

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

June 2016

Presidents' Letter – We are all home from our travels now, and like many of you, we are planning for our summers. We are laying out and installing gardens; we are thinking about what to hook in August at our school. So much on our plates. (Some of us are still working on our pictures from Iceland).

Taking a quick look back at this past year, we can see many big events and accomplishments: the Festival, two retreats, many demos, and a new board installed. What are your hopes and dreams for this wonderful Guild? Could you please let us know? It is YOUR Guild, and if you don't tell us what you want, we will not know (we are not mind readers).

We have a lot of stuff happening at our June meeting/”pignic”: we will EAT (and *well*, I might add); there will be a wool, silk and pattern auction; Annie will instruct us on taking pictures of our rugs; membership forms will be available for those wishing to get a jump on next year's membership (our year begins September 1 and ends at the end of August); I will be issuing two summer challenges; we will have the drawing for the winners of prizes for show and tell participants (names have been accumulating throughout the year); we will hear all the things that are upcoming. So this is a meeting you do not want to miss. Be sure to bring your food item with you when you come—and thank you in advance for all the good stuff that we know will show up.

As this year winds down, we would like to thank those who worked in the background—backgrounds are very important. The Hospitality ladies deserve a great round of applause, as does Kathy Donovan for keeping all of our books; plus we have sunshine, our historian, our mentoring program, and those who coordinate our demos, Spring Fling, retreats, and the other things we do. We cannot be the Guild we are without a lot of people participating. A heartfelt THANK YOU to each of you.

And then there are those who are not background—Karl, Debbie, Anndee, Eleanor, Ellen, Therese, Jean, Dee---some of you are moving on, some are moving up—THANK YOU. This Guild is a group effort, and it shows.

Wishing you fast, even loops of whatever height you want. Weezie, Jan and Fred

June Meeting – Friday, June 10, 2016 – Our last meeting of the program year will be our traditional potluck picnic luncheon at our normal location – the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington. The street address of the Complex is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. **Please note that the meeting will begin an hour later at 11:00.**

Guild Program – For those who have not attended in the past, this is an inside picnic. It is a potluck affair and all members are requested to bring their favorite appetizer, entrée, salad or dessert. HCRAG members are known for their exceptional cooking skills as well as their rug hooking. The food is wonderful!! The informal nature of the picnic presents an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better and to do some hooking. Bring your hooking!

Guild members who took Michele Mircarelli's pouch class but have not yet completed their project are asked to bring their pouch to the June meeting. Those who finished their pouches are being asked to help members who did not finish. Some may only need some encouragement or may require some additional instruction. This program is about us helping each other understand and complete a slightly complicated project.

Weezie will dazzle us with her auctioneer skills again this month with a mini wool auction.

Show & Tell – Please bring and share your current projects. Our Show & Tell raffle winners will be drawn and prizes will be awarded.

June Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - Lydia Brenner (6/4), Alma Coia (6/22), Chris Coslet (6/12), Gail Ferdinando (6/6), Cheryl Halliday (6/18), Jackie Lee (6/26), Barbara Lugg (6/15), Kathleen Murray-Boyda (6/1), Teddi Pearson (6/26), and Debbie Walsh (6/6) celebrate birthdays in June. We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

The Loop is not published in July and August, so we want to recognize in advance Guild members with birthdays during the summer.

July Birthdays -- Sharon Bennett (7/9), Jean Graham (7/23), Aggie Harris (7/8), Weezie Huntington (7/11), Lisa Savino (7/6), Nina Seaman (7/20), Susan Schulz (7/13), Virginia Sutton (7/14), and Betsy Warner (7/10) have birthdays in July. Happy Birthday!

August Birthdays – Bernadette Andrejco (8/16), Jan Cole (8/8), Sandy Denarski (8/6), Lynda Kling (8/25), Deb Lesher, Brigitte Levine (8/2), Mary Passerello, Carolyn Russo (8/27), Jeanne Surdi (8/30), Martha Thieling (8/19), and Janet Williams (8/6) have birthdays in August. Enjoy your special day!

Membership – We welcome Phyllis Fittipaldi and Anne Penkal to our Guild. Their contact information follows:

Phyllis Fittipaldi 9 Larson Lane Warren, NJ 07059-5004	Anne Penkal 470 Coachlight Circle Harleysville, PA 19438 215-256-1029 ampenkal@gmail.com
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Anne is Jane Anderson's sister-in-law and is scheduled to attend our summer rug hooking school.

Jane Anderson is our Featured Member this month. Her mother-in-law, Marjorie "Marge" Anderson, became a Guild member shortly after HCAG was formed 39 years ago. Our charter members and other long time members may remember Marge. We thank Jane for sharing the following early Guild history.

"My mother-in-law got involved in the Guild through Penny Waring Hayes who was a founding member. Marge attended classes in Penny's home in Frenchtown with about three or four others from the Bethlehem area about twice a month. Even though Marge was McGown certified she did not learn how to hook primitive styles through McGown, only fine hooking and so was learning that from Penny. HCAG had just formed and was looking for more members and Penny invited my mother-in-law. She joined and attended a few meetings and a rug and quilt show at a high school, she recalled. But then she was too busy with her family and her own teaching that she started and found herself unable to make it to meetings regularly so dropped out. But she said she still had the wooden name tag from the Guild up until a few years ago!"

A current membership list is being sent along with the newsletter for your use in reaching members during the summer.

Sunshine – Our warmest condolences are extended to Kay Leisey (Homespun) at the passing of her father last month.

Amy Korengut is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Fred Cole is scheduled for similar surgery on June 1. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Inform our Sunshine Chair Gail Ferdinando (908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com) of any member who is ill or in need of a note of cheer.

Guild News & Events

October Hooking Retreat --There was enough interest in an October hooking retreat so it is a go. It will start 3:00 on Friday, October 14 and run through Sunday October 16 at the Flemington Hampton Inn. The cost is still \$45 for the entire weekend. Gail Ferdinando will be collecting names and money at summer rug school in August and Debbie Walsh will collect money at the June and September meetings. Checks can also be mailed to Gail at 4 Bonnell Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867 at any time. Any questions can be directed to her at gqferd@gmail.com.

Summer Demonstration Schedule – Volunteers are needed to support our Guild's active demonstration schedule this summer. During the summer we will be demonstrating at the:

- 1) Mercer County 4-H Fair (July 30 & 31)
- 2) Hunterdon County 4-H and Agricultural Fair (August 25)
- 3) Garden State Sheep & Fiber Festival (September 10 & 11)

Mercer County 4-H Fair (July 30 & 31, 2016) -- Howell Living Farm is the ideal location for a 4-H Fair. We will be set up under a large tent in the field behind the Visitors Center. Volunteers need to provide chairs and bring lunch or purchase food that will be available. Demonstrators are needed for both days. Karl Gimber is our Event Coordinator. Contact him at 215-297-0803 or karlgl2@verizon.net to let him know if you can assist. The event is free and attracts many local families.

Hunterdon County 4-H Fair and Agricultural Fair (August 25, 2016) - This old fashioned fair attracts large crowds during its five days at the end of August. Several craft guilds including HCRAF will be exhibiting their work in locked, protective cases. Ribbons will be awarded in several categories. Each Guild is assigned a day to demonstrate their craft. Our Guild will be demonstrating on Thursday, August 25th from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM. If you are available to help with the demo, please contact Mary Passerello (908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net) or Diane Liberto (908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com), our Event Coordinators.

Mary and Diane will be collecting the hooked items for display at our meeting on June 10th and at our Rug Hooking School on August 11th between 12:00 PM and 3:00 PM. They will distribute the 4-H Hooked Rug Division Entry Form on June 10th and August 11th. If you would like to make other arrangements for submitting your hooked items, please contact Mary or Diane.

The Garden State Sheep Festival (September 10 & 11, 2016) – The Festival will be at the Hunterdon County Fair Grounds in Ringoes, NJ. This popular event draws large crowds of people interested in fiber arts. We need demonstrators for both days. Contact Amy Korengut, our

event coordinator, to help out with this fabulous event. She can be reached at 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com.

New Additions to Our Library Have Been Made –Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, reports the following additions to the Guild collection of rug hooking books:

We would like to thank Karl and Mary Jo Gimber for their donation of their newly released Tavern Signs: Contemporary Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell. If you have missed seeing Karl's wonderful rugs over the years take a look through their book or older members can just review the wonderful rugs we as a Guild have been privileged to see created during Karl's membership. You will also enjoy a brief history lesson on tavern signs in general and how they inspired each rug design.

Also added is Anne-Marie Littenberg's Hooked Rug Portraits. If you are thinking of creating a portrait of a favorite person or even a cherished pet this will give you a starting point and guide lines for creating that project.

Paulette Hackman's brand new book Story Rugs and their Storytellers Rug Hooking in the Narrative Style has also been added.

These books and an assortment of catalogues (for potential summer projects) will be available at our next meeting.

We are going to ask for some work from you regarding a topic of our next meeting. Would everyone please think about our library and how we can better utilize it. Please bring ideas and suggestions to our June meeting. Even if you are happy with its current status please mention that. We are open to any and all suggestions.

Stock Up For Summer Reading – Now is the time to borrow books from the Guild's extensive library to provide for your summer reading. The listing of books in the library can be found on the Guild's website (www.hcrag.com). All you need to do to borrow books is to contact Kathy Donovan, our Librarian, by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring them to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or freyja2@verizon.net.

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

Save the Date – October 22, 2016 (Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild Hook-in) – The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild's 11th Annual Autumn Hook-In will be held on October 22, 2016 at the Kimberton Fire Company, 2276 Firehouse Lane, Kimberton, PA 19442 from 9am to 4pm. Registration forms as well as the box lunch descriptions are now available on their website <http://www.brandywinerughookingguild.org/2016-hook-in.html>.

Lucy Trask Barnard and Her Rugs (Part 2) -- The May 2016 issue of Maine Antique Digest has a fascinating article by Mildred Cole Peladeau on rugs hooked in the mid-1800s by Lucy Trask Barnard. We continue the story by quoting from the article:

“...Recently another possible Barnard rug came to light. It was purchased at an antiques show by Maine collector Joseph Caputa. This one is a linen-based hooked rug with similarities to the Barnard rugs now in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

“Attribution to Barnard is based on similarities in content and colors with the Metropolitan-owned rugs, all large scenic designs featuring Dixfield, Maine, area homes with their auxiliary outbuildings. The Metropolitan’s so-called Betsy rug, featuring a horse by that name, is the one most closely resembling the rug Caputa bought. Although it lacks some of the more sophisticated nuances of Barnard’s later rugs, it likely was one of the first rugs Barnard ever made.

“The linen foundation in the Caputa rug is a strong indication it was made before availability of burlap, probably in the late 1840s or as late as 1850, when it could well have been the rug that won Barnard first premium at the Oxford (Maine) County Fair held that year. The three rugs at the Metropolitan span the middle years of Barnard’s career between the late 1850s and 1870. The two Barnard rugs now at the Farnsworth were hooked on burlap; one is believed to have been made in the early 1850s, the second toward the end of her rug-hooking career, circa 1875. This is highly significant historically since it provides us with what may well be a unique collection presenting a lifetime rug-hooking career of a 19th century upper-middle class housewife. Barnard’s birth date of 1800 conveniently helps identify her age at the time each rug was made. The earliest examples of hooked rugs date to 1838. This means that Barnard did not start hooking until she was 38 years old.

“Whether Barnard learned the technique or she had innate talent, her rugs show a sophisticated awareness of perspective through the use of oversized flowers in not only the foreground of the Caputo rug, but also in the three Metropolitan rugs, creating an illusion of three-dimensional depth. This technique is repeated in developing the house sites of the four rugs through the nearly identical vertical striations hooked into the lawns, elevating the buildings to hilltop height.

“Barnard also showed her understanding of perspective by including two sides to the houses as opposed to the flat facades in more primitive house depictions. While the weeping willow tree is unique to the Caputa rug, the tree at the left is essentially the same tree as the one at the left of the ‘Betsy’ rug, making it likely that the two rugs were created by the same craftsman.”

The story will be continued in future issues of The Loop.

Beginner's Workshop Offered – August 9, 2016 – Cheryl Halliday, a certified McGown instructor, will be teaching the Beginners' Workshop that is offered during our annual rug hooking school at the ESC School. This year the workshop will be held on Tuesday, August 9 from 9:00 until noon. The fee is \$70, which includes a pattern on linen backing, a hook, wool, and basic frame. Participants need to provide a sharp scissors. Beginners are welcome to bring a lunch and stay to hook for the afternoon with those attending school. The workshop is intended for adults.

To register, mail a check made out to HCAG to Eleanor Dunker, 1789 Jacksonville-Jobstown Road, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Questions can also be directed to Eleanor at 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.com.

Wool Request – Beginners' Workshop – Cheryl Halliday has prepared a great basket of flowers pattern for the beginners attending the summer rug school in August. It has been our practice to ask members to donate wool for the kits so that we can reduce the expenses associated with offering the workshop. For these new rug hooking students, Cheryl needs:

- Browns
- Golds
- Greens
- all colors for flowers in solids and plaids

Also, any selvedges would be appreciated. This year she needs the wool cut in #6 thru #8 strips and tied in bundles if possible. Yardage will also be accepted. If you can donate any of the needed wool, *please bring them to the June Guild meeting.* Thank you in advance for your generosity.

2016 Rug Hooking School – Our 20th Rug Hooking School is scheduled for August 8-12, 2016 with instructors Norma Batastini, Nancy Jewett, Iris Simpson and Ali Strebler. Typically at this time of the year, cancellations and workshop shifts take place. At this time, there are currently openings in the workshops of Norma (1), Nancy (2) and Iris (3).

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

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

[Additional information can be found on our website \(www.hcrag.com\).](http://www.hcrag.com)

Guild Returns to the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center – In August 2006 our Guild held a “hooking bee” at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center that was held in conjunction with an exhibit of members’ hooked rugs. Ten years later the Heritage Center was the site for our May “field trip.” Thirty four members took advantage of the opportunity to view the special exhibit, “Within and Without: The Art of the Book,” on display in the Fraktur Gallery and Schwenkfelder Townscape wool embroidered pictures and shop at the Penn Dry Goods Market, an antiques show and sale which featured antique and vintage textiles. Hooked rug artisan Susan Feller shared her “year study” of “elements and principles,” an exploration of technique, material and composition done on a daily basis for one year.

Upon leaving the Heritage Center our group traveled a short distance to Kay Leisey’s Homespun, a throwback to the old general stores with original counters and shelving.

The general consensus was that this was a wonderful trip and enjoyed by all. Perhaps the comments shared below say it all.

- “I loved the Schwenkfelder trip and was pleasantly surprised that Homespun had some older Jo Morton fabrics. Of course I had to buy a little of everything to add to my stash.”
- “Susan’s Feller’s presentation was excellent. Really enjoyed her.”
- “The museum was small but had some old and interesting things to see.”
- “The antique vendors had some of the oldest antiques for sale that I have seen in a long time.”
- “Our group had a great time.”
- “I especially enjoyed Susan Feller’s talk. It was fascinating to hear about the processes that go on to produce an art piece. The structure of her 365 days of hooking gave her the freedom to create on a small scale, yet gave her the motivation to try new ideas. Wow,

- how impressive to hear and see the product of a true artist! Her 5x5 squares are gorgeous!"
- "The trip to Homespun was fruitful. I was able to purchase supplies to make a great cushion. Bought a pattern and some red dot so that I could transfer the pattern to the linen (expanding my rug hooking skill repertoire)."

A special "Thank You" goes to Ellen DiClemente for all her work in planning and organizing this special experience.

Demonstration at Howell Farm Sheep Shearing Cancelled – The Guild was scheduled to demonstrate rug hooking at Howell Farm on May 7; however, the weather did not cooperate. The forecast called for a cold and wet day. Howell Living Farm is one of our favorite sites for demonstrating rug hooking. We look forward to returning to sheep shearing next year.

HCrag Website -- Our Guild's website (www.hcrag.com) is an important source of Guild and rug hooking information. The site includes a wealth of information for rug hookers that is updated monthly.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Karl Gimber at karl12@verizon.net. The photo needs to be well focused and identified with your name and the name of the rug, as follows: Lastname.Firstname.Rugname. Without this identification protocol, we cannot assure that rugs will be uploaded to the site. Members who cannot attend meetings now have an opportunity to share their rugs.

Members are requested to grant the Guild permission to include their rug photos on the website.

Meet Our Secretary – Jane Anderson – Jane Anderson's introduction to rug hooking started 30 years ago and was influenced by her husband's family. She learned hooking from her mother-in-law, Marjorie "Marge" Anderson, who is a McGown certified instructor. Marge, in turn, learned from her mother, Mary Gilbert, who was also McGown certified. Interestingly, Marge who lives in Bethlehem, PA was an early HCrag member around 1978-1980 at the invitation of Penny Waring Hayes who at the time was a Guild member and teacher instructing Marge on primitive style hooking. To complete the family story, Jane's sister-in-law and Marge's daughter, Anne Penkal, is also a hooker and just joined our Guild.

In 1987, Jane completed the beginner's project given to her by her mother-in-law. She was then given a Patsy Becker floral design from Marge for her next project but job demands and starting a family prevented her from doing it. In fact rug hooking was put on the back burner until Jane retired in 2013. Not long after, Marge encouraged Jane to start hooking again. "I needed a break for a bit and was not ready to start any new activities," Jane recalls. By September 2014, Jane responded to Marge's encouragement and pulled out the Patsy Becker pattern that had been put away many years ago. The color planning had already been done with bags of wool strips neatly organized by Marge. After a few refresher lessons Jane was hooking again, though somewhat unenthusiastically taking at least five month to complete that piece.

All that changed with her next project – a mermaid pattern also given to her by her mother-in-law. This time Jane was more involved in the color planning and finding some of the wool herself. That seemed to make the process more engaging, plus Jane found the pattern to be truly delightful to work on, and as a result she finished that piece in little more than a month. Also with that rug her mother-in-law taught her marbling dye methods and Jane was surprised that she really enjoyed it. Jane has continued to learn many other dyeing techniques from Marge. "Dyeing is now one of my favorite aspects of hooking!"

Jane initially learned to hook with #6 cuts but quickly started incorporating #4 cuts too. “I prefer #4 cuts for specific design elements, combined with #6 cuts for background hooking.” When it comes to patterns, Jane really likes colorful, whimsical, pictorial patterns. “I find them the most fun to work on and when I am enjoying the pattern and color, I spend more time hooking.” Jane prefers to design her own patterns or to modify commercial ones. Her current pattern features a fairy and frog adapted from vintage illustrations.

With a McGown certified teacher in the family, Jane did not find it necessary to seek out other instructors initially. However, she did find Michele Micarelli’s recent Guild program to be an eye opener. “I was enthralled with her use of embellishments and have since worked something into each rug.” She also found Guild member demonstrations on various finishing techniques at the April meeting to be enlightening and is planning to try those methods on future rugs. Jane is looking forward to attending her first HCAG Rug School in August and will be working with Nancy Jewett. “Learning new techniques helps keep hooking fresh and exciting.”

Initially, Jane started hooking with recycled clothing she found at thrift shops and wool from her mother-in-law’s stash. She increasingly hooks with new wool from Dorr Mills, Rebecca Erb and Jan Cole and is building a stash of her own, the expansion of which has led her to turning their guest bedroom into a hooking studio. “Keeping the wool organized and handy is a challenge!” She still enjoys visiting thrift shops looking for favorite colors.

“I find hooking to be relaxing and try to work on my rug every day. Otherwise I get cranky.” Jane jokes. “Early in the morning between 7:00 and 8:00 is my favorite time and again around late afternoon if I can fit it in.” If the weather is bad, or Jane has started a new exciting project, she sometimes will devote a large part of the day to hooking. She prefers to hook with natural light and with music in the background.

Jane started to look for rug hooking resources in the area when her mother-in-law mentioned that “There is a very active guild in Hunterdon County.” Jane found the HCAG website and got in touch with Weezie and Therese who encouraged her to come to our September meeting. She recalls that “I walked in and had a very lost look on my face, I am sure. Barb Perry came right over and welcomed me to sit with her and Linda Reitz.” The warm welcome resulted in Jane joining the Guild and volunteering to serve as the Guild’s Secretary. She also hooks with the group that meets weekly at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ.

Like many of our members, Jane grew up learning to sew from her mother, as well as embroidery, needle point and crocheting. She went on to “dabble” with other textile related activities such as quilting. Gardening, cooking and reading have always been other primary hobbies. Jane now devotes a lot of time on her rug hooking. “It is more than pulling loops. The process allows you to do so much more, if you want to – dyeing, designing, planning, and creating.”

Jane and her husband, Dave, live in Clinton Township, NJ with their two sons, Erik and Adam, and their rescue cat, Marbles. “Marbles loves to sit and watch me hook,” Jane notes. Dave is a chemical engineer with a major chemical manufacturer. Erik is a biomedical engineer at a medical device company. Adam is preparing for a career in restaurant management. Before retiring in 2013, Jane was a Marketing Director at Alcatel-Lucent, where she devoted 30 full-time years as it transformed from AT&T to Alcatel-Lucent working in various marketing and strategic planning roles.

When looking at how rug hooking now plays an important part in her daily life, Jane says: “I have my mother-in-law to thank and I am grateful to have her continued hooking instruction and advice. Our house was already filled with gorgeous rugs that she and her mother hooked, which my husband, Dave, and I

have always cherished. I am thrilled that I can add to that family collection with my own hooked pieces now!"

Go to the Featured Member page of our website (www.hcrag.com) to see some of Jane's hooking projects.

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – Welcome Home -- The trees are full out, the spring flowers have had their fifteen minutes of fame and now we are in the transition to summer. Summer for me is the return to our island home in Nova Scotia. It has been a ritual of many years and I can still feel that surge of love when I first see the dunes, the roses and the water as we drive down Crescent Beach on our way HOME.

Deanne Fitzpatrick has a new exhibit of rugs in her studio on the theme of Home. She has revisited artistically the home of her childhood in Newfoundland and created what I think is some of her best work to date. I urge you to take a look at it on her website Www.hookingrugs.com. She has inspired me to think again about creating some mats on this theme. The first solo exhibit of my work was called Welcome Home and it chronicled our family's summers in Nova Scotia. So this summer I am going to take a new look at some familiar scenes and find a different perspective. What I do know is that I will see it with even more passion as through the years this time spent there has become even more precious than ever. This month the death of a dear friend and extended family member reminded me that life is precious, long or short, and each day is to be celebrated.

So, think of the theme HOME and what it means to you. Whether it is the building itself, or an object within, or perhaps your gardens -- use it as the beginning of your creation. Whatever the focus, do it with passion. Soak in the beauty of your surroundings and then allow the artist within you to create a mat which will show the world the depth of your feelings about the place you call HOME.

Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

From Jane Anderson's Dye Pot – Combined Transitional/Spot Dyeing by

“Painting” the Dye on the Wool -- For my current hooking project of a fairy and frog I challenged myself with dyeing almost all the wool using several techniques including over dyeing, marbling, spot dyeing and dip dyeing. But for the background sky I was looking for a transitional effect that would go across a couple of colors. My intent was to hook the wool in the order it was cut to capture that flow of one layer of color transitioning into the next layer. But for the top and largest section I also wanted a spotted/mottled effect.

I am sure there are wonderful instructions on how to do this, but I could not find any in the few books I have on dyeing or through online searching. So I decided to experiment, because that is one of the great things about dyeing, you can experiment! I actually experiment a lot with dyeing wool. Sometimes it works, and sometimes it does not turn out how I expected.

When I make “mistakes” I either put them away, and find uses for those “mistakes” in subsequent hooking projects, or continue to dye over them if possible until I get the result I am looking for. The pond water in my current rug was dyed four times before I got the desired look - first spot dyeing, then spot dyeing again to get darker results, then over dyeing to tone down colors that were coming out too bright, and then one more spot dyeing to get a bit more green tones added - and voila, it was finally what I wanted - or at least close enough!

But back to the sky - that was something I was not sure how to tackle. I wanted pastel colors, a thin peachy rose toned layer at the bottom, followed by a thin yellow layer, followed by a larger bluish layer that also had tinges of purple, green and yellow. Here are the steps I took:

- 1) I started out with a base of light yellow wool by dyeing plain white wool with Cushing's Aqualon Yellow.
- 2) Then I applied the dye for the transitional effect on flat pieces of wool that I could cure flat on racks in the oven. They needed to be flat to control where the dye was applied as much as possible.
- 3) Pieces of wool were cut about the size of a cookie sheet so they would fit on an oven rack.
- 4) The wool was soaked with a wetting agent - a few squirts of Jet Dry - for about an hour until they were saturated. The wool was removed but not wrung out to make sure it was quite wet so it would not dry out in the oven.
- 5) Using the same process for each piece, I laid wool flat on aluminum foil that extended at least an inch beyond the wool.
- 6) I had already prepared my dyes - using Woodrose for the bottom layer, the next layer would remain the yellow already in place, for the top I used Peacock, Aqua Blue, Blue (all colors used in the water) and Orchid (color used for fairy's dress).
- 7) Using foam paintbrushes, the type used for regular house painting, one for each color - I "painted" the Woodrose in a thin uneven stripe at the bottom, left approximately the same width open for the yellow layer, and then for the top layer dabbed each remaining color across the top creating a mottled/fine spotted effect, leaving a little yellow peeking through here and there, but mainly covering with the blues (some of which over the yellow gave me a bit of the pale green desired) and the orchid colors.
- 8) When I had the desired saturation and dispersion of color, an even spray of white vinegar was applied across the piece to set the dye.
- 9) I wrapped the edges of the foil up over the top and added another top layer of foil to completely enclose the piece of wool.
- 10) The packets were placed flat on several oven racks. I even doubled and tripled layers on top of each other per rack.
- 11) The packets were left in a 350 degree oven for about 40 minutes. Then removed from the oven, carefully opening the foil with oven mitts to avoid any steam burns.
- 12) Finally, each piece was rinsed under cold water, wrung out and placed in clothes dryer until dried.

The result was what I was seeking for my sky - so a successful outcome for me from this experiment!

Tips from Heloise – Storing Hooked Rugs -- What is the best way to store our rugs? This perennial question generates a variety of suggestions. One generally accepted approach is to roll our rugs with the hooked surface facing outwards, thus placing less stress on the backing. The rugs can then be placed in your storage location.

Jackie Lee, our member from Cape Cod, shared with Heloise a concern she has with this approach. Many of Jackie's rugs are often hung on the wall and she finds that when they are stored rolled up for a period of time, the rugs tend to curl when removed from storage. She prefers to store her rugs flat, one on top of the other. This avoids the curling problem.

Recipes – Lydia Lewis’ Rhubarb Strawberry Muffins – Lydia has shared a special rhubarb recipe. Her timing is perfect since rhubarb is plentiful now!

Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cup flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 1/2 t baking powder
- 1/2 t salt
- 1 egg
- 3/4 milk
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup chopped rhubarb
- Cinnamon sugar
- 1/2 cup fresh strawberries

Preparation

- 400 degree oven
- Mix flour, sugar, powder & salt
- In separate bowl mix egg, milk and oil
- Stir into flour mixture
- With fork fold in fruit
- Butter muffin tins- fill cups 3/4 full sprinkle with cinnamon sugar
- Bake 20-25 min
- Cool on wire racks

Enjoy. Thank you, Lydia.

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

2016 Hook-in at the Hagley Museum (July 30, 2016) – The Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Delaware is hosting a hook-in as part of their Fantastic Fibers Activity Fair on Saturday July 30, 2016. Vendors and food will be available. For more information or to register go to www.hagley.org/event/fantastic-fibers, click on Adult Programs and look for July 30th Hook-in at Hagley. Information is also available from Vanessa Spence at 302-658-2400 x306 or vspence@hagley.org.

2016 Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village (August 16-20, 2016) – Outstanding vendors, extensive exhibits, exclusive “Celebration Rugs,” and creative retreats and workshops are all part of Rug Hooking Week at Sauder Village. More information is available by going to www.saudervillage.org/RugHookingWeek.

Rugs by the Sea, Cape May, NJ (September 11-16 &18-23, 2016) – The popular rug school will feature instructors Cammie Bruce, Jon Ciemiewicz, Kay Leisey, and Michele Micarelli during the first week and instructors Lucille Festa, Jen Manuell, Kris Miller, and Diane Stoffel the second week. Visit rugsbythesea.wordpress.com for more information.

The Country Inn Rug School (September 11-16, 2016) – The Woodbound Inn in Rindge, NH is the site for the annual Country Inn Rug School. Betty McClentic, Gail Walden, Sarah Giuliani, and Beverley Mulcahy are the instructors. For additional information contact School Director Arline Bechtoldt-Apgar at 908-757-5257 or Bechtoldt@comcast.net.

Hooked in the Mountains XVIII (October 19-23, 2016) – The Hooked Rug and Fiber Exhibition sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild will be held at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont. The Featured Artists will be Davey DeGraff, Jackye Hansen and Liz Alpert Fay. Workshop information is available at www.hookedinthemountainsworkshops.com.

Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild 11th Autumn Hook-in (October 22, 2016) – This popular gathering of rug hookers will be held at the Kimberton Fire Company in Kimberton, PA 19442 from 9-4. To register or for more information go to www.brandywinerughookingguild.org/2016-hook-in.html.

“Signs of the Times: Hunterdon Taverns & the Placards that Attracted Patrons” (November 1, 2016) – The Hunterdon 300th Organization is sponsoring a presentation by Dan and Marty Campanelli that will be followed by an exhibit and brief discussion of hooked tavern sign rugs created by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber that were inspired by historic Hunterdon taverns. The event will be held at the Main Branch of the Hunterdon County Library at 2:00 pm. For further information, please check -- www.hunterdon300th.org -- or call 908-788-2030.

Olde Cape Cod Rug School (November 11-14, 2016) – The rug school is held at the Hyannis Resort & Conference Center on Cape Cod. The teachers will be Nancy Blood, Betty McClentie, Angela Foote and Lucille Festa. Register by going to their website – www.oldecapecodrugschool.com.

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

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

Spring Lake ATHA Chapter meets the second Monday of every month from September through May at St. Andrews Methodist Church, 907 Fourth Ave., Spring Lake, NJ 07762 from 10 to 2. For more information visit its website – www.springlakenjatha.org – or contact Julianne Stewart at 732-503-4286 or jls7952@gmail.com.

Informal Rug Hooking Groups – Informal gatherings allow those who cannot attend weekday Guild meetings to be with friends with similar interests. The groups listed below are open to anyone who wants to attend. Some require a small donation to cover the cost of the meeting site.

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 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.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or lindarz16@gmail.com.

- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net.

HCAG Calendar of Events --

June 10, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon, Show & Tell Drawing and Review of Construction of Michele Micarelli’s Pouch *
July 30 &31, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)
August 8-12, 2016 – 20th Annual Rug Hooking School – ESC School
August 9, 2016 – Beginners Rug Hooking Workshop – ESC School
August 25, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Hunterdon County 4-H Fair, Ringoes Fairgrounds, NJ
September 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – General Business & Rug Hooking School Review*
September 10 &11, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Sheep & Fiber Festival, Ringoes Fairgrounds, NJ
September 17, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Historic Fall Festival, Hilltown, PA
October 1, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Colonial Market Day, Newtown, PA
October 1, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Apple Butter Frolic, Mennonite Heritage Center, Harleysville, PA
October 14, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Presentation on the Sanitary Commission of the Civil War (Dolores Higgins) *
October 14–16, 2016 – Hooking Retreat, Flemington Hampton Inn
November 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Restoration (Cindy Comly) **
December 9, 2016 – Monthly Meeting -- Holiday Luncheon *
January 13, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Surprise Speaker -- Location TBD
February 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting -- Annual HCAG Auction -- Location TBD
March 10, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Annual Hook-in -- Location TBD
April 14, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – History of Rug Hooking (Kathleen Herbert) – Location TBD
May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Embellishments (Molly Colegrove) – Location TBD
June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon – Location TBD

*Unless otherwise noted, our meetings run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Assembly Room B in the County Administration Building, which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex on Route 12, Flemington, NJ. As you turn off Route 12 onto the road leading into the Complex, make the first right into the parking lot. The meeting is in the first building on the right. The street address for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the building.

** Meeting will be at our alternate site – The Court Room within the Police Station at the Raritan Township Municipal Complex. The Complex is by the Rt. 12 and Rt. 523 traffic circle just outside Flemington. The address for a GPS is 1Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446.

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

Co-Presidents – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or jantique@ptd.net

Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com

Vice President – Membership – Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or ergot53@embarqmail.com

Director – Communications -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or karlg12@verizon.net
Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or mpassere@comcast.net

Camp Directors – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or lbrenuva@comcast.net
Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or debywalsh1@gmail.com

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

Hospitality -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or deakinn@yahoo.com
Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

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

Mentoring – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or akorengut@gmail.com.

Programs -- Open

Secretary – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or jasuanderson@gmail.com

Special Events – Chris Coslet – 973-962-1884 or chris622@optonline.net

Spring Hook-in -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or diane.mannon@yahoo.com

Sunshine -- Gail Ferdinando -- 908-735-6720 or thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com

Treasurer -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or j_laurence@verizon.net
Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or deerosebrock@aol.com

Guild's Email List Policy -- The 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.

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, P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or karlg12@verizon.net by the 20th of the month.

HCRAg CLASSIFIEDS

SALE

Snap Dragon Frame – (Gently Used) – Asking \$275

Wooden Hooking Stand – Crafted by Skeet Combs – (Gently Used) – Asking \$250

Contact Weezie Huntington at 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com

BLISS Rug Cutter Machine (white) with stand – (Like New) with #8, #6, and #4 blades.

Asking -- \$300.00

Contact -- Mary Passerello at mpassere@comcast.net

Please submit any items to be included on the Classified Section of "The Loop" to Mary Passerello at mpassere@comcast.net or 908-782-1765 by the 20th of the month prior to when you want the item included. The classified section is refreshed monthly so please resubmit repeat ads. The following information must be included with each submission:

- **Description of Item for Sale or Wanted**
- **Asking Price for sale items**
- **Contact Information**