fall of 1777. The house is a Georgian-style stone building with many architectural features that reflected the Wentz’ German heritage including interior paint decoration throughout. This historic site will be hosting its annual sheep shearing day on April 14, 2012 from 10-3 at which time various historic crafts and skills are demonstrated.

Sheep wool and rug hooking go hand-in-hand, so the event is a natural place to demonstrate traditional rug hooking. Our Guild members Joanne McIlmurray, Pat

McDonnell, Martha Theiling and Karl Gimber will be positioned between the summer kitchen and the traditional Pennsylvania German four-square garden.

Our Webmaster, Laurie Rubinetti, is taking a class on video making and will be creating a video that can be added to our website. She plans to be at the Wentz Farmstead to tape footage for the video.

For more information and directions to the Peter Wentz Farmstead, visit its website – [peterwentzfarmstead@montcopa.org](mailto:peterwentzfarmstead@montcopa.org).

**Guild & Mennonite Heritage Center Prepare for Hook-in/Clinic – April 21, 2012** -- The Guild will return to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 21, 2012 from 9:00 to 3:30. In addition to a regular hook-in, there will be vendors, mini presentations, a rug exhibit and a clinic where people can get advice/suggestions on their rug hooking projects.

The museum exhibits that will be on display make the Mennonite Heritage Center a special site for our hook-in. Their exhibit of Pennsylvania German fraktur is quite extraordinary and an ideal setting for our exhibit of rugs hooked by participants. In addition, there will be a special display entitled “*Milestones: Observances in Mennonite Family and Church Life*” as well as their permanent exhibit on Mennonite history.

Raffles are always a fun part of every hook-in. Cheryl Halliday and Sue Schulz have been successful in collecting items that will be raffled during the day. The generous donors are listed below:

- Jan Cole (Wool ‘N Gardner)
- Pat Donoho (Misty Pond Primitives)
- Gail Dufresne (Goat Hill Studio)
- Rebecca Erb (Wool Studio)
- Jackie Gauker (Jackie’s Woolens)
- Joanne Gerwig (Woodcrest Rug Designs)
- Jeannine Happe (Two Old Crows)
- Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild
- Donna Kolznak (HCRAAG)
- Kay Leisey (Homespun)
- Mennonite Heritage Center Gift Shop
- Betsy Reed (Heavens to Betsy)
- Dee Rosebrock (HCRAAG)
- Rug Hooking Magazine
- Karen Worthington (Blue Tulip)

Guild members who wish to support the hook-in by donating a raffle item can bring their donation to the April meeting and give it to Cheryl or Sue.

Participation is limited, but a few openings are available. The event fee of \$45 (non-Heritage Center Member) and \$40 (MHC member) includes a full lunch and coffee/snacks. To register, send your check made payable to the Mennonite Heritage Center to Rose Moyer, Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Road, Harleysville, PA

19438-1020. Visit their website -- [www.mhep.org](http://www.mhep.org) -- for more information on their programs.

**Beginners' Rug Hooking Workshop Fully Booked** -- Juliana Kapusta and Patty Mahaffey will be conducting a workshop for beginners at our hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center. Interest has been very strong and the workshop is full.

**Feather Tree Class – May 1, 2012** -- Guild member Gisele Meader has scheduled a Feather Tree Class on Saturday, May 1, 2012 at the Old Rock Church, 260 Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road, Mt. Airy, NJ from 10-3. She will bring a sample tree and will have a sign-up sheet at our next meeting. Around the beginning of April, she will email a supply list to participants. The supplies cost under \$10 and the class is free. Come join Gisele for a fun filled day. Space is limited. For more information contact Gisele at 609-737-3123 or [g.meador@att.net](mailto:g.meador@att.net).

**Attend Camp Free!** -- Do you want to come to the Guild's summer camp for free? All you need to do is provide housing for one of our instructors. The host is not expected to entertain the instructor. After a long day teaching, the instructors need time to relax, reflect on the day and get ready for the next day. They will welcome time alone at night. The host is requested to provide breakfast and dinner. Lunch is provided by the Guild. To sign up or to learn more, contact Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail)) or Debbie Walsh (908-272-7012 or [debywalsh@yahoo.com](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com)).

**HCRAG Annual Summer Camp (August 13 -17, 2012)** --Our Guild's 16<sup>th</sup> annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 13, 2012 through August 17, 2012 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors – Arline Bechtoldt, Jeanne Benjamin and Lucille Festa – will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. All the workshops are now full, but those who still want to attend are encouraged to place their names on the waiting list. Each year we typically have openings develop because of person/family issues that come up and result in openings

The camp volunteer sign-up sheets will be at the next meeting and members attending camp should sign up for at least two jobs. Last year everyone volunteered and all the jobs were covered.

**Our Teachers –**

Jeanne Benjamin: Jeanne started hooking in 1971 and became McGown certified in 1979. She owns New Earth Designs, a pattern business of diverse designs, and also has a dyed wool mail order business. Jeanne has a loyal following and is known for her beautiful dyeing and color planning, often dyeing 50 yards or more of wool weekly.

Jeanne stresses good pre-camp communication and advance planning to maximize students' class time. She gives instructions in small increments which enables her to get around the classroom quickly. Class time includes question and answer periods so everyone can participate and learn, not only from individual instruction, but from group time as well.

Jeanne expects you to relax, keep an open mind, and enjoy this creative time! Jeanne often teaches an open class (she enjoys a large class with diversity) but her specialties are Orientals, making a primitive design look antique, folk art, and pictorials.

Arline Bechtoldt: Arline is an accredited teacher who enjoys teaching a student driven class. She recently gave a talk at the Alice Beatty Chapter of ATHA and showed her rugs which ranged from beautifully fine shaded faces, flowers, and antique designs, to whimsical and primitive motifs.

Before camp Arline discusses with each student their particular needs for their rug. She will help with color planning and can provide custom dyed wool as needed and/or work with wool already on hand. She will also bring a supply of wool to class.

During class time Arline will discuss technique, color planning, and finishing, and as the day is winding down, creative stitches, dyeing techniques, labeling, and any other topics of interest. Arline plans to ensure that your rug becomes the masterpiece you envision!

Lucille Festa: Lucille is a collector of antiques and a history buff especially interested in the American Civil War era and women's history. She started her business, American Country Rugs, about seven years ago and sells patterns (including her "door people") via her website.

She specializes in primitive style rugs and often incorporates old antique colors, textures, and wide cut wools as well as folk art images into her rugs. Lucille loves colors that evoke a feeling of antiquity and enjoys creating rugs with an aged look. She brings plenty of wool plaids, checks, tweeds, and herringbones to her classes. She will help you to color plan and hook a warm, antique style rug that will be passed down through the generations.

**Registration/Instructional Fees** –The fee for camp is \$175 for Guild members who have paid their dues by December 31, 2011. 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, 2012. 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, 2012, 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](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com) or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com).

**Sharon Ballard Discovers Needlepoint and Knitting Shop** -- Sharon Ballard recently visited and recommends a needlepoint and knitting shop outside of New Hope, PA. The Gazebo Plus is in the Logan Square Shopping Center on Rt. 202. The address is

7 Village Row, New Hope, PA 18938. See Sharon for more information or contact the shop at 215-862-0740 or [www.gazeboplus.com](http://www.gazeboplus.com).

**“Sewn not Hooked”** -- This is the title of an article that appears in the March/April 2012 issue of The Magazine Antiques. The article is drawn from research for the forthcoming book *American Sewn Rugs: Their History with Exceptional Examples* by Jan Whitlock and Tracy Jamar.

Here is an excerpt from the article. “Sewn rugs form a distinctive body of fine early American needlework created primarily in New England from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century into the second quarter of the nineteenth by women of education and privilege. These rugs were not casually used as utilitarian floor coverings nor placed before blazing fireplaces, susceptible to flying sparks. Instead, they were expressions of gentility, imagination, and skill. Making them required large amounts of leisure time and expensive materials, and they would have been displayed with pride.”

The article will be available for perusal at the April meeting.

**Guild Members Journey to Lancaster for Woolwrights Spring Hook-in** -- Picture perfect weather provided the backdrop for another successful hook-in sponsored by the Woolwrights ATHA Chapter. On Saturday, March 17, 2012 a group of Guild members travelled to Lancaster for the day of hooking, visiting with friends and shopping the popular vendors who are always a big attraction.. Among those in attendance were Eleanor Dunker, Cheryl Halliday, Donna Kolznak, June Madden, Patty Mahaffey, Kathleen Murray-Boyda, Therese Shick, Sue Schulz, Betsy Warner, and Janet Williams. Therese Shick reported that “There were many outstanding rugs on exhibit. It was a wonderful day!”

**Rags to Rugs: Hooked & Handsewn Rugs of Pennsylvania Donated to HCRAG Library** -- Thanks to a generous donation by Betsy Warner our Guild’s library now includes a copy of Patricia Herr’s book *Rags to Rugs*. The book was written after the Heritage Center Museum of Lancaster County conducted a Rug Harvest, a two year documentation project of southeastern Pennsylvania hooked and hand sewn rugs. The ensuing exhibition, *Rages to Rugs: Pennsylvania Hooked and Handsewn Rugs* ran from November 2007 to December 2008. The exhibit was the destination for a HCRAG bus trip. Thank you Betsy!

*Rags to Rugs* or any other book in our Guild’s library can be borrowed by members. Just notify our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, and she will bring the book to the next meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or [freyja2@verizon.net](mailto: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.*

**Spring Fling a Success** -- Our Spring Fling came in like a lamb with air conditioning and flip flops and went out like a wooly lion, truly March Madness! In both rooms the expression “thinking out of the box” has never been more applicable. Creativity was inspired by vibrant wools, patterns and an astonishing collection of sparkle and bling. Masks designed on Friday evening became exquisite works of art by Sunday and every

one's frames were sprinkled with glitter and surely some fairy dust. "This is so much fun" was heard throughout the weekend.

In the open class, participants allowed themselves to be encouraged to utilize color and technique in a new way. Several people in both classes learned to apply fine shading techniques in various applications. Ellen's girls now have exquisite shaded pleats in their flowing skirts. Sharon's antique design rug has color that makes the work sing. Lizards, cats and trees all got bling. And as always we enjoyed laughter, stories, advice, food and great companionship.

Thank you to all who took the "Leap into Spring" and for all the support and help making this an event that our Guild can take great pride in offering.

**Talented Members Celebrate National Craft Month --** In recognition of National Craft Month, members were requested to bring to the March meeting examples of their other creative work. Members responded in a big way. The variety and quality of other artistic work brought by our members were truly inspiring.

The crafts displayed included the following:

Antiqued Boxes	Miniature Hooked Oriental Rugs
Beaded Jewelry	Penny Mats
Bird Carving	Punch Needle (miniature)
Bobbin Lace Making	Quilts
Christmas Ornaments	Rug Hooking
Crocheted Rugs	Samplers
Counted Cross Stitch	Scherenschenitte (plain & watercolored)
Hooked Sheep	Spinning Wool
Knitting	

The diversity of interests and skills on display was humbling and inspiring at the same time. Do we have talented members or what!

**Featured Member – June Madden** – In the late 1990s June Madden and her friend Suzanne Menges attended an herbal tea luncheon at the Highlands. They were admiring a hooked rug on display when a member of the staff told them about rug hooking and the hooking workshops held at the Highlands. At the time, the workshops were run by Vicki Calu's mother with Vicki assisting. Vicki also offered instructions at her studio in Dublin, PA. June approached Vicki about lessons and soon was learning the fundamentals of rug hooking. The workshops at the Highlands were a good supplement and the weekend schedule worked well for June.

Before she learned about rug hooking, June actively pursued many needle works such as sewing, needle point, knitting, drapery making, counted cross stitch and quilting. All that ended after June's introduction to rug hooking. She was totally fascinated by the variety of things that could be achieved in rug hooking. The pattern design, color planning, and 3-D techniques all excited her. "There is no end to the possibilities. Hooking is so creative and freeing. I doubt if I will ever go back to the other crafts," June observes.

June started hooking with #6 cuts of wool but now finds working in wider cuts (#8 and #8.5) more appealing. "I definitely prefer hooking in the primitive style. I may stray out of that box occasionally, but my heart is in primitive patterns and cuts," she observes. June recalls that her

first rug was a Patsy Becker design where the flowers were bigger than the house in the true primitive manner.

After a few years, June learned of the various hooking camps, retreats and workshops available. She has since made it a practice to attend “a couple of camps a year” with her friends Eleanor Dunker and Sue Menges. Cape May, where she has been going for at least 10 years, is her favorite. Over the years, June also attended camps at the Highlands, Ligioner, Shelburne, ATHA Biennials (New Orleans, Louisville, Lancaster), and our Guild’s summer camp. The list of teachers with whom she has worked is impressive. They include:

Norma Batastini	Gail Dufresne	Carrie Martin
Patsy Becker	Lucille Festa	Kim Nixon
Elizabeth Black	Cindi Gay	Cynthia Norwood
Barb Carroll	Jayne Hester	Linda Repasky
Vicki Calu	Stephanie Krauss	Dianne Stoffel
Bev Conway	Jennifer Manuel	

“Each teacher is special and I learned from all of them. Working with Dianne Stoffel was different. She taught me techniques not learned in any previous workshop. The piece I did with her was unlike anything I had done before. She has a wonderful way about her,” June recalls.

As June was getting started, there were not many rug hookers in her area, but she did meet Marsha Moyer- Payne and together with Sue Menges they decided to meet on a regular basis to hook. Their gathering grew and eventually became the Pinelands ATHA Chapter that now has about 20 members.

June “loves to hook with recycled wool” although she does buy new wool at the camps she attends. Norma Batastini and Gail Dufresne are also favorite sources for textured wool. June is “fascinated by what you can do with textured wool.” She rarely works with plain wool even if it is over dyed. June does no dyeing herself -- yet. “With my work schedule, I simply do not have the time. I am sure I will get into dyeing at some time,” June notes. She has designed or redesigned a few of her rug patterns; however, she tends to work mostly with commercial patterns. There is no favorite source; she buys whatever patterns appeal to her at the time. With a busy work schedule, June hooks “as I can, mostly in the evenings”.

Attending hook-ins in the region is another favorite activity for June and her hooking companions. Last month she joined with other Guild members who travelled to Lancaster for the popular hook-in sponsored by the Woolwrights ATHA Chapter. “I am in awe at what people are hooking. The talent out there is fantastic. I am inspired to learn more!” beams June.

Participating in rug hooking guilds is another way that June continues to grow as a rug hooking artisan. She was an early member of the Goat Hill ATHA Chapter. It was there that she learned about our Guild. Our organized approach and programs appealed to her.

June and her husband, John, have been married for 39 years and live in Lumberton, NJ. June is the finance officer for two New Jersey townships -- Allentown and Plumsted – and the purchasing officer for Plumsted. John is a retired attorney, who recently earned a Masters Degree in Theology that prepared him to be a Spiritual Director. John and June have two children – Christina and Lee. Christina and her husband, Brian, are both attorneys who live in Chappaqua, NY, with their four children – Jack (age 10), Liam (age 8), Quinn (age 5), and Caitlin (age 2). Lee lives in Mt. Laurel, NJ, with his new bride Kelly. They were married last July.

When she is not working or hooking, June enjoys golfing gardening and reading. She is active in her church serving as a Eucharistic Minister and participates in hospital ministry.

Visit the Guild's website – [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com) – and click on “Featured Member” to see some of June's rugs.

## Hooking Information & Techniques

**Gail Dufresne Recommends Design Resources** -- Nationally known and admired rug hooker and instructor, Gail Dufresne, spoke at our March Guild meeting on geometric design, color and value. During her presentation, she recommended two books as excellent sources for design ideas -- *Free Expression: The Art and Confession of a Contemporary Quilter* by Robbi Joy Eklow and *Japanese Optical & Geometrical Art* by Hajime Ouchi.

**From Nina's Notebook** – Today the wind is blowing and blowing, daffodils are tossing their heads, branches are crashing to the ground, and blossoms flying off the trees. March is going out like a lion. What is to follow, according to the saying?

April showers are on their way. An umbrella seems an appropriate symbol for the month. Can you imagine a geometric with various shades of umbrellas? Perhaps one with unfolded umbrellas in all their spring shades or another possibility one with furled umbrellas with interesting handles. Spring colors as well as the black and navy blue of traditional umbrellas.

April brings to mind Easter eggs, pastel colors and bright green grass. You could combine all those ideas in a mat of Easter eggs. Think of those lovely Slavic eggs with their intricate designs, some of which could translate to a hooked egg. And what about that Easter bunny, there are so many delightful patterns of bunnies, some holding baskets of brightly colored eggs, or simply standing with a carrot against a meadow of green grass. Meadows also bring to mind sheep and lambs, also symbols of Easter.

Spring has come and April is a month to think about a mat which celebrates its coming. For me that would include images of flowers such as daffodils and tulips (although they appeared this year in March) and flowering trees such as dogwoods and shrubs like rhododendron and azaleas.

Walking outside during these early spring days can be a source of inspiration for a mat to celebrate this season. Walk with all your senses; smelling the flowers, feeling the warm air, and leaving your mind open to all the possibilities of new designs that come to you from nature. The artist in you is awakening just like the earth is responding to the new season. Happy Hooking! Nina

**Tips From Heloise** – Dee Rosebrock shared with Heloise the recipe shown below for a moth-repelling potpourri that she found in a 1979 issue of *Rug Hooker News & Views*.

- 1 cup dried rose petals
- 1 cup lavender blooms
- 1 tablespoon ground orrisroot
- 2 teaspoons cloves
- 2 teaspoons allspice
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

- 2 teaspoons nutmeg

Leave the mixture in an airtight jar for two weeks, then put in small cloth bags and tie with ribbon. Hang the bags where wool is stored.

**Recipes** – Kathy Donovan’s Italian Love Cake was a big hit when she brought it to one of our recent meeting. Many members requested the recipe and Kathy was good enough to share it with us.

### ITALIAN LOVE CAKE

By Ann Mc Carthy

1 Box deep chocolate cake mix	1 (8-oz) container Cool Whip
2 lbs ricotta cheese	1 (4-oz) pkg. instant chocolate pudding
$\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar	1 cup milk
4 eggs	
1 tsp. vanilla extract	

Prepare the cake mix using the box directions. Pour into a greased 9 x 13 inch pan. Mix the cheese, sugar, eggs and vanilla. Pour this over the cake. Bake 1 hour at 350<sup>0</sup>. When cool, ice the cake with the chocolate pudding prepared with milk and blended with Cool /Whip. Refrigerate overnight.

### **Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities**

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter Rug Exhibit -- February 2-April 2, 2012. The Brielle Public Library (<http://www.briellepubliclibrary.org/index.html>) at 610 South Street, Brielle, NJ. is the location of an exhibit of rugs hooked by members of the Guild. Contact Barbara Kimborough at 908-309-3881 or [beedkay@gmail.com](mailto:beedkay@gmail.com) for more information.

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

Camp Wool Hook-in April -- 28&29, 2012 -- Camp Wool in Kennebunk, Maine is sponsoring a hook-in on April 28 & 29. For more information, go to its website -- [www.campwool.net](http://www.campwool.net) or call 1-866-938-wool.

2012 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village -- August 14-18, 2012 – Featured Exhibits: Barbara Carroll - Karl & Mary Jo Gimber - Esther & Judith Knipe. Special Exhibits: Celebration of Hand-Hooked Rugs XXII – Eye See You II – Retreat Teachers – Zodiac Collection. Main Exhibit: Extensive representation of contemporary artists. Retreats & Workshops: Over 30 half, full, 2-day, 3-day, & 4-day classes. Vendors: Everything a rug hooker could ever want or need. Receive the most up-to-date information by going to [www.saudervillage.org/creativity/rughooking.asp](http://www.saudervillage.org/creativity/rughooking.asp).

“Rugs by the Sea” Workshops – September 9-21, 2012 – The 25<sup>th</sup> “Rugs by the Sea” Camp will be held in Cape May, NJ from September 9-21, 2012.. The line up of instructors for this

year is Bev Conway, Lucile Festa, Cindi Gay, Kris Miller, Laura Pierce, Judy Quintman and Sharon Townsend. For details contact Norma at [g\\_batastini@msn.com](mailto:g_batastini@msn.com) or 973-746-2936 or Linda at [Linda.woodbury@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.woodbury@gmail.com) or 973-743-6835.

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

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](mailto:flowjans@hotmail.com).

Goat Hill 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](mailto:kathmb@hotmail.com). Visit the Goat Hill website at [www.goathillatha.com](http://www.goathillatha.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](mailto: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](http://www.springlakenjatha.org) – or contact Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or [beedkay@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## **HCRAG Calendar of Events**

**April 13, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Round Robin – Member Led \*

**April 21, 2012** – Hook-in at the Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA

**May 11, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Hooked Brick Covers – Workshop by Lydia Lewis \*

**June 8, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Annual “Picnic” \*

**August 13-17, 2012** – 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Rug Hooking Camp – ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)

**August 14, 2012** – Beginners Workshop -- ESC School (West Amwell, NJ)

**September 14, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD \*

**October 12, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD \*\*

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

**November 9, 2012** – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD \*

**December 14, 2012** Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon \*

\*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](mailto:fjcombs@verizon.net)

Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or [deerosebrock@aol.com](mailto:deerosebrock@aol.com)

**Vice President** – Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or [debywalsh@yahoo.com](mailto:debywalsh@yahoo.com)

**Historian** – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or [sojon@comcast.net](mailto:sojon@comcast.net)

**Hospitality** – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or [deakinn@yahoo.com](mailto:deakinn@yahoo.com)

**Librarian** – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or [frejja2@verizon.net](mailto:frejja2@verizon.net)

**Programs** – Lydia Lewis – 215-968-3278 or [misspid2@aol.com](mailto:misspid2@aol.com)

Gisele Meader – 609-737-3123 or [g.meader@att.net](mailto:g.meader@att.net)

Cheryl Halliday – 215-672-2629 or [havewenewool@yahoo.com](mailto:havewenewool@yahoo.com)

**Public Relations/Newsletter** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net)

**Secretary** – Lynda Kling – 610-847-5468 or [lkling@epix.net](mailto:lkling@epix.net)

Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or [srw0717@aol.com](mailto:srw0717@aol.com)

**Special Events** – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or

[thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com) and

Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or [gutvet@optonline.net](mailto:gutvet@optonline.net)

**Sunshine** – Janet Santaniello – 908-754-6787 or [flowjans@hotmail.com](mailto:flowjans@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer** – Jana Laidlaw – 609-497-4576 or [jana@fastmail.fm](mailto:jana@fastmail.fm)

Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or [etshick@gmail.com](mailto:etshick@gmail.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](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.