

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

February 2011

Presidents' Letter

I am the family wardrobe, best and worst
Of all generations, from the first;
Grandpa's Sunday-go-to meetin' coat,
And the woollen muffler he wore at his throat;
Grandma's shawl, that came from Fayal;
Ma's wedding gown, three times turned and once
 let down,
Which once was plum but now turned brown;
Pa's red flannels, that made him itch;
Pants and shirts; petticoats and skirts;
From one or another, but I can't tell which.
Tread carefully, because you see, if you scuff me,
You scratch the bark of the family tree.

Anonymous poem published in *Old-Time Tools and Toys of Needlework* (1928)

In January, we held our weekend hooking retreat at the Hampton Inn. As always, we had a great deal of fun, laughed a lot and got to know one another a little bit better. It really was a treat to take time out from our busy schedules to do something we love with people we like.

With the new year, many members used the retreat to start a new project or get back to one they had started in the past and then put aside. Seeing rugs and talking to people, we noticed how many people use rug hooking to remember and celebrate the important things in their lives.

Some rugs show homes or places the hooker has lived in or people or favorite pets they have known and loved. Others express themselves in friendship rugs or gift rugs that may be given to family or friends who are moving away, getting married, having a child or reaching another important milestone. Still others use commercial patterns that become their own through the maker's imagination, choice of color and materials selected. Some people literally weave themselves into their work, using strips of clothes that they or a loved-one has worn.

It struck us how our rugs become a very personal expression, a reflection of how we have lived, just like the old wardrobe in the poem above.

Thanks to all who attended the retreat, and a special thanks to Gail Ferdinando and her assistants for coordinating the event and making sure that everything went very smoothly.

Happy Valentine's Day! Dee and Joyce

February Meeting – Friday, February 11, 2011 -- Our normal meeting location is not available in February, so we will meet at our alternate site -- the Court Room in the Police Station within the Raritan Township Municipal Complex at the traffic circle (Rt. 523 and Rt. 12) outside of Flemington. This is the circle a mile or so from our regular meeting location. (If you were leaving our regular meeting site, turn right onto Rt. 12. Go beyond the traffic light to the first traffic circle. The Raritan Township Municipal Complex is on the right just as you enter the traffic circle.) The address for the Complex is 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446, although it does not appear on the road. Our meeting runs from 10-2.

Guild Program – Mary Jo and Karl Gimber have been working on a series of hooked rugs that are inspired by old tavern, trade and farm signs. Over 60 rugs have been completed and each one has a special story behind it. They will be sharing their rugs and what they have learned about rug hooking along the way.

Show & Tell – February is the month of presidents and love. Do you have a rug featuring Lincoln or Washington – maybe a cherry tree or log cabin? Hearts and love are big themes in our rugs– won't you share? We always want to see current projects too.

Those who participate in Show & Tell are eligible for a special raffle prize. Amy Korengut and Irene Pasternak were the winners last month. Amy won pattern transfer adhesive and Irene won a dozen eggs fresh from Gisele's chickens. Remember you need to bring a rug or project to share in order to participate in the raffle drawing.

Hospitality – Susan Atwater, Carol Kindt, Gisele Meader and Dee Rosebrock are our February refreshment volunteers. We thank them in advance for providing the treats that add to our meeting enjoyment.

February Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month – Sharon Ballard (2/7), Ingrid Cosmen (2/25), Janet Kovach (2/18), Joanne McIlmurray (2/4), Dee Rosebrock (2/8), Laurie Rubinetti (2/29), Lib Ryman (2/12) and Janet Santaniello (2/22). Happy Birthday to you all!

Membership – Our current membership list has been sent to members.

Sunshine – We wish Ingrid Cosmen a speedy recovery to the bruises received from a recent fall. Fortunately there were no broken bones.

Please let Janet Santaniello know of any member who needs a "get well" card or a note of cheer (908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com).

Guild News & Events

Time to Start Thinking About Officer Elections – Guild by-laws call for the election of officers each April. Kathy Donovan and Carol Kindt will oversee the nomination process this year and present a list of nominees to the membership at the March meeting.

Officers can serve in either a senior or junior role. The junior person serves as an understudy and back-up to the senior person. There is a list of positions at the end of the newsletter. If you are interested in being nominated, please contact Kathy or Carol by

February 18. Joyce and Dee are also available to discuss the duties required by any of the positions.

Thanks to all who are interested in serving the Guild.

Guild To Exhibit Rugs at Hunterdon County Library -- We will once again have the opportunity of displaying the creative talents found within our Guild. There will be an exhibit at the Main County branch of the Hunterdon County Library during the month of April. This is the Library located within the complex where we normally hold our meetings.

Our pieces will be on display in the locked glass cases in the front of the library where they will receive maximum exposure. Gail Ferdinando will be installing the exhibit and will be collecting items for display at the March meeting. Small rugs, small three dimensional pieces, pillows, punch needle items, mats, etc. are ideal. Gail will collect the pieces at the March meeting. She plans to install the exhibit on Saturday April 2 and can use assistance. Please let her know if you can help.

Exhibits such as this one allows the Guild to spread the word about rug hooking and draws positive attention to HCRAAG.

Goat Hill Guild Has New Officers -- The Goat Hill ATHA Chapter has new officers. Kathleen Murray-Boyda is their new president and Therese Shick is their vice president. Patty Mahaffey continues to serve as secretary. The guild has a new meeting site, the South Branch Reformed Church in Hillsborough, and has established a website – www.goathillatha.weebly.com. Some great rugs are already posted.

Bus Trip to Wool Outlets/Shops – March 2, 2011 -- A bus trip to The Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb), Homespun (Kay Leisey) and Olde Peddler Wools (Morgantown, PA) is being sponsored by the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter on March 2, 2011. The cost is \$20 (nonrefundable). Participants need to provide their own lunch. Contact Sharon Ballard for more information at 908-236-7410.

Need Your Fraser Cutter Blades Sharpened? -- Former Guild Member Rebecca Buckwalter who lives in Lititz, PA located a resource for sharpening Fraser cutter blades. She has had her blades sharpened at Martin's Sharpening in Ephrata, PA. They are a basic sharpening service advertising "quality sharpening since 1972". Rebecca's blades were the first ones they have done, but she was extremely pleased with the quality of the work and the price. Their phone number is 717-733-0511. We assume that shipping can be arranged.

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

For workshop participants, the second payment of \$75 is now due with the balance needed by the end of March. Checks made payable to HCRAAG should be sent to Weezie (1 Kings Path, Hopewell, NJ 08525).

Madeline Brightbill Camp Scholarship – Every year, the Madeline Brightbill Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship to allow a deserving individual to attend the HCRAg summer rug hooking camp. This is awarded by our Scholarship Committee based on nominations and recommendations received from our members. The guidelines for granting the prize are quite broad: it could be used to

- say thanks to a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild;
- recognize a long-time member;
- welcome a new member;
- acknowledge someone who has shown a real commitment to rug hooking;

or for any other purpose that seems appropriate.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, or if you would like to be considered yourself, please contact Joyce or Dee, co-chairs of the Scholarship Committee, by March 11, 2011.

Attend HCRAg Camp Free -- Members who provide housing for a camp instructor attend camp free. All that is required is to provide housing, breakfast and dinner for the week. Lunch is provided by the Guild. You are not expected to entertain the instructors. They are tired at the end of the day and need time to relax, reflect on the day and prepare for the next day. If you have interest, let Camp Directors Gail Ferdinando or Debbie Walsh know.

HCRAg 15th Annual Rug Hooking Camp --Our Guild's 15th annual rug hooking camp will be held from August 15, 2011 through August 19, 2011. In keeping with our tradition, nationally recognized instructors -- Jane Halliwell Green, Kris McDermet and Iris Simpson – will provide a stimulating, educational and fun camp experience. At the present time, both Jane Halliwell Green's and Iris Simpson's workshops are full. Debbie Walsh is maintaining a waiting list. Kris's class will also be an open hooking class for students who would like to hook in addition to braiding, or instead of braiding

Our Teachers and Their Classes:

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

Jane will also teach wide-cut florals that she calls "Close Ups." These rugs or wall hangings are hooked in a wide cut, anything from a #8 cut to a ripped strip of wool measuring close to one inch. The rugs are extremely fast to hook and dramatic in their appearance. Size can vary from a 16" pillow square to a 48" X

48" wall hanging. Jane frequently uses dip dyes to create the petals. She will have a number of her own patterns available or students may design their own.

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

Kris McDermet (After the Hooking Comes Braiding and/or Open Workshop) Students will have a choice of learning how braiding can complement a hooked piece, hooking in addition to braiding, or instead of braiding

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

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

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

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

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

Refund Policy –For cancellations received on or before June 10, 2011, the camp fee less the \$25 non-refundable deposit will be made. For cancellations received after June 10th, no refunds will be made unless the camp vacancy is filled and paid in full.

For more information, contact Debbie Walsh at 908-272-7012 or debywalsh@yahoo.com or Gail Ferdinando at 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com.

Fundraising Auction a Huge Success -- Members who came to our annual fundraising auction came “loaded for bear”! They were prepared to take advantage of auction bargains. Madeline Brightbill’s fine cut pillow donated by Margaret Brightbill and a Grenfell style pictorial donated by Guild friend Cindy MacMillan drew the highest bids of the day. A partial list of the other items donated by Guild members includes the following:

- Books (hooking, quilting, etc.)
- Box lot of dyes and swatches
- Finishing tape (rolls)
- Hooking frames
- Lots of wool including yards of Dorr wool
- Punch needle pins
- Patterns
- Puritan stand
- Quilted pieces (antique and new)
- Vintage luggage
- Wine rack
- Wool cutter (new)

When Weezie’s gavel fell for the last time, over \$800 had been committed by active and aggressive auction bidders. Thanks to all who helped make our auction a success!

Hooking Retreat – Shortly after our last meeting Guild members began to arrive at the Flemington Hampton Inn to set up for the weekend retreat -- our 5th. The retreat attracts a blending of “regulars” who attend every one with those who came for the first time. The treats provided were superb and resulted in multiple requests for recipes, the first of which is included in this issue of The Loop.

Those staying overnight took a break for dinner and continued hooking until 11:00 PM Friday and Saturday nights. Pizza was ordered in Saturday night and the group spread out in the lobby lounge. By Saturday everyone was ready for a relaxing massage. Our favorite masseuse, Joy Andrews, worked her magic on the stiff muscles. Conversations

moved beyond rug hooking and ranged from the serious to the not so serious – everything from Israeli/Palestinian problems to movie reviews to techniques to help chickens overcome depression.

Retreaters took advantage of having others available to get ideas and suggestions on their rugs. The new hookers received an abundance of encouragement and advice. A listing of the type of rugs worked on could be used as the table of contents in a book on rug hooking. The patterns included geometrics, pictorials, primitives and portraits. Rugs were being hooked in fine and wide cuts. The retreat provided serious hooking time to work on “UFOs”; nine rugs were completed! Annie Edwards took a group photo that has been sent to the local papers along with an article. At the conclusion of the retreat, all agreed that the time went too fast and that we need to do this again soon.

Meet Our Featured Member – Therese Shick – Working with her hands was an important part of her life as Therese Shick was growing up. She did quilting, cross stitch, toile painting and sewing to name a few of her creative interests. In 2006 while taking her son to an art program at the Red Mill Museum in Clinton, NJ she saw an announcement for a rug hooking workshop to be conducted by Gail Dufresne. It was held one day a week for five weeks during which time they worked on a log cabin pattern. “I was hooked right from the beginning and could not wait for the next week’s class” recalls Therese.

Following the completion of the beginners’ workshop Therese attended open studio days at Gail Dufresne’s studio in Lambertville. In time she learned of Jeannine Happe’s studio and shop (Two Old Crows). Therese was attracted by Jeannine’s color preferences and hooking style. She is a regular participant at the Thursday hooking gathering at the Two Old Crows.

Primitive rugs with the country look fit in well with the décor of Therese’s home, although she likes to challenge herself by working on patterns that go beyond the typical wide cut primitive. She is fascinated by portraits and has just started one that is based on a photograph of her sister’s daughter. Her plan is to complete a rug that will be relatively realistic. When hooking outside her comfort zone, Therese says “I like to jump in and learn from my mistakes”.

Therese enjoys attending hooking camps, but prefers ones that are within driving distance. “We are so fortunate to have wonderful teaching resources within our locality and we do not have to go far to work with the best teachers”, she notes. For the past three years, Therese has gone to Cape May in September where she has worked with Cindi Gay, Cherylyn Brubaker and Kris Miller. “Cape May is fantastic; very enjoyable”, according to Therese. She has also studied with Cynthia Norwood at Gail Dufresne’s Studio and with Jennifer Manuel at the HCRAG March Madness Weekend. “I have learned something different from each one”, Therese says.

Therese prefers hooking with #7 and #8 cuts and works almost exclusively with new wool. When it comes to patterns, Therese prefers to design her own. However, recently, she has started to purchase a few. “There are so many wonderful patterns out there but this year I want to get back to designing more of my own. I enjoy doing it.”

Dyeing wool is something that Therese does “in spurts”. Getting out the dye pots is an all day event and needs to be planned for a day when she will be free. Her dyeing is

typically project oriented. She is planning a dye day soon for the flesh colored wool needed in her portrait project. In preparation Therese has been collecting and studying magazines with images of portraits.

Being the daughter from a farming family, Therese tended to get up early even in childhood. That practice continues with her today. She is typically up at 4:30 or 5:00 and tries to hook for a couple of hours before she heads out for the gym around 6:30. She sometimes hooks at night, but prefers to hook with natural light. Hooking on a regular basis is an important part of Therese's life and her husband Eric observes that "she is nuts about hooking and gets cranky if she has not hooked for a few days."

When she reflects on why rug hooking has become such an important part of her life, Therese believes it has a lot to do with her independent personality. She likes that she can control the whole hooking process from start to end and she does not have to leave home to do it. She has her backing, supply of wool, equipment and patterns. The feel of working with wool also appeals to her. The frugal origins and North American history of rug hooking strikes a responsive cord as well.

Therese and Eric live in Annandale, NJ with their two sons – Rob, age 24, and Michael, age 21. Rob is in the process of changing careers and Michael is a computer science major at George Washington University. After earning a degree in accounting, Therese was at a summer internship where she met her future husband. Their work took them to New Hampshire for ten years before returning to New Jersey. Eric now does investor relations. If she had to do it all over, Therese says she "would have gotten a teaching degree", but in her heart she always wanted to be a mom.

When she is not hooking, Therese still does counted cross stitch and during the spring and summer she spends a lot of time outside gardening. She enjoys searching for antique pieces that can be incorporated into her landscaping.

Both Jeannine Happe and Gail Dufresne mentioned our Guild and encouraged Therese to get involved as a way to expand her hooking network. Therese is also active in the Goat Hill ATHA Chapter and was recently elected Vice President. She finds both guilds inspirational. Therese has generously donated items for our annual fundraising auction. The recipes for the refreshments she brings to our meetings are routinely requested.

To see some of Therese's rugs go to the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) and click on Hooker of the Month. It is hard to believe that Therese has only been hooking for five years!

Hooking Information & Techniques

Working in Thrums -- The January/February 1988 issue of Rug Hooker News & Views contained an article written by Mary Sheppard Burton entitled "Working in Thrums – A Surface Technique as Old as the Hills". Portions of the article were presented in previous issues of The Loop. The final segment is repeated below.

"In a remote hamlet in North Carolina there is an isolated village where the natives still speak in pure Elizabethan tongue. They live and speak and perform

in the manner of old English custom. One of these customs is the making of mats – yes – MATS.

They are so rarely found in our modern world of machine-made rugs that one is seldom seen outside a museum. I have one such mat and feel it is one of my greatest treasures. It is from this little hamlet.

Today hooked work has seen several rejuvenating periods where the hooked craft was invigorated. Techniques have grown by leaps and bounds. The knowledge and techniques of dyeing have brought tremendous beauty to the humble beginnings of the old mat.

There is a nucleus of rug hooking artists in North America who not only create their own designs on linen or cotton backing, but who also dye their own wool flannel by numerous methods. These few who habitually create original hooked work are the link in time from the craftsmen of the past to the fiber artists of the future.

In the Middle Atlantic area just such a group exists. Their's is a world centered in the making of hooked art. They have studied and refined their knowledge in ways that made it instantly known as ART. "Potomac Thrummers are truly folk artists of great merit". There may be less than one hundred such people in all of North America.

The artist learns the tricks of the craftsman and uses that knowledge as a guide. Beyond the development of beautiful craftsmanship, the artist knows the gnawing of a spirit from within. Something from somewhere deposits a thought within the soul of the artist that is unlike any other. Creative perception begins to take actual form. This is the Art Spirit. There is a communication unspoken, but the power of that communication is felt by the masses. It is an awesome power of the senses surpassed only by the power of survival. Thus through art the aesthetic experience transcends time."

Tips From Heloise (aka Lydia Lewis) – RED is the color for February as we celebrate Valentine's Day. Colors create a mood. Colors affect our feelings, they can stimulate us or sooth us. Colors seem to have a life of their own, as some stand out and demand attention while others are retiring and quiet. (just like personalities) Using color in our rugs effectively means choosing colors that go well together and selecting the right hues for contrast. Well balanced color is important in a rug. For good balance, you equalize the amount of one color with the intensity of another

From Nina's Notebook – Happy Valentine's Day! February is the month of love and gives us rug hookers lots of good ideas for new mats, large or small. Last year the Guild had an exchange of heart mats and each one was delightful as well as unique.

One of my favorite old primitive patterns is the hearts and hands designs. It shows a human hand and a heart shape and can be hooked in a variety of ways. Several years ago we spent a Valentine's weekend with dear friends and decided that we would make a mat to commemorate the occasion.

I asked each person to trace their right hand. Then they were to draw a heart. Together we created a pattern that showed the four hands joined together with a circle to symbolize the bond of friendship we had. In the four corners we had the hearts, which were various sizes and configurations.

I asked each person to choose from the batch of wool I had put together the color or type of wool that they would like to have hooked to represent their heart. I used flesh colors for the hand and reds of various shades and patterns for the hearts. One person chose a gold and black plaid which resembled his college colors for his heart and I used some of that material for the ring on the hand of his wife. The background was antique black, an army khaki blanket which had been over-dyed with black and brown. It turned out to be a favorite mat of all four of us.

Now we trade the mat back and forth...each one of us having it for a period of time. It is a real celebration of a friendship that has lasted many, many years. Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Need a Rug Photographed? -- If you need a professional quality photo of one of your rugs for a Celebrations entry, magazine article or for your personal use contact Cindy MacMillan. She has photographed rugs for articles in Rug Hooking Magazine, The ATHA Newsletter and did all the photography for Gail Dufresne's new book on geometric rugs. You can reach Cindy at 215-504-2658 or cmacmillan9@comcast.net.

HCRAG Library – Librarian, Kathy Donovan, brings a selection of books to each meeting. If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact her by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or frejja2@verizon.net.

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

Favorite Recipes -- Those attending the Guild's retreat enjoyed a variety of delicious treats made especially for the weekend. In response to requests for the recipes, we begin this month with Dutch Almond Squares prepared by Amy Korengut. The recipe originally came from Sally Livingston a fellow hooker from Glen Rock, NJ.

Mix with your hands:

1 ½ c flour ½ t salt
½ c sugar 1 egg yolk (save the whites)
2 sticks unsalted butter

Spread in a 9 x 13" glass baking dish. Bake 10 minutes at 400. Cool 15 minutes.

Mix well with hands and set aside:

1 c sugar 1 18 oz. can almond paste
2 egg yolks (save the whites) 1 t lemon juice

Beat together until foamy (not stiff):

3 egg whites 1 T sugar
1 t vanilla

Add almond paste; mixture will be lumpy. Spread over baked crust. Sprinkle with 1 c sliced almonds (more if you like). Bake 30 minutes at 325

I used my hands because a fork was just too difficult. -- Amy Korengut

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

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Bus Trip to Rebecca Erb’s Wool Studio – March 2, 2011 -- A bus trip to Rebecca Erb’s Wool Studio, Kay Leisey’s Homespun and the Olde Peddler Wools is being sponsored by the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter on March 2, 2011. The cost is \$20. Contact Sharon Ballard for more information at 908-236-7410.

March Rug Hooking Workshops at Oakside – March 15-17, 2011 – Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury have announced their 3rd annual spring workshop series at historic Oakside in Bloomfield, NJ. Inspired by the antique American rugs seen at Shelburne Museum, they are teaming up with Lucille Festa (American Country Rugs) to offer two exciting classes – Historic American Rugs and Primitive Americana. For additional information contact Norma at 973-746-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com or Linda at 973-743-6835 or linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

2011 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village – August 17-20, 2011 are the dates for Rug Hooking Week which includes workshops (Jeanne Field, Cindi Gay, Jen Levoie and Susan Quicksall) and exhibits including the Celebrations XXI Exhibit. Get the latest information at www.saudervillage.org or by calling 800-590-9755.

Harvest Celebration at the Wool Studio – October 18- 23, 2011 – Rebecca Erb is hosting this special event at the new location of her studio which is half an hour north of Lancaster, PA . Participants will include Homespun (Kay Leisey), Jim Brewley (hand-turned wooden snippet bowls), Misty Pond Primitives (Pat Donoho), Wool’n Gardner (Jan Cole), Wood Crest Rug Design (Joanne Gerwig) and the Wool Studio (Rebecca Erb). Visit www.thewoolstudio.com for directions and more information.

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

Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild Exhibit and Workshops – November 12-20, 2011 – “All the Live Long Day” is the theme for the popular Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild’s rug exhibit. After a year off, the Guild is returning to Shelburne Museum for its highly anticipated exhibit, workshops, vendors and special events. Visit the Guild’s website – www.gmrhg.org – for more information.

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.

HCRAAG Calendar of Events

February 11, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Tavern & Trade Sign Hooked Rugs (Karl Gimber) **

March 11, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Round Robin led by Members *

April 1-30, 2011 – Hooked Rug Exhibit – Hunterdon County Library, Rt. 12
Flemington, NJ

April 8, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Mola Mats Lecture & Workshop (Norma Batastini) *

April 29- May 1, 2011 – Spring Fling – Geometrics (Sandra Brown) Hampton Inn,
Flemington, NJ

May 13, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Proddy Mats (Kay Weeks) *

June 10, 2011 -- Monthly Meeting – Annual Picnic *

August 15-19, 2011 – HCRAAG Rug Hooking Camp (June Halliwell Green, Kris McDermet and
Iris Simpson) – ESC School, Lambertville, NJ.

August 16, 2011 – HCRAAG Beginners’ Workshop – ESC School, Lambertville, NJ.

September 9, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

October 14, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

November 11, 2011 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD **

December 9, 2011 – 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 uncoolfred@aol.com

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

Historian – Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or sojon@comcast.net

Hospitality – Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com

Librarian – Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net

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

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

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

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

Special Events – Gail Ferdinando – 908-735-6720 or
thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com and

Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or gutvet@optonline.net

Sunshine – Janet Santaniello – 908-754-6787 or flowjans@hotmail.com

Treasurer – Margaret Brightbill - 215-968-2711 or margaretbrightbill1@gmail.com

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