

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

February 2009

From the President's Corner – Today, the big topic on everyone's mind is the state of our economy and the impact of the recession on our lives. What will the rippling effects of this be on the rug hooking community and our Guild? Certainly, some will say that rug hooking is a highly discretionary activity and expenses associated with it will be among the first to be eliminated as people "tighten the belt."

When we look at the response to Guild programs, we do not see clear evidence of that. There were a few open positions at the retreat. However, there has been strong interest in our Spring Fling Workshops and we are on track for having another fully subscribed rug hooking camp. Business was brisk during a recent visit to a favorite shop that sells wool and other rug hooking supplies. Our membership continues to grow and is near record highs.

I propose that those involved with rug hooking do not see their hooking activities as discretionary, but as **necessary** in these times of uncertainty. Sitting with the hooking frame and creating a one-of-a-kind rug is healing and relaxing. It provides quiet time to reflect and reduces stress. Those who hook with others have the opportunity of participating in a small community where they can share concerns and lift each other up while enjoying the fulfillment that comes from creating something with your own hands. Those who hook with wool from recycled clothing help keep their expenses to a minimum while producing an admired work of art. The end result of the hooking process is gratifying and the steps in the process are revitalizing. Discretionary? I say, "No way!"

Keep pulling those loops. It is good for the soul! -- Weezie

February Meeting – Friday, February 13, 2009 – The February meeting will be held at our regular location, the Hunterdon County Complex on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington from 10:00 to 2:00.

Guild Program – Guild members Deanna Kinney and Joan Lucas have over 40 years of combined rug hooking experience. They will share their rugs, lessons learned over the years, and their approach to dyeing wool. This is a meeting not to be missed.

Show & Tell – February is the month with Valentines Day, so please bring rugs you have with a Valentine or a romantic image/theme – maybe with roses. Of course, we always enjoy seeing current projects.

Advance Information – Date and Location Change for April Meeting -- Our normal meeting date in April conflicts with Good Friday, so we will be meeting a week earlier on April 3, 2009. The meeting location will also change to the Court Room in the Police Station within

the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the Rt.12 Circle outside of Flemington. For new members, this is the circle on Rt. 12 a mile or so from our regular meeting location.

Hospitality – Bonnie Rusch, LeeAnn Metropoulos and Lisa Mims have volunteered to provide the refreshments for the meeting. Thank you in advance! Having coffee and snacks at our meetings makes such a difference.

Membership – We welcome Margaret “Margie” Briggs and Kim Korth as new members. Many will remember Margie from camp last year where she was in Gail Dufresne’s workshop. Kim will be at the Spring Fling. Please add them to your membership list.

Margaret Briggs
305 Dock Drive
Landsdale, PA 19446
215-362-1263

Kim Korth
69 E. Union St.
Bordentown, NJ 08505
609-298-0878
kmkorth@comcast.net

Let the Sun Shine – Lydia Brenner’s mother passed away just before Christmas. Lydia was unable to attend the January meeting, but wants to thank everyone for the condolence card sent to her from the Guild saying that “it really makes a difference”.

February Birthdays – Happy Birthday wishes go to Sharon Ballard (2/10), Ingrid Cosmen (2/25), Ann Pietropinto (2/2), Joanne Mc Illmurray (2/4), Dee Rosebrock (2/8), Bonnie Rusch (2/4), Lib Ryman (2/12), Janet Santaniello (2/22) and Sue Weider (2/23). Enjoy your special day!

Reservations Accepted for Bus Trip to Winterthur Museum – Kitty Platt will be accepting at the February meeting reservations for our bus trip to the Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum that is scheduled for Wednesday April 29, 2009.

The nonrefundable fee is \$20 for members (\$30 for non-members), which includes museum admission, a one hour tour, access to all exhibits, a tip for the bus driver and incidental expenses. Husbands who have assisted with past Guild events can participate at the member rate.

Departure at 8:30 am will be from the Hunterdon County Complex (where we have our meetings) with return scheduled for 6 pm. Members can bring their lunch or eat at the cafeteria in the Visitors’ Center or café in the main building. The museum has an excellent book store and gift shop for us to enjoy and there is no sales tax in Delaware! The museum has an extensive library that can be used by anyone who prefers to spend the day doing research.

The museum contains a collection of American decorative arts spanning the two hundred years from the seventeenth century through the early nineteenth century. In a great country house surrounded by a private park of striking beauty are examples of domestic architecture, furniture, textiles, silver, pewter, ceramics, paintings, and prints almost unmatched in quality, and in numbers and variety the most extensive collection of its kind. Visit the museum’s website at www.winterthurmuseum.org for more information.

HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp – August 10-14, 2009 – There has been a change in the line-up of instructors. Norma Batastini is replacing Abby Vakay. Because of the change, anyone who has registered to work with Judy Quintman or Sandra Brown can change if they so choose. At the present time there are 13 signed up with Norma, 7 with Sandra and 14 with Judy.

The fee for members whose dues were paid by November 14, 2008 is \$150. The non member rate is \$225. To register for camp, just send a \$25 check made payable to HCRAAG to Karl Gimber at P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913. The balance is due in April. The deposit is non-refundable.

A scholarship for attending camp is available from the Madeline Brightbill Camp Scholarship Fund. The criteria for the scholarship are very broad. It can be used to recognize a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild and/or rug hooking, for someone who would not attend otherwise, to recognize a long time member or to welcome a new member. To apply or to nominate someone, send a note along with the supporting information to Weezie Huntington, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, by March 13, 2009. Contributions to the fund can be made by sending a check made payable to HCRAAG to Guild Treasurer, Gisele Meader, at 74 Barry Road, Lambertville, NJ 08530.

Guild Celebrates Arrival of Spring with Its Spring Fling! – Spring arrives on Friday, March 20, 2009 – the first day of the Guild's Spring Fling. Beginning that evening participants will gather at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ for a wine and cheese reception and planning discussions with nationally known rug hooking instructors Jayne Hester and Michael Micarelli..

Jayne Hester is known for creating primitive style rugs using textured wools in muted colors. Michele Micarelli's teaching objective is to unleash creativity. Her classes are full of story telling, imagination exercises and laughter. Both instructors conduct workshops throughout the country.

The workshops are intentionally being held on a week-end, so that rug hooking artisans who work during the week can participate and work with fabulous instructors. The details for the week-end are shown below.

Date: March 20-22, 2009

Location: Flemington Hampton Inn

Discounted room rate (\$112) for those who want to stay over night -- Call Hampton Inn (908-284-9427) to make reservations and mention the Guild.

Instructors: Jayne Hester & Michele Micarelli

Workshop Size: 15 each

Meals/Snacks – Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. Participants can bring their lunch or take advantage of the many local restaurants.

Cost: \$150 (for members) with \$25 non refundable deposit required at time of registration. Balance due at the February meeting. The fee for non-members is \$175.

Schedule: Friday, March 20 – wine/cheese reception and meeting with instructors (5-7 pm)
Saturday, March 21 -- workshop (9-4:30)
Sunday, March 22 -- workshop (8:30-3:30)

To register, just send a \$25 check made payable to HCRAAG to Karl Gimber at P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 along with a note indicating the instructor with whom you want to work.

Guild to Exhibit at Clinton Library North Branch – March 2-30, 2009 -- The Clinton Library North Branch will be the site of an exhibit of rugs hooked by Guild members. Guild members Cindy Boult, Gail Ferdinando and Irene Pasternak are coordinating the exhibit.

Please support this effort by bringing one or two rugs to the February meeting. The rugs will be hung with skirt/pant hangers, so sleeves will not be needed. An alternate date and location for collecting rugs will be discussed at the meeting. The Library is insured up to \$15,000 for exhibits. There is a \$100 deductible for which the owner of the rug would be responsible. We are assured that there has never been a problem with exhibits at the library.

Rugs may be picked up at the library after the exhibit on Tuesday March 31, 2009 between 9 AM and 10:30 AM. Gail Ferdinando and Irene Pasternak will be present at the library at that time. Rugs not picked up at the Library will be brought to the Guild meeting in April.

Volunteers are needed to assist Cindy and Irene when the rugs will be hung on Monday March 2, 2009. Contact Irene at IrePastr@wmconnect.com or 908.735.2754 for more information.

Directions to the North Branch of the Clinton Library (Leigh Street, Clinton, NJ):

From Flemington: Route 31 North to Route 78 West. Exit at Clinton/Pittstown Exit 15. Bear right on exit; turn right proceed to the first traffic light and turn left onto Leigh Street less than ¼ mile. Library is on left.

From Route 22 East: Take 22 East to Route 78 West and follow directions above.

From Washington, NJ: Take Route 31 South get off at the Clinton Exit. You will be on Leigh Street. Library is on right less than ¼ mile.

Guild to Demonstrate At Clinton Library - March 7, 2009 -- Guild members will gather at the Clinton Library North Branch on Saturday, March 7 from noon to 4 pm to demonstrate rug hooking. The event is in conjunction with our month long exhibit at the Library (see previous article). Our experience has been that these events stimulate interest in rug hooking, bring positive attention to the Guild and are fun! The location is ideal for members who have difficulty supporting demonstrations in the Lambertville or Bucks County areas. To sign up, just contact Irene Pasternak.

Storm Does Not Deter Retreaters – The weather forecast for the weekend was not encouraging, but that did not deter those determined to spend an enjoyable retreat working on their current hooking projects. As it turned out, the weather was not as severe as predicted. Participants supplied a diverse selection of snacks and treats while the Hampton Inn provided an endless supply of hot coffee and tea. Everyone agreed that the retreat provides an opportunity to get some “serious” hooking done and to get to know each other better. Enjoying a massage from the Guild’s favorite masseuse, Joy Andrews, and watching videos added to the pleasurable weekend. We owe Gail Ferdinando, Kitty Platt and Debbie Walsh a round of applause for their work in organizing our 3rd annual retreat. A special thank you goes to Guild members who braved the weather to make the retreat a success.

Meet Our Members – Deanna Kinney & Joan Lucas -- Deanna Kinney and Joan Lucas work together at the Lebanon Township Museum where they have the opportunity demonstrate rug hooking and dyeing wool to the public on a regular basis. They have a combined 40 years of rug hooking experience and will share their rugs and approach to primitive style hooking at the Guild’s meeting this month. Since they work as a team, we have the pleasure of featuring them this month.

Deanna Kinney -- Deanna was a stay at home mom and had lots of time to work on her old house, refinish furniture, paint, stencil and decorate. She also did a lot of handwork and “tried almost anything”. She especially liked quilting and crocheting.

Deanna and her husband collected antiques and attended many shows. At one show in the late 1980s, she met Lillian Vail and her husband, Bill. When Lillian invited her to a rug show at the Everittstown Church, Deanna was happy to go. At that point, the only knowledge she had of old rugs was that she could not afford them. The day of the show she was amazed at the talents of all the women and how friendly and helpful they all were. They said anyone could hook but Deanna had her doubts. She was invited to come to the hooking group at the Church on Thursdays. In no time Deanna “was hooked”.

Lillian started her with a wooden frame with thumbtacks, a pig on burlap and some pink and gray wool. She went right home and worked on it until the hooking was finished. Not knowing how to finish the edges, she trimmed it close to the last row of hooking just like she did on quilting projects. Of course, it started to unravel. Not knowing what to do, Deanna put gray duct tape on the edges and finished it that way. It held up for many years. When it got too worn for the house, the rug was put in the garage and used to wipe her feet before getting in the car. After her husband passed away, Deanna decided to sell some things at auction. She put auction items in the garage for a while to see if she could really part with them. A few things made it back in the house. The men from the auction house came and picked up the items to be auctioned and unknown to her they took the pig rug too. When Deanna and her family attended the auction, they were surprised to see the pig rug listed as a "primitive rug". It sold for \$70 and they still talk about it!

Deanna bought a used frame and cutter from Hildegard Von Tenspole. “Hildegard was a great teacher and I learned a lot from her” says Deanna. “Helen Buchanan, Fanny Whitenack, Priscilla Sockwell and all the others were wonderful to me. So many of the women are gone now, but I have wonderful memories of them.”

Primitive rug hooking is Deanna’s favorite style. She buys patterns or draws them--whatever catches her eye. She finds that “If I love the pattern I can finish it quickly but, if not, it takes me forever.” Deanna likes to use recycled wool best. She will dye when she has to and prefers to use Dump n’ Dye products.

Deanna has attended two rug hooking camps sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild and was impressed with the wonderful work the others were doing. She worked with Sandy Chevery and Helen Wolfel. “Helen is the best! - very patient and comfortable to be around” notes Deanna.

Before her husband passed away, Deanna hooked every day and always had the next rug ready to start the minute the last one was completed. Her work schedule now limits the time she has available although she is able to do some hooking at the Lebanon Township Museum where she works as assistant curator two and a half days a week with Joan Lucas. “How great is it when you get to work in a wonderful place like the museum and have Joan Lucas to work and hook with. Together we come up with some great projects, sometimes we dye all day and are always surprised with what we come up with. Of course we can never come up with the same color twice.”

Deanna enjoys hooking rugs for her three children and three grandchildren. Her oldest son, Ron, lives in Port Murray, NJ with his wife Kelly and their 8 year old daughter Catherine. Son Jeff

and his wife Lori live in Lebanon, NJ with their daughter Morgan and son Sean. Daughter Diane lives in Clinton with her husband Rich and their two kittens. They all get a kick out of deciding which rug they would like. When hooking rugs for others, Deanna says that “Sometimes I feel like a surrogate hooker when I hook for other people but I don't get attached to the project as I do if it's my own.”

Deanna joined our Guild in the late 1980s. Sometimes she has to work on Fridays, but in past year she has been able to attend most meetings. Deanna also loves scherenschnitte, needle felting, punch needle, antiques, stain glass and anything country.

Joan Lucas -- When it comes to rug hooking, Joan claims “I have probably done everything wrong that can be done and do some of it still!” Her motto is that “Rug hooking is good for your hands. There is lanolin in the wool!”

She learned about hooking from Janell Harjes about 20 years ago. Her first project was a chair pad. Janell said: “draw it – hook it” and that is what Joan did and continues to do. She enjoys making useful things from “old stuff”. Joan is attracted to primitive style projects and prefers making small things to put on mantles, cupboards and table tops. Recycled wool from Janell is still being used for chair pads. Someone gave Joan a pattern of a hen and chickens on burlap backing and it seemed huge at the time. A blanket from her mother was used for the background and was hooked on a \$5 frame with large thumbtacks. Joan always went to yard sales and thrift shops, but now had a reason to look for wool using everything “as is”. Joan rarely, if ever, buys new wool. Several years ago, Joan studied with Helen Wolfel at the Guild's rug hooking camp.

There are times when Joan does not know what to hook, so she turns to books, magazines and children's books as well as things around her for ideas. She also checks her supply of wools and asks herself “What can I make with this color?” One day she found a piece of purple wool and made a chair pad with thistles for a friend. Joan observes that she cooks like that too – “What can I make with the ingredients I have on hand. I guess I am like a crazy quilt.”

Joan was the oldest of six children – “part of a poor farmer's family growing up in the late 30s and 40s”. She graduated from high school in the late 50s, married young and had five children. She was a stay at home mom and “gave my kids the things I did not have – ice cream in the freezer and three good meals a day.” When her youngest child was in school, Joan wanted to get a job outside the house and worked part time in a local nursing home and became a certified activities director.

About 23 years ago she helped out at the Lebanon Township Museum and is now its curator. Joan and Deanna conduct programs and entertain there two and a half days a week all year long. Joan notes that “Since God gave us two ears to hear with and with only one mouth to speak with, we are great listeners, and are able to be of some comfort to many visitors by listening to their tragedies, heartaches, illnesses and also to rejoice when there are weddings, babies, and good news. It is rewarding to think that maybe we helped some, just by listening.” The hooking that Joan and Deanna do at the museum is not only creative and satisfying to them, but inspires others to be hookers too.

For the past 43 years, Joan and her husband, Don, have lived in their Victorian home in the historic village of New Hampton that is within walking distance of the museum. Joan muses that they “raised five kids with only one bathroom”. Joan also works two days a week as a library clerk at the Bunnvale Library.

Joan “loves coming to Guild meetings. I am in awe at all I see.” Joan and Deanna were responsible for arranging the Guild’s rug exhibit at the Lebanon Township Museum last fall. The former one room school house was an ideal site to display our handcrafted rugs. The Guild and the rug hooking community are indebted to Joan and Deanna for the exposure gained from the exhibit.

Visit the Guild’s website to see rugs hooked by Deanna and Joan.

From Joyce Comb’s Dye Pot – When you are finished dyeing your wool, it is time for you to clean up the dye area. Use a 1/8 yard piece of white or very light wool as a clean up rag. The wool should be soaked and completely wet. Use this wool to clean up all the colors on your pots, and dyeing spoons and counters. This wool often ends up as a beautiful piece of multi colored wool to use in one of your rugs. (If you don’t like the result, throw it in your next dye pot.) After you have absorbed all the “clean up” color, put the wool in a casserole pan with enough water to prevent the wool from drying out. Add a “glug” of white vinegar to set the color. Cover the pan and bake in an oven at 300 degrees for 20 minutes. Let pan stand until it cools. Rinse and dry as you would any piece of dyed wool.

Tips from Heloise (a.k.a. Barbara Lugg) -- A Guild member new to rug hooking recently inquired “when hooking a circle, is it was better to hook from the inside out or from the outside in?” The question was put to our own Heloise who says the following:

The method most used is to hook an outline around the circle and fill in the circle. However, I am currently working on a small holly berry and after experimenting decided it worked better from center out. You get a slightly irregular out edge but the background takes care of that. A very experienced friend said she hooked a large circle from the center out **once** and it humped up in the middle, but said she hooks tight, which may have caused the problem. Basically, hooking the outside circle and filling in the middle seems the best way to get an even circle.

Heloise welcomes other thoughts on the subject.

Susan Atwater Donates to Guild Library – Susan Atwater purchased Madeline Brightbill’s collection of McGown newsletters at our January auction and donated them to our library. Thank you Susan!

Any Guild member who wishes to borrow an item from the HCRAAG Library should contact our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. She can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freyja@optonline.net

Annual Auction a Success -- Our annual auction fundraiser was a success thanks to the generous donations from members and active bidding from those in attendance. A special “Thank You” goes to Margaret Brightbill for donating one of Madeline’s fine cut masterpieces and to Therese Shick for donating a marvelous wooden floor model hooking frame. Over \$400 was raised. Thanks to all!

Sue Woodworth’s Recipe for Crispy Cinnamon Coins – Guild members enjoyed Crispy Cinnamon Coins baked by Sue Woodworth for our December luncheon. Many wanted her recipe. We thank Sue for sharing it with us.

Ingredients

1 stick unsalted butter, softened (1/2 cup)
1/4 cup sugar
1 egg
1 t. ground cinnamon
1/4 t. vanilla extract
1/8 t. table salt
Minced zest of 1/2 a lemon

Cream butter in a bowl with a mixer until smooth. Add the sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Blend in the egg, cinnamon, vanilla, salt and zest.

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1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/3 cup cinnamon chips, coarsely chopped

Fold in the flour and cinnamon chips until combined. Divide dough in half. Generously sprinkle a work surface with turbinado or coarse white sugar.

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Turbinado sugar or coarse sugar

Roll each half of dough in the sugar into an 18-20" long rope, adding more sugar as needed to coat and prevent sticking. Wrap ropes in plastic and chill until firm, at least 1 hour or overnight. The colder the dough is, the easier it will be to slice.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees; line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Slice ropes into coins about 1/4" thick and arrange on prepared baking sheet, spacing 1" apart. Bake 15 minutes, or until crisp and golden. Let cookies cool on the pan for 5 minutes, then transfer to a rack. Makes about 80 1" cookies.

Rug Hooking Websites – A rug of the Presidential Seal that was originally hooked in Maine in the 1970s when Senator Edmund Muskie ran for the presidency has been donated to the White House. To see the rug and learn more about it, visit www.bangornews.com/detail/97290.html.

[Http://the_welcomemat.ning.com](http://the_welcomemat.ning.com) is a site for rugs hookers interested in networking or blogging.

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

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

March Rug Hooking Workshops at Oakeside - Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury are offering workshops at historic Oakeside on March 16-18, 2009 with Kay Leisey (formerly Levan) and Lucille Festa and on March 20-22 with Judy Carter and Norma Batastini. For more information contact Norma at 973-746-5361 or g_batastini@msn.com.

Out of the Loop: Innovations in Hooking – This exhibit sponsored by the Brookfield Craft Center and Newtown Hooked Rug Show will open at the Craft Center on March 22, 2009 and run through May 3, 2009. The work of 13 artists -- Mary Jane Andreozzi , Marilyn Bottjer, Molly

Colegrove, Linda Rae Coughlin, Liz Alpert Fay, Susan Feller, Glenda Guinn-Gilles, Beth Kempf, Tracy Jamar, Lara Magruder, Constance Old, Alice Rudell and Missy Stevens – will be exhibited. These artists have created unique work by redefining the art form through their innovative use of alternative materials and sculptural forms. There is an opening reception on Sunday, March 22, 2009 from 2-4 and a curator's talk at 3:00. The show is free of charge and open daily (Monday through Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 12-5). The Gallery located at 286 Wisconier Road, Brookfield, CT 06804. For more information call 203-775-4526 or e-mail info@brookfieldcraftcenter.org.

49th Annual Hooked Rug Exhibit – The United Methodist Women of Fairfield Grace Church are sponsoring the exhibit on Saturday, March 28, 2009, from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Fairfield Grace Church is located at 1089 Fairfield Woods Road, adjacent to the Fairfield Woods Branch Library. Admission is \$5.00. The public is encouraged to bring their hooked articles for display. Those bringing five (5) or more finished pieces for display and arriving by 9:30 AM will receive free admission. Guest speaker Trish Becker of The Woolery, Inc. will be presenting: “My Inspiration, Your Inspiration” at 1:00. Designers and suppliers will have hooking materials for purchase. A bag lunch will also be available. For further information, contact Pat Jurgielewicz at prj@discala.com or the Church office at 203-374-6528.

Jersey Girls Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 24 & 25, 2009 at the Firehouse in Oldwick, NJ.

16th Annual Maryland Shores Rug Hooking School – This McGown School will be held in Ocean City, Maryland on April 19-24, 2009. The teachers are Nancy Blood, Vicki Calu, Gail Dufresne, Sarah Guiliani, Betty McClellent, Eric Sandberg and Cynthia Norwood. For more information contact Janice Russell at 410-289-4110 or ocrug@aol.com.

Inspired Art: A Design Workshop for Rug Hookers– Sunday April 26, 2009 at the Brookfield Craft Center (in conjunction with the Newtown Hooked Rug Show) 286 Whisconier Rd., Brookfield, CT 06804 Instructor Peg Irish will assist you in finding ways to interpret the set of medieval tapestries “Lady and the Unicorn” to fit your personal style of hooking. Whatever that style—from wide-cut primitive to shaded floral to intricate geometrics—this workshop is right for all intermediate and advanced students. Bring your regular hooking tools, a piece of your favorite backing and 1-1/2 yards of a fabric you would like to use (you will keep ¼ yard and swap the other five ¼ yard pieces). Your instructor will provide some additional fabrics, and materials for sketching your design. Advance registration required. For more information call the Center at 203-775-4526.

2009 TIGHR Triennial – September 20-23, 2009 In Louisville, KY just before ATHA Biennial. Make it a week in Louisville! Start with The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) then attend the ATHA Conference. Visit www.tighr.net for membership and conference information. Current board -- Susan Feller, President; Linda Rae Coughlin, Vice-President; Stephanie Ashworth-Krauss, Treasurer; Nancy Jewett, Membership; Linda Ratliff, Secretary/Webmaster.

2009 ATHA Biennial – September 23 – 27, 2009 in Louisville, KY. Select classes from 21 notable rug hooking instructors and shop with 17 nationally known vendors. There will be two hooked rug exhibits and a keynote speech by Frank Bielec, star of TLC's “Trading Spaces “. Go to www.atharugs.com/biennials.htm for more information.

The 8th Annual Newtown Rug Exhibit – October 3, 2009 -- Visit www.newtownhookedrugshow.com for more information

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

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

HCRAG Calendar of Events

February 13 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Featured Members Deanna Kinney & Joan Lucas*

March 13, 2009 – Monthly Meeting -- Hooking Animal Eyes – Gail Dufresne*

March 20-22, 2009 - Spring Fling - Flemington Hampton Inn

April 3, 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD -- note date change and change of location to the Court Room in the Police Station within the Raritan Township Municipal Complex.

April 29, 2009 – Bus Trip to Winterthur Museum

May 8, 2009 – Monthly Meeting – Computer Assisted Design for Rugs - Connie Coleman*

June 12, 2009 – Monthly meeting – Annual Picnic*

August 10-14, 2009 – HCRAG Rug Hooking Camp – Educational Services Commission School

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B at 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, it is the first building on the right.

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.

President – Weezie Huntington -- 609-466-1882 or weezie711@gmail.com

Vice President – Open

Historian – Marion Michel – 609-397-3425 or marionmichel@earthlink.net

Hospitality – Helen Buchanan – 908-284-0749 & Barbara Lugg – 908-996-2562

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja@optonline.net

Programs – Sharon Ballard – 908-236-7410

Public Relations/Newsletter -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg@nni.com

Secretary – Joyce Combs -- 609-737-9281 or fjcombs@verizon.net

Special Events -- Kitty Platt – 908-782-8985 or kitty_platt@hotmail.com

Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@att.net

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com

Sunshine – Lib Ryman -- 908-604-9459 or libr21226@aol.com

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

Margaret Brightbill (Asst. Treasurer) – 215-968-2711 or katie4rose@aol.com

Webmaster – Laurie Rubineti -- 908-995-4030 or Lrubinet@ptdprolog.net

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

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

Minutes for January 9, 2009 HCRAG Meeting

Meeting Called to order at 10:07AM by President Weezie Huntington

Old Business:

- . Announcements were made about our Third Annual Rug Hooking Retreat. The Retreat will commence immediately after today's meeting.
- . Winterthur Bus Trip was discussed. The April 29 bus trip will leave Hunterdon County Complex at 8:30AM and will return at 6:00PM.
- . Spring Fling will be opened to people outside the Guild. Dates 3/20, 3/21, and 3/22.
- . Summer Camp enrollment is lower than expected for one of our teachers. A majority of the membership approved a change in teachers to see if there would be more interest in a traditional teacher.
- . Irene Pasternak will be the Guild's event coordinator. Irene will send our membership a spreadsheet listing all shows, demonstrations, fairs, etc that are being considered by our Guild. There will be a point person for each event who will be responsible for coordinating the events. Information on new events should be sent to Irene.
- . The North Hunterdon County Library, Clinton, NJ, will feature a rug show and there will be a demonstration of Rug Hooking in March. Gail Frinando and Cindy Boults and Irene Pasternak will be the coordinators.
- . There are still officer positions that need to be filled.

New Business:

- . The April meeting will be on the 3rd at the Police Station.
- . Weezie told us about Heather Ritchie's Rug Art Charity in Africa. It is to benefit blind people in Africa. Contact Weezie for more information.

Show and Tell

Auction

- . A special hooked pillow cover, hooked by Madelyn Brightbill was auctioned along with many fun and useful items.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Combs
Secretary