

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

December 2011

Presidents' Letter – It's hard to believe that we are winding down another year with the Guild. Once again, it's been a productive year with our rug hooking demonstrations, weekend retreat and workshop, summer camp and special events like the Mennonite Heritage Center Hook-in/Clinic. In addition, we have spread the word about our art through our wonderful newsletter and the exhibit of our rugs at the Hunterdon County 4-H Fair. Each month, we have had great programs and discussions to enhance all of our skills. Thanks to the many efforts of our members, we have gained an excellent reputation beyond the borders of New Jersey. We should all be very proud of our accomplishments.

We look forward to the new year approaching and the next chapter in the life of our Guild. We will begin 2012 with a strong base of close to 100 members. In April, we will elect new officers. To date, a number of people have expressed interest in running for office. We are thankful to those of you who would like to assume a new role or would like to continue to serve in their current capacity. It is through the efforts of our members that we are able to continue to grow and to remain a viable organization.

Thanks again for being part of the Guild! We wish everyone a happy holiday and a healthy new year.

Dee and Joyce

December Meeting – Friday, December 9, 2011 -- The December 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. Please note that the meeting will begin at 11:00 this month.

Guild Program – The December meeting is the time of our highly anticipated holiday potluck luncheon. As in the past, the menu is not planned. Each member is asked to bring her/his favorite dish – salad, appetizer, hot dish, cold dish, dessert or whatever. Every year we joke (worry?) about ending up with 50 salads, but it always works out with a wonderful diversity of culinary delights. HCRAG members are not only renowned rug hookers, but great cooks as well! This is a meeting not to be missed. (The recipes of favorite dishes can be shared in future issues of The Loop.)

Snowflake Exchange-- Bring in your wrapped ornament of a homemade snowflake or with a snowflake and receive a piece of paper which will be matched later for the exchange. The ornaments will be shown after opening for all to admire. The pleasure comes from taking home an item created by a friend.

Holiday Trunk Show --We will have a Holiday Sale of items crafted by members. If a member has homemade items they would like to sell, you can bring them to the

December meeting. Many of our members make pins and hooked objects along with other fiber related gifts. This will give you an opportunity to sell them to the Guild.

Show & Tell – Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, the month of celebrations and surprises. Have a rug that celebrates a special time or occasion? Or maybe you have a special wool creation you could surprise us with? Bring it in and surprise us for a chance at a prize. We are always interested in seeing your current project.

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 winners for November were:

- Gail Ferdinando - Recipe Cards
- Lydia Brenner - Proddy Pin
- Cindi Boults - Notebook
- Betsy Warner - Cider
- Debbie Walsh - Apple Butter
- Barbara Lugg - Rug Hooking Magazine

The prizes were donated by Cindy Boults, Karl Gimber, Cheryl Halliday, and Lydia Lewis.

Hospitality – We salute and thank all the Guild members who prepared refreshments for our meetings throughout the year. Their snacks and treats helped make our gatherings more enjoyable.

December Birthdays -- Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month – Deb Adam (12/30), Barbie Beck-Wilczek (12/15), Helen Buchanan (12/21), Carol Collin (12/21), Karl Gimber (12/19), Patty Mahaffey (12/8), Paula Patti (12/28), and Agnes Wooden (12/2). Enjoy your day!

Belated birthday wishes go to Suzanne Schubert who celebrated her birthday on November 18, 2011. Her name was inadvertently omitted from the November newsletter.

Membership – We welcome Mary Bruinooge to our Guild and look forward to having her involved with our various programs. Mary is the daughter of charter member Helen Buchanan. Her contact information is shown below.

Mary Bruinooge
62A Foss Ave.
Hampton, NJ 08827
908-319-3920
mbruinooge@hotmail.com

Dee Rosebrock has a new email address – deerosebrock@aol.com.

Sunshine – Inform our Sunshine Chair, Janet Santaniello, of any member who is ill or needs a note of cheer. Janet's contact information is included with the list of officers/chairs at the end of the newsletter.

Guild News & Events

Guild Supports SAFE Holiday Collection -- Our Guild is again supporting the holiday collection drive coordinated by The Consignment Shop in Flemington that donates their surplus wool garments to the Guild.

All proceeds from the Consignment Shop go to support "SAFE" (Stop Abuse for Everyone) in Hunterdon County. SAFE provides a series of programs and services for individuals and families touched by domestic violence and sexual assault.

This season, they desperately need sets of towels and have also requested PJs and slippers, which can go directly to the women at the shelter. Many who seek refuge at their safe house arrive without these basic items. For more information on SAFE and its services, go to its website -- www.safeinhunterdon.org or call 908-788-7666.

We will be collecting new and unwrapped towels, slippers, and PJs at the December meeting. (Tax receipts will be available.)

Guild Invited to Join Alice Beatty Program -- On December 7, 2011, Lucille Festa (American County Rugs) will be coming from Vermont to do a program on "Door People" for the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter. An invitation has been extended to our Guild to attend the meeting/program. The meeting will be held at the Vermeule Community Center, 301 Clinton Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ and will begin at 10:00 a.m. If you have interest or need more information, contact Dee Rosebrock

American Color Woolens -- American Color Woolens, the joint venture between Jeannine Happe and Karen Worthington, has been closed for now because of health issues with both of their families. However, The Blue Tulip and Two Old Crows remain open and both shops will continue to offer bolted wool for sale. It just will not be designs from American Color Woolens. Some were under the misconception that they no longer carried bolted wool.

Officer Nominations – Our process for nominating officers/chairs is beginning. The process is spelled out in Article V of our Guild's By-Laws, which is reproduced below.

“For the election of officers, a nominating committee shall be selected by the President in October, six (6) months in advance of the pending election of new officers. The nominating committee will identify prospective candidates and present the list in writing to the membership for consideration/election, no later than March

The following February, the nominating committee will confirm all candidates wishing to serve as officers of the guild.

In the event that there would be more than one candidate applying for any vacant

office, the membership will vote to decide on the successor.

Voting will occur during the April meeting, and officers will be elected by a simple majority of paid members present.

Newly elected slate of officers will be presented to the membership during the May meeting. Exiting officers will ensure a smooth transition by supplying necessary information to the new officers.

In addition to officers, there will be non-elected members holding positions of responsibility on a voluntary basis that will be selected by the President. The Sunshine Committee Chairman will mail cards or send items to those deemed necessary. The Public Relations person will advertise the necessary information concerning meetings and events. The Guild Historian will maintain records of historical interest.”

Earlier mention about the need to nominate new officers/chairs produced a strong response from members who have already offered to take on new roles or to continue in their present capacity. Those who have expressed interest so far are listed below.

- Co-President – Cindy Boults and Therese Shick
- Vice President – Debbie Walsh *
- Historian – Sonia Force *
- Hospitality – Deanna Kinney *
- Librarian – Kathy Donovan *
- Programs -- OPEN
- Public Relations & Newsletter – Karl Gimber *
- Secretary – Susan Woodworth (Assistant – Linda Kling)
- Special Events -- OPEN
- Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando
- Treasurer – Jana Laidlaw * (Assistant Treasurer – OPEN)

* incumbent

The Nominating Committee, which will be announced at the December meeting, will round out the slate and identify additional nominees.

Debbie Walsh has offered to take on a newly defined role of Membership Chair. This position will be responsible for welcoming guests and new members, sending the new member packet, maintaining the membership list, ordering name badges and other matters related to the “care and nurturing” of new members.

Members having interest in or needing information about the various positions should contact the incumbents or our Co-Presidents -- Joyce Combs or Dee Rosebrock. Contact information can be found at the end of [The Loop](#).

Hooking Retreat Expanded -- Our popular hooking retreat scheduled for January 13-15, 2012 was fully subscribed at our October meeting. Event Coordinator, Joyce Combs, was able to book the adjacent conference room, so we can accommodate those on the waiting list and still have room for 10 additional retreaters. Let her know if you have interest in attending.

The retreat begins after our January meeting at the Flemington Hampton Inn. Participants will move 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. Participants can commute or stay overnight. A discounted room rate is available for those who want to stay over night. Call the Hampton Inn (908) 284-9427 to make reservations and mention the Guild.

The fee for the entire weekend is only \$35 – the bargain of the year! Checks made payable to HCRAG can be sent to Joyce Combs 1576 Harbourton-Rocktown Rd, Lambertville, NJ 08530. 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 Joyce know of any other ideas you may have for adding to the fun of the weekend.

4th Annual Spring Fling – March 23, 24 & 25, 2012 -- Two exciting workshops (The Magic of Masquerade and Exploring Color & Hooking) will be held at the Flemington Hampton Inn on Friday, March 23, 2012 to Sunday March 25, 2012. Participants can stay at the Hampton Inn or commute. For a discounted room rate for those who want to stay over night, call the Hampton Inn (908) 284-9427 to make reservations and mention the Guild.

Instructors: The Magic of Masquerade with Cyndy Duade -- Let your imagination go out to play! Create your own magical mask to wear or be a wall display. Class includes a kit with the basic mask pattern, eye ribbon, and soft backing for the mask (\$15). You can embellish the basic pattern as drawn or transform it to your own creation. Combine wool, yarn, fabric, beads, feathers, and bling. Hook, sculpt, proddy, or embellish.

Class will cover mask design, choosing materials and embellishments, attaching special effects, backing application, finishing edges, and mounting for wall display. Lots of colorful wool, fabric, and embellishments will be available. Bring your imagination and creativity to this fun class and you can wear your mask home on Sunday!

Cyndy Duade lives in Springfield NH near lakes and mountains. She is an accredited McGown Teacher and attends Teachers' Workshop for continuing education. She has been teaching rug hooking for 12 years and enthusiastically embraces all styles of rug hooking.

Exploring Color & Hooking with Angela Foote -- Let the knowledge of color stimulate you to step outside your color box. Use your favorite color in a new way. Explore a variety of dyed wools, spots, dips, and sparkling marbled wools, swirling with color to enliven your rugs. Bring your love of color and hooking to class. Students may start a new project or spark up an existing project. All styles of hooking are welcome!

Students are contacted prior to class to discuss rug patterns, custom designs, color choices and any other hooking needs. Wools can be custom dyed for your project or as

an addition to your wool stash. Angela travels with a large assortment of beautiful dyed wools.

Angela Foote is a passionate creative rug hooker who loves to work with color. She is well known for her beautifully dyed wools and unique wool garments. Whether over the dye pot, teaching classes, lecturing on color, or creating in her studio, Angela's 30 years of experience is evident in her works of art. She is a certified McGown teacher, member of ATHA and enjoys hooking in both fine shading and primitive styles. She has regular classes in her studio and teaches at guild meetings and workshops across New England. FABRICFOOTE is her hooking and dyeing business.

Workshop Size: 12 - 15 students each class

Meals/Snacks: We will provide coffee and tea. Participants may bring snacks to share.

Cost: \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required at the time of registration. The balance will be due at or before our February meeting. In the event you need to cancel after our February meeting, a refund less a \$25 cancellation fee will be made if we are able to fill the spot. If we are unable to fill the spot there will be no refund.

Schedule: Friday- Evening reception and meeting with instructors (5:00 – 8:00)
Saturday - workshop (9:00 - 4:30)
Sunday - workshop (8:30 - 3:30)

To register, send a \$25 check made payable to HCRAAG, to Cindy Boult 1 Spring Hill Rd. Annandale, NJ 08801, with a note indicating the instructor with whom you want to work. If you have questions, direct them to Cindy at cboult@gmail.com or 908-730-0146.

HCRAAG Partners with Mennonite Heritage Center for Hook-in/Clinic – April 21, 2012 -- The Guild's is returning to the Mennonite Heritage Center for a hook-in on April 21, 2012 from 9:00 to 3:30. The feedback from last year confirmed that participants liked the smaller size and museum like venue.

We will have an expanded group of vendors --

- Blue Tulip (Karen Worthington)
- Homespun (Kay Leisey)
- Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild
- Mennonite Heritage Center Gift Shop
- Misty Pond Primitives (Pat Donoho)
- Two Old Crows (Jeannine Happe)
- Woodcrest Rug Designs (Joanne Gerwig)
- Wool'n Gardner (Jan & Fred Cole)

In addition to a regular hook-in, we will have two mini lectures, a rug exhibit and a clinic where people can get advice/suggestions on their rug hooking projects. A beginners' workshop will also be offered by Juliana Kapusta and Patty Mahaffey. We are planning

for about 50 people in addition to the beginners' workshop. Those who plan to attend are encouraged to register early.

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 location 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.

Registration is required as participation is limited. 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 for more information on their programs.

HCRAG Annual Summer Camp (August 13 -17, 2012) --Our Guild's 16th 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. Gail Ferdinando, Judy Quintman and Debbie Walsh will again run camp in 2012.

Guild dues need to be paid by the end of this month in order to be eligible for the reduced member fee.

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 sell 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 HCRAAG 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 or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

Guild Supports Children's Hospital of Philadelphia – On November 5 & 6, the Guild once again supported the annual fundraising effort for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Facial Reconstruction Unit by demonstrating rug hooking at the Thanksgiving in the Country House Tour and Craft Show held at Prallsville Mill in Stockton, NJ.

According to Joyce Combs, our event coordinator, "Our Guild has demonstrated at TIC for many years. Marion Michel used to organize our demonstrations way before I started doing it almost 10 years ago. On Saturday, a photographer from *NJ Monthly Magazine* took pictures of our group while we taught a young lady how to hook. They plan to use the pictures in next year's fall issue." It was a fun weekend with many people interested in our rugs and our Guild. Several hooking kits were sold.

Guild members Cindy Boult, Joyce Combs, Tracy Fetzner, Weezie Huntington, Marion Michel, Dee Rosebrock, Therese Shick, Martha Theiling, and Janet Williams supported the Guild by demonstrating at Prallsville Mill.

Our Library Continues to Grow – We wish to thank Nina Seaman for her donation of A Lifetime of Rug Hooking written by her friend and fellow hooker Doris Eaton. Doris was kind enough to inscribe the book especially to our Guild. We also wish to thank Cindy Boult for her donation of The Americana Collection, Hooked Rugs by Polly Minick. Both books will be available at our next meeting.

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 freja2@verizon.net.

Our Library List has been updated to reflect recent additions. A copy is attached.

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.

The Gimber's Rugs to be Exhibited at Sauder Village -- The collection of hooked tavern, trade and farm sign rugs completed by Mary Jo and Karl Gimber will be exhibited at Sauder Village during its annual Rug Hooking Week (August 13-18, 2012). For more information on Rug Hooking Week, visit the Sauder Village website – www.saudervillage.org.

Meet Our Member – Jacqueline Lee -- Jacqueline Lee lives on Cape Cod all year round and learned about our Guild from an article in Rug Hooking Magazine. She realized that she could be part of the Guild and combine visits to her sister who lives in Branchburg, NJ with Guild events. She became a member shortly thereafter and has been a regular participant at our January retreat, summer camp and our spring workshops. “I am thrilled to be a member of the Hunterdon Guild”, she notes. Jackie is also a member of the Cranberry Rug Hooking Chapter of ATHA. She is winding up her second (and final!) term as Treasurer, and hopes to become part of a new committee to promote education and outreach. She will also replace the current librarian for their guild. “No one in my family hooks and I need to be with people with similar interests. They spark my creativity and my technique gets better.”

“I am crazy about textiles. It is something I learned from my mother early on” Jackie notes. Over the years she has done embroidery, crewel and needlepoint before becoming enthralled by rug hooking. Her introduction to rug hooking took place in 2005 while shopping at an outlet in Maine where she found a Claire Murray kit. The kit had instructions for the “Nantucket style” of hooking with yarn which is the style for which Claire Murray is known.

Jackie was living in Maryland at the time and soon learned of Roz Logsdon who had her studio in Laurel, Maryland. Jackie started to attend Roz' classes on a regular basis. “I gave up on hooking with yarn as soon as I saw what could be accomplished with wool strips” Jackie recalls. There was something about working with wool and the size of projects that really appealed to her. Rugs are not dainty. She likes working with wool strips instead of thread or yarn. “Rug hooking affords more than small needlepoint projects. It's a tactile thing and endlessly creative” notes Jackie. She has found that her rug hooking sparks creativity and “provides entry into the creative process.”

Roz Logsdon, who is a regular instructor at Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild's annual "Hooked in the Mountains" workshops mentioned the gathering to Jackie. She decided to go. "I plunged into the wonderful world of rug hooking. I bought scissors, hooks, and the works!" Jackie beams. A class with Patsy Becker came next. It turned out to be the last class Patsy taught because of her declining health.

Long before she began to hook rugs, Jackie had kept scraps of fabric, pictures, magazine photos, etc., with colors or patterns which piqued her interest. Fascinated by them, she was vexed by what to do with them, and occasionally, would chastise herself for keeping the assortment. On several occasions, she nearly pitched the lot. Later she learned their purpose was to serve as artistic inspiration, being the muse which sparked the creative impulse into being. One of these items was a cocktail-sized paper napkin composed solely of soft blues and greens. She employed these colors exclusively in her first rug, Patsy Becker's pattern Little Crewel. Jackie continues to find inspiration from artworks, fabric, prints, and now, of course, rugs by others. Karen Kahle's particular approach to primitive style has been a major influence. "Karen's style spoke to me in an amazing way. Her approach to creating background by mingling short, 5-7 loop strips made up of all the values of a single color, from palest to darkest, was a revelation." She utilized this technique also in that first rug, Little Crewel, which is one of her rugs on our website.

Jackie makes it a practice to regularly attend workshops and camps. She has had the opportunity to work with many of the most respected instructors in the northeast and has learned from each one. Her teachers have included Susan Feller, Angela Foote, Kathleen Herbert, Rae Harrell, Jayne Hester, Norma McElhenny, Sibyl Osicka, Jule Marie Smith, and Diane Stoffel. Rae Harrell was Jackie's instructor at her first HCRAAG camp. "Rae gave me permission to throw away the rules" Jackie notes. "I learned never to look back and to follow if being called in a certain direction." She has been fortunate recently to be included in twice yearly workshops (April and October) on Cape Cod featuring Angela Foote, a New Hampshire instructor whose incredibly colored wools are amazing.

Jackie hooks with #8 and #8.5 cuts in the primitive style. She wants to try other things with color, perhaps something abstract. Jackie works primarily with her own patterns but will buy patterns designed by others if she "falls for it". Her ideas for patterns come from various sources. She once received a card with a lattice work design that appealed to her. The lattice work inspired a perfect border for one of her rugs. "Color is at the forefront of my design process. I am color driven." Jackie notes. She will see color in a piece of wool and looks for a way to use it in a rug. "I am always working on my technique and see that I am getting better with more consistent loops. I am at a point where I can now use different heights of loops intelligently to create the results I want." she observes. Jackie is not attracted to proddy or other embellishments.

New and recycled wool are used in Jackie's rugs. She finds old blankets from thrift shops to be ideal for backgrounds. However, she also buys new wool from her teachers and from vendors at the camps she attends.

Dyeing her own wool has a lot of appeal but she does not always have time to get the dye pots out, so Jackie does use wool dyed by others. Karen Kahle's *Little Dye Book* is a favorite source for dye formulas.

Hooking at home has been a challenge for Jackie because other things always seem to get in the way. She recently decided to now make time for her hooking and is hooking a lot more. She hooks mostly in the evenings but will also do it in the mornings. Jackie has come to the

realization that we do not know how much time we have left, so we need to have priorities such as getting more hooking done.

Cooking is another one of Jackie's passions. She particularly enjoys creating recipes which are both delicious and healthy. For example, she makes her own applesauce and creatively adds other fruits with the apples. The same is true with her soups. She will make a big pot of soup with lots of veggies that will last a week or more.

Jackie has always loved books and reading, which lead to her professional career as a librarian. She has worked in public, special, and academic libraries, and now enjoys part-time work at her favorite local village library, the West Falmouth Library. After earning a Master's Degree in Library Science, Jackie worked for a series of Federal Government agencies in Washington, DC, spending 25 years at the Justice Department. Ever since visiting New England relatives as a child, Jackie has always wanted to be there. For a five year stint she resided in New Hampshire while working at Dartmouth College Library, and returned in 2006 to Cape Cod. There she met her boyfriend/partner, Jim Lamb, when he built the bookcases for her new home. He employs his draftsmanship skills in assisting her to get her designs onto the linen backing. For these rugs, Jackie signs them "(JL) 2 [squared]" because they share the same initials.

Visit the Guild's website – www.hcrag.com – and click on "Featured Member" to see some of Jackie's rugs.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – A few weeks ago I was at a friend's house and she had just baked homemade apple muffins. The smell of those muffins wafted through the house and brought back wonderful memories of my grandmother baking in her kitchen. Several years ago I honored my grandmother by hooking a piece that showed her in that kitchen. Last year I made another piece showing the two of us walking to church on a snowy Christmas Eve.

December and the holidays bring back many memories of days gone by as well as visions of holidays to come. Each one of us has special memories which can be hooked into a mat. Just a few ideas to get you started --

- What about that unexpected gift that you received, like the doll or other toy you thought was off the must get list?
- How about a Christmas stocking for the new grandchild? The look of the starry night with a full moon shining on the new snow outside a cozy house?
- A special ornament you received or even a small mat or table runner of ornaments?
- Sleds, snowflakes, pine trees, Santas, The 12 days of Christmas, all are grist for a special hooked piece to keep for yourself or give as a gift.

So sort through your memory bank, tune into your inner artist and create a memorable piece of hooked art for the holidays!

Happy holidays, and happy hooking! Nina Seaman

Recipe – Here is a Pennsylvania Dutch recipe for Chicken Pot Pie that was shared by the ATHA Biennial Hospitality Committee.

Ingredients:

3 lb whole chicken	2 cans chicken broth
Water to cover chicken	3-4 celery stalks
5 carrots	1 large onion
1 Tbsp parsley	5 potatoes
6 ears fresh corn (or frozen corn)	

Place chicken, chicken broth, and water to cover chicken into a pot
Dice the celery, carrots, and large onion – add to pot
Salt and pepper to taste
Add a tablespoon of parsley
Cook chicken for approximately an hour
Remove chicken from pot and let cool
Pull the meat off the bones and breast – set aside
Peel and quarter five potatoes – add to the broth

Pot Pie Dough Ingredients:

2 cups of flour
Enough broth to form dough ball (or use Bot Boi Pennsylvania Dutch Squares)
1 egg

Roll out dough on a floured board or counter top and cut into squares. (The dough will have particles of celery, parsley, onions and carrots in it that makes for good tasting.)
Drop the dough squares into the boiling broth and cook for about 30 minutes or until the dough is thoroughly cooked through.

This home made dough will be thicker than store bought Bot Boi, but the early Pennsylvania Dutch families loved it this way.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

March Rug Hooking Workshops at Oakeside (A Study of the Rugs of Magdalena Briner) – March 13, 14 & 15, 2012 – Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury are offering two workshop choices – a one day workshop on March 13, 2012 and a three day workshop on March 13, 14 & 15, 2012. The workshops will feature a lecture by Evelyn Lawrence who has researched the rugs hooked by Magdalena Briner. Contact Norma (973-746-2936 or g_batastini @msn.com) or Linda (973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com) for more information.

2012 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village -- August 14-18, 2012 – Receive the most up-to-date information by going to www.saudervillage.org/creativity/rughooking.asp.

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.

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. Visit the Goat Hill website at 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) 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. 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

December 9, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Holiday Luncheon & Snowflake Ornament Exchange – Snowflake Trunk Show *

January 13, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – White Elephant & Auction *

January 13-15, 2012 – Hooking Retreat – Flemington Hampton Inn

February 10, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – 3-D Hooked Sheep – Workshop by Therese Shick *

March 9, 2012 – Monthly Meeting – Hooking in Geometrics – Lecture & Workshop by Gail Dufresne (Goat Hill Studio) *

March 23-25, 2012 – March Madness Workshop – Flemington Hampton Inn

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” & Paper Clipped Feet Chicken – Workshop by Debbie Adam *

August 13-17, 2012 – 16th 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

Dee Rosebrock – 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@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 frejja2@verizon.net

Programs – Lydia Lewis – 215-968-3278 or misspid2@aol.com

Gisele Meader – 609-737-3123 or g.meader@att.net

Cheryl Halliday – 215-672-2629 or havewenewool@yahoo.com

Public Relations/Newsletter -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net

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

Sue Woodworth – 908-273-3198 or srw0717@aol.com

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 – Jana Laidlaw – 609-497-4576 or jana@fastmail.fm

Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com

Guild’s Email List Policy - The HCRAAG 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 (HCRAAG). 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.