

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

April, 2015

Presidents' Letter – Where does your inspiration come from? Other rugs? Nature? Photographs? Paintings? Museums? Gardens?

At the end of February, I (Weezie) spent two weeks near Tampa, Florida (chilly, but still better than here). While there we toured the Dali Museum, the Fine Arts Museum, and the Chihuly Exhibit. I have never been a fan of Dali, but we needed to do *something* that day. It was FABULOUS!!!! While I still don't like a lot of his works, like the sliding clock face and some of his really weird things, he had other stuff that proved his genius. Even sitting for 20 minutes in front of one painting, I was still finding more layers of things going on. My favorite painting was inspired by a box of pencils. They were Venus pencils. What he saw was not a box of pencils, but a toreador- the painting is called (I think) The Hallucinogenic Toreador. Find it on Google images and take a look. One man's pencil is another man's work of art.

The Chihuly exhibit (glass) was amazing. I took several photographs of different kinds of glass work—large blown balls, tall spiky “reeds”, flowers in the ceiling, chandeliers—I cannot describe how amazing his work is. I highly suggest that you search Google images for Chihuly glass. I already have 2 nascent designs based on his work. (Speaking of which, did you read the article in the latest Rug Hooking Magazine about copyright?).

In a recent Martha Stewart Living I was grabbed by two small pictures of eggs. It was a freebie, I don't subscribe. I don't want you to get the wrong impression of me.

I have a file of photos I have taken of floors, mosaics, windows, views, clouds, trees, and plants. I think I see everything as a potential pattern. How do you keep track of your ideas and inspirations? A folder? A scattering of scraps of paper? On the computer?

And I have not finished all my works in progress at this point. So many ideas, so little time. As spring reveals itself to us, we encourage you to OPEN YOUR EYES, and see all the amazing art in front on you. And, while you may be spending more time outdoors, getting your garden ready, walking, and enjoying the sunlight, commit yourself to hooking for an hour a day. You will be surprised how much you can get done.

Happy Hooking, Weezie and Therese

April Meeting – Friday, April 10, 2015 -- Our April meeting 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 that does not appear on the road. The meeting runs from 10am -2pm. Guests are always welcome.

For our April meeting, our guest speaker, Paul DeLuca requests that Guild members bring rugs/and or designs they are working so he may demonstrate, discuss, and/or help with his expertise in color and design. (Please see below for description of April's program.)

Program – Creativity & Empowerment Workshop for HCRAG Members – As founding director of COLORQUEST, Paul De Luca will introduce seasoned and amateur rug artisans to “*Biochromatics*” (*life-colors*) – an innovative holistic color system offering exciting ways of:

*Viewing and expressing yourself.....Communicating with others.....
Relating to the world around you.....Enhancing other’s experience of you and your
professional work*

Hands-on demonstrations teach rug hooking enthusiasts how to scientifically identify and use biochromatic color and design palettes to create and maintain *Success-Balance-Harmony* in all areas of life:

BODY MIND SPIRIT CAREER ROMANCE RECREATION

A comprehensive overview of *Nature’s Four Seasonal Color Palettes* integrates historic and contemporary rug symbols, patterns, textures and motifs that reflect your personality profile and support creative goals. Learn how to select fashions (*wardrobe, fabrics, accessories, jewelry, make-up*) that project a professional image (craft presentations, special events). Guild members and visual artists will discover simple, cost-effective ways to refine their skills and infuse interior/exterior environments (*textiles, dyes, carpets, tapestries, linens, drapes, furniture, home/workplace décor*) with *personal style, flair and authenticity*.

Certified by the San Francisco Institute of Colour & Design and the Design Arts Seminar, Italy, director-choreographer, Paul De Luca is the first member of SDC nationally recognized as a professional color-image consultant. His diverse experience in theatre, teaching, counseling and writing combined with his pioneering research in color psychology led to developing a holistic color system “BIOCHROMATICS” (life-colors) and founding COLORQUEST in 1990. Paul designed New York’s first biochromatic integrative healing facility, Holistic Link Inc.

COLORQUEST set new standards for empowering citizens, fundraising and enriching the environment while Paul served as president of Broadway’s renowned Restaurant Row West 46th St. Block Association. His dynamic use of biochromatics to address quality of life issues was applauded by the Office of the Mayor, the NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation, community boards and news publications citywide. Recently, Mansfield Town Board and NJ Tpke Authority implemented Paul’s landscape proposal, planting over 600 new trees in Country Walk Park and 40 acres along the widened turnpike.

Paul is a respected collector/archivist of rare Coney Island memorabilia and was urban historian and artistic consultant for the \$450M renovation project of world famous Steeplechase Park. He designed the NYC Living Theatre Museum, a multimedia arts/entertainment center in the landmark “Ladies Shopping Mile District”. He was guest speaker at the “Coney Island Poet Series” hosted by literary award winning Sensations Magazine and headed its “Autumn Learning Series for Writers”. He also developed the Big Apple Greeter Coney Island tourism promotion.

COLORQUEST and biochromatics have inspired a forthcoming book “Creatures of Color – Onstage/Offstage”.

Show & Tell -- Bring your latest completed rug or current project to share with us. Members who share their projects are given tickets for a mini drawing. Each week three winners of the

mini drawing are entered into the final end of year drawing where gifts will be presented to selected lucky winners.

Hospitality -- We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks and treats to the **April meeting** - Cindy Boults, Sonia Force, Kay Weeks, Sharon Ballard and Bernadette Andrejco. Our meetings are enhanced by these contributions!

April Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - Susan Atwater (4/15), Carol Chernack (4/1), Pandy Goodbody (4/16), HCRAG (4/1), Kathryn Kane (4/5) celebrate birthdays this month. Enjoy your day! Note: Our Guild is 38 years old this month!

Membership --We welcome Pandy Goodbody and Jean Graham to our Guild. Their contact information follows:

Pandy Goodbody
423 North Hemlock Lane
Williamstown, Mass 01267
413-458-1840
Pandy.goodbody@gmail.com

Jean Graham
5016 Gayman Road
Doylestown, PA 18902-9010
215-348-0301
grahampiano_2@hotmail.com

Lydia Lewis sends her regards from sunny Florida – “We had an uneventful trip down after having 8” of snow the second morning of the trip. The weather is perfect – 80 degrees with a breeze. I am going to hooking today with the Sunshine Group. Thinking of you all. Fondly, Lydia.”

Sunshine – Our heartfelt condolences are extended to members who lost loved ones last month – Cindy Boults (mother-in-law), Annie Edwards (father) and Jean Laurence (stepfather).

Joy Andrews, our masseuse who refreshes our stiff muscles at special Guild events, recently lost her sister. Cards of condolences can be sent to Joy at 825 Logan Ave., Croyden, PA 19021.

Aggie Wooden thanks the Guild for all the good thoughts, prayers and cards. She is doing as well as can be expected following her recent heart valve replacement surgery. We look forward to seeing her back at a meeting really soon.

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 --

Gathering of Guilds Explored for 2016 – When Jo Knobloch organized our Guild 38 years ago, she also established several other craft guilds involving quilters, knitters and embroiders. Most of those guilds continue to be active. It has been suggested that a gathering of all the guilds be held sometime in 2016. The gathering could include exhibits and demonstrations and would help publicize the guilds and reinforce the contributions made to Hunterdon County. Updates will be provided as plans progress.

Wool Request – Camp Beginners’ Workshop -- Cheryl Halliday has prepared a great snowflake pattern for the beginners attending the summer camp workshop in

August 2015. It has been our practice to ask members to donate wool for the kits so that we can reduce the expenses associated with offering the workshop. For these new rug hooking students, Cheryl needs:

- Blues-all shades
- Whites
- Naturals
- Light grays

She is requesting plaids and solids. This year she needs them cut in #8 strips and please bundle by color. If you can donate any of the needed wool, please bring them to the next Guild meeting.

Please support your Guild and thank you in advance for your generosity.

New Book for Beginners Added to Guild Library – Kathy Donovan, Guild Librarian, reports that we added the following book to our library: Introduction to Rug Hooking: A Beginner's Guide to Tools, Techniques & Materials by Kris Miller. If you are a beginner this book is full of step-by-step photos to get you started and lots of information on equipment pertaining to rug hooking. There are even eight projects for you to try. If you are experienced it is a good refresher to remind us of things we might have not practiced in a while. It will be available at the next meeting. Kris Miller will be one of the instructors at our August Rug Hooking Camp.

Our extensive collection of books related to rug hooking and other fiber arts is a valuable benefit to Guild members. The full listing of books in our library can always be found on our website (www.hcrag.com). All you need to do to borrow a book is to contact Kathy Donovan by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freija2@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.

Chris Coslet Assumes Role of Special Events Coordinator – Our Special Events Coordinator position has been open for some time, so we are pleased that Chris Coslet has come forward to fill the role. The Special Events Coordinator is responsible for maintaining the Guild's "master calendar" and for identifying a coordinator for special events. We are grateful to Chris for assuming this necessary job. Contact Chris if you have a potentially new event. (Her contact information can be found in the listing of Officers/Chairs at the end of the newsletter.).

Say It Ain't True! -- We have known for some time that Gisele Meader and her husband, Bernie, planned to eventually retire to North Carolina to a home built by their son. Well, the time has come. Our March meeting was Gisele's last one before their move in April. This is bittersweet news. We certainly wish Gisele and Bernie all the best in retirement, but they will be missed. Gisele has made many contributions to our Guild including serving as Treasurer and Program Chair. She was an active demonstrator and represented the Guild at most local events including Howell Living Farm, Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead and the Hunterdon and Mercer Counties 4-H Fairs. Gisele's new

address will be 601 E. Green Street, Franklinton, NC 27525. Her email address remains the same for now. A phone number will be provided after they relocate.

What Do Horners and Hookers Have in Common? -- The Honourable Company of Horners (HCH) is a Guild with the goal of promoting and preserving an active interest in horn working in North America. In early America animal horns were used to create powder horns, drinking vessels and other utilitarian objects. Apparently horns are susceptible to insect damage just as hooking wool can be damaged by moths. The Winter 2015 issue of the HCH magazine, The Horn Book, outlines the following steps to prevent insect infestation, which is similar to what is recommended to protect wool from moths:

- Place object in kitchen freezer for 24 hours.
- Place object at room temperature for 24 hours.
- Place object back in freezer for 48 hours.

A Smithsonian conservationist explained that the first freezing tells the bug it is winter and they excrete a sort of antifreeze chemical that protects them. The 24 hours at room temperature tells the bug it is spring and time to wake up. The next 48 hours is winter too soon and they cannot create the antifreeze chemical in time to survive.

For more information on the Honourable Company of Horners, go to their website – www.hornguild.org.

Guild to Demonstrate at the Peter Wentz Farmstead – April 11, 2015 – Juliana Kapusta and Lynda Kling are scheduled to participate at the spring ritual of sheep shearing at the Peter Wentz Farmstead in Worcester, PA on Saturday, April 11. They will be demonstrating traditional rug hooking and exhibiting rugs they have hooked. Reenactors and other traditional craftspeople will add to the activities. The paint decoration in the Wentz home and summer kitchen is unique and can be seen in books on 18th century Pennsylvania German architecture. Visit the Farmstead's website (www.peterwentzfarmsteadsociety.org) for more information.

The staff at the Farmstead goes out of their way to make volunteers feel welcomed. Snacks and beverages are provided throughout the day; lunch featuring 18th century recipes is prepared on the open hearth and shared with volunteers. It is a fun day. Let Juliana or Lynda know if you want to be involved.

Guild Returns to Howell Living Farm – May 2, 2015 -- Sheep Shearing Day at Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ) is scheduled for May 2, 2015 from 10 to 3. This event attracts local families and is an ideal venue for the Guild to demonstrate the connection between sheep and wool fabric used to hook rugs. Those who attend normally have a high interest in handwork. Our demonstrators will be located in the barn annex to the Visitor's Center, so weather is not an issue. Howell Farm is a favorite site for our demonstrators. The staff is highly supportive and lunch is provided.

Karl Gimber is our coordinator for this event. Let him know if you can help. If you have not demonstrated before, consider joining Karl at Howell Farm. Remember no matter how new you are to rug hooking, you know more about our craft than those attending sheep shearing.

Festival Update – The Festival is now six months away and the pace of activity is picking up steam!

- Raffle Rug – The raffle rug has been completed and will again be featured on our postcard and poster announcements. Over 30 artisans from the Guilds involved with the Festival hooked a portion of this one of a kind heirloom valued at \$995. (The rug can be seen on our website.) Debbie Walsh distributed raffle tickets at the March meeting. Each member is being asked to support the Festival by selling at least two packets of tickets – donation: \$1 for one ticket; \$5 for six tickets. Checks should be made payable to Hooked Rug Festival.
- Postcards -- Annie Edwards has completed the work on the Festival postcards which should be available from the printer at our April meeting. The postcards are the principle means by which we publicize the Festival and we will need the help of ALL Guild members in distributing them. The local distribution will not be made until a few weeks before the Festival. However, we are asking members who will be attending workshops and camps between now and the Festival to take a supply of cards along.
- Rug Registration Forms – Two forms have been finalized for registering rugs to be exhibited – one for rugs to be on display and another for rugs that are being offered for sale. Both forms are being sent out with the newsletter and are available on the Guild’s website (not the Festival website). A commission agreement for rugs to be sold is also being sent out.

Please note that the forms for rugs to be exhibited need to be returned to Sandy Denarski by June 30 along with a digital photo. The rugs do not have to be completed by June 30, but the information is required so that the layout of the exhibit area can be planned. Initially each Guild member can submit two rugs for the exhibit. More may be possible depending on the number and size of the rugs identified with the registration forms. The forms for rugs to be offered for sale need to be returned to Weezie by September 15.

- ATHA Ads – The Festival will be advertised in the two issues of the ATHA Newsletter preceding the Festival.
- Facebook -- A Facebook page has been established for the Hooked Rug Festival as part of our PR efforts. Members who do Facebook are encouraged to go to www.facebook.com/rugfestival and “like” the page and to comment. Photos will be added to the page over time.

A Message Worth Repeating -- The Spring 2015 issue of A Simple Life Magazine included a message from Jill Peterson, Editor & Publisher, that is worth repeating.

“I was recently reading a story from Pastor Joel Osteen. He talks about an article that told how, ‘The wealthiest places on earth are not the oil fields of the Middle East nor the diamond mines of South Africa. The wealthiest places are the cemeteries. Buried in the ground are businesses that were never formed, songs that were never sung, books that were never written, potential that was never realized, and dreams that never came to pass.’

“That simple thought really rang true with me, and gave me new insight when sitting quietly in a cemetery, or visiting a Civil War battlefield where such hallowed ground leaves behind so many dreams, so much passion and greatness, never to be achieved.

“What it has done for me, all of this pondering, is made me realize even more than ever that we need to take a leap of faith and fulfill the dreams that are on the inside of us. Whether your burning desire is to be a photographer, an artist, write a novel, take up the fiddle, go back to school, or start an outreach program, don’t let that yearning go unfulfilled. Shake off the fear and go boldly into the future and fulfill your destiny!

“Today no matter what you may be facing, don’t let anything hold you back. If this dream has stayed alive on the inside, then you are already equipped to fulfill it and see it to fruition.”

Anyone wanting more information on [A Simple Life Magazine](http://www.asimplelifemagazine.com) can find it by going to www.asimplelifemagazine.com.

Guild Sponsors Bus Trip to The Cloisters & Tour of Three Boroughs of New York City -- May 8, 2015 -- Our May meeting will be a bus trip to the Cloisters and a tour of New York City. Part of the expenses will be paid by the Guild, so the cost for the trip will only be \$40 for members and guests. The bus accommodates 55 people. You are encouraged to register early to assure a spot by sending your nonrefundable check made payable to HCRAAG to Ellen DiClemente, 11 Lottings Purchase Road, Flemington, NJ 08822.

The Cloisters was built to resemble the period of art displayed, therefore, you will be walking on stone surfaces, there will be some stairs, and you will be getting on and off the bus during the 3 Boroughs of NYC Tour. Good walking shoes/sneakers are essential and practical as is proper weather attire. You must bring your lunch, snacks, and drinks; there are no eateries at the museum; due to time constraints, walking to a restaurant/café, eating, and returning in time for our second tour is not an option.

The Cloisters museum and gardens, the branch of The Metropolitan Museum of Art devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe, was assembled from architectural elements, both domestic and religious, that largely date from the twelfth through the fifteenth century. The Cloisters' collection comprises approximately two thousand works of art.

The Cloisters and Fort Tryon Park are a beautiful and serene part of the city where visitors can stroll through real medieval halls, view the pristine Hudson River as seen by the first European explorers, and experience an unparalleled escape from the chaos of the city.

Located in the upper Manhattan neighborhood of Inwood, the Cloisters contain a vast medieval art collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. On display are extravagant tapestries, priceless stained glass windows, and intricate stone carvings—flourishes that once adorned the walls of monks, knights, and nobles. The building itself is made up of stones from five different European abbeys which were partially disassembled in the

1930s. Piece-by-piece, the structures were shipped to New York to be rebuilt and combined into a single building.

Fort Tryon Park, which surrounds the museum, stands on land donated by John D. Rockefeller Jr., beautifully landscaped by the sons of Central Park architect Fredrick Law Olmsted and offers magnificent views of the Hudson River, the George Washington Bridge, and the New Jersey Palisades, also purchased and preserved by Rockefeller.

Walking around the grounds you will be charmed by rolling hills, vibrant flowers and New York City wildlife. The Heather and Alpine Gardens offer two different walking paths for gorgeous year-round view.

Following the Cloisters, participants will enjoy a narrated bus tour of the more off-the-beaten-path in the boroughs of the Bronx, Queens and Brooklyn where over 6 million of New York's 8 million residents live. The tour will include the Arthur Ave "Little Italy" section, the Grand Concourse and Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. We will continue south into Queens where we can make one or two stops--one to see an amazing display of murals and street art and another in a park with phenomenal views of the East River, the Manhattan skyline and the United Nations buildings.

Next we head into Brooklyn where we'll drive through a Hasidic Jewish neighborhood (which will be buzzing with activity as the Sabbath approaches) and pass a few of Brooklyn's most famous vistas including the Brooklyn Bridge and the arch at Grand Army Plaza, modeled after the Arc de Triomphe.

The Cloisters & 3 Boroughs of NYC Tour **Itinerary**

7:45 am – Embark for NYC (Route 12 - Hunterdon County Library parking lot)
2nd Pick up: Due to the location of some members, there will be a second pickup site at the Bridgewater Mall/Bridgewater (Macy's parking lot – exact lot location & time TBD)

10:15 am – The Cloister's tour (Approx. 1 hour)

11:30 am – 1:00 pm – Lunch Time/Time to roam the museum on your own
(Your home bagged lunch & snacks will be eaten in the surrounding Fort Tryon Park or the bus you arrived on)

1:30 pm – Ray McGaughey's 3 Boroughs of NYC Tour (approx. 2 ½ hours)

Approx. 4:00 pm – Bus leaves for home
1st Drop off: Bridgewater Mall/Bridgewater (Macy's parking lot)

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm – Arrival in Flemington – (Route 12 - Hunterdon County Library parking lot)

HCRAAG 2015 Rug Hooking Camp (August 10-14, 2015) -- Our 19th Annual Rug hooking camp will take place from August 10 – 14, 2015 at the ESC School outside of Lambertville, NJ. We will again have four instructors -- Cyndy Duade, Michele

Micarelli, Kris Miller and Diane Stoffel. Openings currently exist in Michele's and Cyndy's workshops. However, cancellations normally occur before camp, so you are encouraged to place your name on the waiting list if you wish to attend. Registrations are now being accepted from rug hookers who are not Guild members.

Cyndy Duade will be conducting a Wide Cut Crewel Workshop -- This class will focus on dying and wide cut (#6-#9 cuts) hooking techniques used to achieve the effect/look of crewel embroidery. Patterns will be available. The intent of this class is to understand how to translate methods used in fine hooking to the wide cut project, to learn about the crewel style of rug hooking, to use a simple color plan with multi-dye methods, have good discussions, and a good time.

Michele Micarelli will be conducting an Open Workshop -- This workshop is open to all levels, all cuts, patterns or originals. Requirements are an "OPEN" mind. We will explore using color in this open classroom with imagination. Please come prepared to open up your mind and hook something amazing!

Kris Miller will be conducting a Primitive Workshop -- Kris will focus on primitive style hooking for this workshop. It will be an Open Workshop so you may hook any pattern you wish. She will be bringing patterns and wool.

Diane Stoffel will be conducting an Open Workshop -- Diane will be teaching this as an Open Workshop, so hook with any pattern you wish. She will focus on making your rug colorful and pleasing to your color palette. Diane is high energy and will keep you working throughout the week to plan all elements of your rug.

Camp Fee -- The cost of camp is \$200 for *members with dues paid by November's meeting*. Non-members will pay \$275 if there is available space after January 30th. A deposit of \$100 will be required with registration with final payment due by April 10th. If you need to cancel after April 10th, \$150 will be refunded only if a replacement is found. \$50 is non-refundable if canceling before April 10.

Registration Process -- Registration forms are available at our meetings and on our website (www.hcrag.com). All registration is by mail. The registration form provides for a selection of your first, second, third or fourth choice of an instructor.

Additional information on the instructors and their workshops can be found on our website (www.hcrag.com).

Reports From the Spring Retreat – Cindy Boult and Weezie Huntington filed reports on our Spring Retreat held on March 20-22 at the Flemington Hampton Inn.

Cindy: "Bravo to all who braved the predictions and hunkered down for a long weekend of hooking at what could hardly be titled a Spring Fling! Fortunately due to cancellations at the Hampton Inn people were able to just surrender to winters last hurrah, book rooms and have a great time. As always great treats, libations and laughter was shared as was advice and appreciation for all the talent in those two rooms. Some were able to start and complete projects while others continued on those extraordinary masterpieces. So hoping Amy gets her astonishing story rug finished for our Festival, as the details and

workmanship are wonderful. Techniques and opinions were traded and we even had a very useful mini lesson on whipping from Arline Bechtoldt. A tidy trick Ellen recorded and will share with those interested.

Thank you to Weezie and Dee for stepping in to run the gathering as I had unexpected family obligations. Indeed everything went perfectly and as we like to say 'a good time was had by all'."

Weezie: "Twenty two hookers had a great time at the Spring Retreat at the Hampton Inn, despite the weather on arrival day. There was lots of hooking, lots of chatter, lots of laughter, and lots of camaraderie. Projects were started, some were started and finished, and some were finished. It was a great time. Jennie came and tore our sore muscles apart, and left us limp. There was lots of talk of next year trying a combined weekend where one room has a teacher, and one room has a hook-in. We already know the date for Woolwrights Hook-In, so there will be no conflict. Watch for news as this idea gets more discussion."

Featured Member – Roberta Smith – Roberta Smith relocated to Vermont several years ago but still retains ties with HCRAAG friends and returns to the area for hooking events including recent Guild summer camps. She had been exposed to hooked rugs at home because her mother had owned several hooked rugs and completed one herself. However, Roberta's real interest in rug hooking was triggered in 1996 when she attended an art show at the Medical Center at Princeton with Guild member Peggie Cunningham. (Peggie now lives in Gore, VA but also retains her Guild membership.) Rugs hooked by Margaret Lutz were featured at the show and caught Roberta's attention.

After the show Peggie took Roberta to Margaret's home/studio where she was introduced to the basics of rug hooking. They left with a pattern, backing and a supply of wool. Peggie helped Roberta get started and brought her along to a group of hookers who met at the Pennington Library each month. Some of that group of rug hookers also met weekly in the homes of its members. At the time it was simply known as "The Thursday Group." After learning of the group and the dynamics of their gatherings, Roberta's husband, Steve, jokingly suggested that they name themselves the "Hooksome & Chatmore Group" saying that the name sounded like an upscale law firm. The name stuck and the group continues to meet weekly.

When it comes to hooking widths, Roberta hooks with anything from a #3 cut to selvage edges; her preference is hooking in the primitive style with # 6 -#8 cuts. She hooks primarily with recycled wool but does buy new wool on occasion. Roberta continues to learn by attending a camp or workshop each year and by actively participating in local rug hooking events. Living in Vermont, Roberta is in the middle of "rug hooking country" with many opportunities to be involved with gatherings of groups associated with the Northeast Kingdom Rug Hooking Guild. Over the years Roberta has been exposed to some of the best instructors such as Gail Dufresne, Helen Wolfel, Elizabeth Black and Jayne Hester. Helen Wolfel was a favorite HCRAAG camp instructor before she retired from the "camp circuit." Interestingly, Helen is also a member of the NEKRHG and GMRHG, the groups with which Roberta hooks.

"Dyeing wool is not one of my primary interests," notes Roberta. "If I have time, I want to hook!" She likes the fun of dyeing wool but has "little interest in the chemistry of it all." However, when it comes to rug patterns, Roberta likes to do her own. "I am not an artist, but I do enjoy creating my own rug designs." Roberta tries to hook each day for a couple of hours. Sometimes it is in the morning, other times at night. It all depends on her schedule.

Roberta has retained her ties with her New Jersey rug hooking friends. Over the years the Hooksome and Chatmore Group have had weeklong hooking reunions in Vermont, Virginia, and upstate New York at the homes of relocated members in addition to a local New Jersey church.

While we often hear people complaining about the cold winters in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Roberta and Steve “love cold weather!” The move to Vermont in 2009 was part of a long term plan. They both wanted to be close to the White Mountains. They found a place to rent during black fly season as well as for a time in the winter so that they “could get a feel for what it would be like.” At first, they looked in New Hampshire but then found and bought a house on four acres in Lower Waterford, Vermont that met their needs. Roberta and Steve are members of the local historical society and the Audubon Society. They also enjoy hiking in the White Mountains and snow shoeing.

It did not take long for Roberta to meet local rug hookers. She is now a member of a small group that meets once a week in someone’s home. Roberta is past secretary of the Northeast Kingdom Rug Hooking Guild and continues to be involved with the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild. The move to Vermont allowed Roberta to be reunited with Guild member Barbie Beck-Wilczek who relocated several years ago to Littleton, New Hampshire. Roberta helps Barbie with her beginner’s rug hooking workshop offered during Women’s September Weekends at Camp Ouareau in Canada.

Roberta and Steve have two daughters – Pamela and Katherine. Pamela and her husband, Chris, live outside of Albany, NY with their daughter, Caragh. Katherine and her husband, Stefan, live in Austin, Texas with their daughter, Astrid.

As she looks back, Roberta recalls that she was attracted to rug hooking because of “the finished product and the color.” She subsequently found it “relaxing to pull loops.” Now her goal is to “finish my UFOs!”

Visit the Featured Member Page on the Guild’s website (www.hcrag.com) to appreciate some of Roberta’s creations.

Hooking Information & Techniques --

From Nina’s Notebook – March is going out like a lamb, although a cold one. The first day of spring brought us snow but it disappeared the following day; a sign that perhaps spring is truly on its way. We are all longing for the bright sunshine, the first tips of green emerging from the earth, and the budding of the trees. Spring brings hope for the future and smiles to our faces. We all rejoice at the greening of the earth once again. The cycle of cold, snow, bare earth and the seemingly endless grey weather has been broken.

April brings us into the time of Easter and Passover, two holidays important to Christianity and Judaism. These two often overlap or coincide and both offering a chance for families to come together and celebrate. Chocolate bunnies, colored eggs, special foods are often part of the feast. As I look through magazines I see special recipes, elaborate table settings in pastel colors, ideas for projects that younger children can do, all with the eye on those get-togethers.

At this time of year, I think of special wall pieces that we could make to celebrate these holidays. Perhaps one which shows the Seder plate and the items included on it. Or perhaps a story rug telling about the Exodus. For Christians there are several variations on the cross. A story rug might show people celebrating the empty cross.

There is also a celebration of the season without reference to religious tradition. There is the bunny that is seen in many hookings...eating a carrot, with a funny outfit on, eating in the garden. The list is endless. Colored eggs are also a favorite and there is always the basket filled with chocolate eggs, colored eggs and whatever else you want to put in it. Frankly, I would like my basket filled with wool, yarn, sari silk and whatever else I could use for hooking.

Welcome, April with your warm days, budding trees, and sprouting flowers. You are a wonderful change in weather as well as bringing us a lift after a long, long winter. Let us gather our hooks, wool, and linen and hook a happy spring! We deserve it!

Happy hooking! Nina Seaman

Ideas From The Dye Pot (Early Spot Dyeing) -- Early rug hooking books often reveal the origins of techniques that have evolved over the years and practiced today in a modified form. Choice Hooked Rugs written by Stella Hay Rex was published in 1953. In Chapter 5 on Dyeing she makes reference to how variegated dyeing was used as far back as the Civil War to enhance the appearance of plain dark or black fabric. She notes the following:

“A little historical background on variegated dyeing seems apropos. Back in the Civil War days, when women had become tired of their home-dyed dresses in plain color, they made ‘spatter prints.’ In one method, they punched small holes in the cover of a tin, put dye in the can, and sprinkled it over the cloth. Another way was to dip a paintbrush in the dissolved dye and shake it gently, letting the spots fall where they would on the material, as in doing spattered floors. Historians say this practice actually antedates the American Revolution.”

Today, contemporary dyeing books feature entire chapters on spot dyeing and instructors offer classes on the subject.

Tips from Heloise (Advantages of Interfacing Bonded to Recycled Wool) – Sandy Denarski recently shared with Heloise her experience using wool from a recycled suit that she picked up from the recycled wool available at our meetings. After washing and drying the wool, she was initially frustrated when she found a white interfacing bonded on the wool of a suit. But she found “the bonding is wonderful to have if you sew on the wool for appliqué work. I made one small pillow/pin cushion and used the bonded wool as the base. It allowed me to do some machine embroidery without adding a stabilizer. It was a dream to sew. I added hand embroidery and that was also easy. The iron on stabilizer can make the hand sewing difficult.” Thank you, Sandy, for the tip!

Recipes – Barbara Lugg’s Butternut Squash Bake -- Members often want Barbara Lugg’s recipes. She has graciously shared her recipe for the Butternut Squash Bake that she brought our holiday luncheon.

Ingredients:

- 1 small butternut squash (peeled, seeded and cubed) -- 2 cups
- 1 egg lightly beaten
- ¼ cups crushed Saltines (8 crackers)
- 2 tbs. parmesan cheese (grated)
- 1 tbs. butter, melted
- ½ cup mayonnaise (note: do not use light or fat free mayonnaise)
- 1/2 chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- Salt & pepper to taste

Preparation

- Cook squash covered in water. Bring to boil, reduce heat.
- Simmer until very tender (20-25 minutes)
- Drain well, place in large bowl and mash
- In another bowl, combine mayonnaise, finely chopped onion, egg, sugar, salt and pepper.
- Add to squash – mix well
- Transfer to 1 quart baking dish
- Combine cracker crumbs, cheese and butter – sprinkle on top
- Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes. Top should be golden.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Early American Tavern/Trade Sign Rugs & the Stories They Tell – May 18, 2015 – The Friends of Mercer Museum, Doylestown, PA are sponsoring a presentation by Mary Jo and Karl Gimber on Early American Tavern/Trade Sign Rugs at their meeting on May 18, 2015. Each of Gimber's rugs has a special story associated with the tavern or shop from which the sign hung. The program will be held at the Mercer Museum, 84 South Pine Street, Doylestown, PA 18901. The meeting begins with desert at 12:30 followed by the presentation. Admission is free. Additional information on the museum can be obtained by calling 215-345-0210 or going to their website at www.mercermuseum.org.

Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 10-15, 2015) – Retreat, workshops, exhibits and vendors will be part of this special rug hooking event at Sauder Village in Archbold, Ohio. Visit www.saudervillage.org for details.

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

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

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

Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Wednesday of each month (September to June) at the Vermeule Center, 614 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Janet Santaniello at 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com.

Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter normally meets the first Saturday of the month (October to June) at the South Branch Reformed Church, Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to verify meeting dates, contact Kathleen Murray-Boyda at 908-442-0995 or kathmb@hotmail.com. Visit the Lamb Yankees website at www.lambyankees.weebly.com.

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

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St. Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For more information visit its website – www.springlakenjatha.org – or contact Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or beedkay@gmail.com.

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

HCRAg Calendar of Events --

April 3, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

April 10, 2015 – Monthly Meeting -- (Paul Deluca, ColorQuest) *

May 1, 2015 Casual Hooking Day **

May 8, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Cloisters Bus Trip (see page 3 for details)**

June 5, 2015 Casual Hooking Day **

June 12, 2015 – Monthly Meeting – Picnic or Luncheon *

July 3, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day **

August 7, 2015 – Casual Hooking Day**

August 10-14, 2015 – Rug Hooking Camp (ESC School, Lambertville, NJ)

August 11, 2015 – Beginners’ Workshop (ESC School, Lambertville, NJ)

October 3 & 4, 2015 – Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill (Prallsville Mills, Stockton, 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 a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic

circle just outside Flemington. The address for a GPS is 1Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

- Co-Presidents** -- Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.
- Vice President – Membership** -- Debbie Walsh – 908- 272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com
- Director – Communications** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net
- Camp Directors** -- Anndee Byers -- 856-829-7179 or anndee@hookandhistory.com
Eleanor Dunker -- 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com
- Historian** -- Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net
- Hospitality** -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
- Librarian** -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net
- Mentoring** -- Donna Kolznak – 610-681-6357 or dmk17@ptd.net
- Programs** -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com
- Rug Festival** -- Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.
- Secretary** -- Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com
- Special Events** – Chris Coslet – 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net
- Spring Retreat & Hook-in** -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com
- Sunshine** -- Gail Ferdinando -- 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.
- Treasurer** -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net
Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

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

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

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**

