

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

March 2009

From the President's Corner – Our February meeting was one that our kids would say was “awesome”. We had over 50 attendees including seven guests and an inspiring program. At this time when we are in the process of selecting new officers, it is appropriate to stop and consider what goes into a successful meeting.

The process starts with the Program Director working with the township staff to arrange for the meeting room, equipment needed and the layout for the room. The program speakers begin to plan for their presentation. Weeks before a press release is prepared and sent to the local media. Early the day of our meeting, the township crew arrives to set up the room. Normally a Guild member is there to assist and make any last minute changes. Shortly after 9:00, the first of the Hospitality Committee arrive to start the coffee so that it ready when the meeting begins. Wool garments collected from local thrift shops are put out for members to acquire for their rugs. Refreshments arrive as members begin to filter in. As more members arrive, the catching up, comparing notes and sharing ideas begins in earnest.

During the meeting, those working on various Guild events such as our retreat, bus trip, Spring Fling, camp, upcoming exhibits and demonstrations report on their activities. Members who bring and share their “Show and Tell” items contribute to what many say is a highlight of the meeting and one that inspires and stimulates. The monthly program, often presented by members, is the cherry on the ice cream sundae

What is clear is that a successful meeting (and a successful Guild) is the result of the efforts of many individuals. Our Guild is like an orchestra where every performer contributes and the collective efforts produce magical results.

The selection of new officers and committee chairs, which we are about to undertake, is a process of renewal. New officers bring fresh ideas and new energy. The rotation of officers and committee chairs is a healthy and necessary process. You do not need to be an experienced rug hooker or a long time Guild member to serve as an officer or committee chair. Please look at the positions that need to be filled (see article below) and consider how you can contribute. Our by-laws provide for “senior” and “junior” roles. The junior serves as an understudy for a year before assuming the senior role. In reality, none of the Guild roles require an enormous amount of work. They are all very manageable.

The vitality of our Guild depends on members contributing. Please ask yourself: “How can I contribute to my Guild?” If you are unsure about how you can help, let me know and we can discuss possibilities.

Keep on hooking! -- Weezie

March Meeting – Friday, March, 13, 2009 – The March 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 – Nationally renowned instructor, Gail Dufresne, will share the secrets of hooking animal eyes. She will be demonstrating how to hook the eyes of cats, dogs, goats, horses, reptiles and sheep. Gail will also instruct on hooking a human eye. The patterns from which she will be working are attached. Those who want to participate should bring their backing with the patterns drawn and the following materials (INSERT). If you need advice on how to handle the eyes in a rug you are working on, bring the rug and get Gail's advice.

Show & Tell – So many comment on the value of seeing what others are doing so please bring your rugs to share with the Guild. Since our monthly program deals with hooking animal eyes, we are asking members to bring rugs that include animals. Of course, we always enjoy seeing current projects.

Recycled Wool – There will be large supply of wool clothing collected from local thrift shops. These garments are ideal for those who like to work with recycled wool.

Reminder – 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 – Sharon Ballard, Cathy Edward, Carol Kindt and Margaret Lutz are our refreshment volunteers for this meeting. Thank you in advance! Having coffee and snacks at our meetings makes such a difference.

Membership – We welcome Juliana Kapusta to our Guild. Her contact information is shown below. Juliana will be at our Spring Fling.

Juliana Kapusta
935 Landis Road
Telford, PA 18969
215-721-4327
juliana_kapusta@hotmail.com

Charlotte Kosa has moved to Tennessee. Her new address is 110 N. Pine Street, Hoenwald, TN 38462 and her phone number is 931-295-3444. Please update your membership list.

Let the Sun Shine – Barbie Beck-Wilczek has had knee replacement surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her at camp this summer. Barbie lives in New Hampshire, so we do not see her as often as we would like. We were pleased to hear that Virginia Sutton's broken ribs are healing and that she has started to drive a little. We look forward to seeing her back at a meeting.

March Birthdays – Happy Birthday wishes go to Fran Artigliere (3/23), Helen Dowling (3/7), Tracy Fetzer (3/4), Sandy Francisco (3/7), Juliana Kapusta (3/4), Amy Korengut (3/26), Joan Lucas (3/13), Pat McDonnell (3/17), Irene Pasternak (3/20), Laurie Rubinetti (3/29), Mary Schenck (3/29) and Therese Shick (3/20). We wish you the best of days!

Officer Elections -- Election of officers takes place at the April meeting. New officers and committees chairs assume their responsibilities in May, 2009. Our by-laws provide for “senior” and “junior” roles. The junior is an understudy and assumes the senior role the following year. Several members have already volunteered, but several roles still need to be filled, as shown below.

President – open
VP – Irene Pasternak
Program Director – open
Treasurer – Margaret Brightbill (Senior) and Dee Rosebrock (Junior)
Secretary – Debbie Walsh (Senior) and Gail Ferdinando (Junior)
Camp Directors – Tracy Fetzer, Brigette Levine and Dee Rosebrock
Special Events – Connie Coleman, Carol Kindt, Dee Rosebrock and Nina Seaman
Historian – open
Hospitality - open
Librarian – Kathy Donovan
PR/Newsletter – Karl Gimber
Sunshine – open

Paraphrasing President John Kennedy: “Ask not what my Guild can do for me, but what I can do for my Guild?” Please let Weezie know what role you can fulfill. Perhaps you can share a position with a friend.

Jersey Girls Exhibit – April 24 & 25, 2009 -- The exciting Jersey Girls Exhibit sponsored by the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter was first discussed months ago. Now the time is fast approaching when rugs need to be submitted. Sharon Ballard will be collecting rugs from Guild members (and friends) at our April meeting.

Considerable work is involved in planning the display and typing the show cards. Therefore, those submitting rugs are requested to complete and return the registration form by April 1st. The registration form is available on the website for the exhibit - www.jerseygirlchallenge.org. Download, print and fill out a form for each rug. Send your registration forms to Janet Santaniello, 101 Knollwood Drive, Watchung, NJ 07069.

In addition to the exhibit, there will be five vendors selling rug hooking supplies. Jersey Girl Chocolates and jewelry will be available for purchase. This will be a very special rug hooking event.

Bus Trip to Winterthur Museum – Wednesday April 29, 2009 – Kitty Platt started accepting reservations at the last meeting and 50% of the bus seats are already reserved! The Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum is known worldwide for its collection of American decorative arts. Guild members have a special opportunity to travel to Delaware to enjoy the museum’s wonderful collection for a bargain fee of \$20 (\$30 for guests). Our successful fund raising efforts allow the Guild to cover the expenses for the bus rental. *Guild members have until the March meeting to sign up before reservations will be accepted from non-members.*

To reserve a place, just send your check made payable to HCRAAG to Kitty (34 Everitts Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551) or bring it to the next meeting. The nonrefundable fee 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 – In the last month, inquiries from non-members have increased. Currently, Judy Quintman's workshop is full and a waiting list established. There are still a few openings with Norman Batastini and Sandra Brown. We anticipate that all workshops will be fully subscribed. Connie Coleman and Kay Weeks have offered once again to conduct the beginners' workshop.

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 HCRAG to Karl Gimber at P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913. The balance is due in May. 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 HCRAG 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 check for \$150 (member) or \$175 (non member) 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 Exhibits Members Rugs at Clinton Library North Branch – March 2-30, 2009

The Clinton Library North Branch is the site for a month long exhibit of rugs hooked by Guild members. Cindy Boults, Gail Ferdinando and Irene Pasternak are coordinating the exhibit.

To attract attention to the exhibit, the Library is hosting an “Open House” on Saturday, March 7 from noon to 4 pm. Guild members will demonstrate rug hooking, answer questions from the community and publicize Guild activities. Events such as this stimulate interest in rug hooking, bring positive attention to the Guild and are fun! The location is convenient for members who have difficulty supporting demonstrations in the Lambertville or Bucks County areas. To sign up, just contact Irene Pasternak.

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 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 are 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.

Eileen Mahler's Rug Recognized by Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild --

“Antique Pineapple - Through My Eyes” hooked by Guild member Eileen Mahler received a Viewer’s Choice Award at the Hooked in the Mountain Rug Show held at Shelburne Museum

last November. The exhibit sponsored by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild is one of the largest in the country and attracts rugs from across the USA. Congratulations Eileen. You make us proud!!

Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center to Host Hooked Rug Exhibit –

November 28, 2009 to April 24, 2010 -- The Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA, the site of a previous HCRAAG Exhibit and hook-in, will host an exhibit of hooked rugs inspired by fraktur designs. Susan Feller will serve as the Guest Curator. Frakturs from the Schwenkfelder collection will compliment the hooked rug designs. The exhibit room will accommodate approximately 20 rugs. The exhibit may be hung in two segments in view of the five month period of the show. Anyone who may have a rug to submit should contact Susan Feller at rugs2wv@yahoo.com with "Fraktur Rugs" in the Subject Line. Rugs will need to be received by November 17, 2009. There are plans for at least one design workshop, perhaps a beginning hooking class, and an opportunity for the Guild to demonstrate.

Meet Our Webmaster, Laurie Rubinetti – Laurie's introduction to rug hooking actually came about through rug braiding. When her son was one year old, Laurie was looking for a creative outlet and noticed a book on braided rugs. She taught herself how to braid and went on to complete a considerable number of braided rugs. From time to time, Laurie is asked to teach rug braiding. In 1996 she saw her first hooked rugs and "fell in love with them". Her daughter was in kindergarten at the time, so Laurie had time to start a new activity. She responded to an advertisement for a beginners' rug hooking workshop sponsored by Hunterdon County Adult Education. Norma McElhenny was the instructor and fortuitously was also the President of HCRAAG.

Laurie admires all forms of rug hooking. She hooks mainly with wide cuts in the primitive style and is attracted to what she calls "wild designs", self portraits and modern/abstract images. Her first rug was hooked on a purchased pattern. After that she designed the balance of her rugs herself. Laurie is inspired by the things around her. One of her first rugs was based on a drawing done by her daughter who was six or seven years old at the time. Subsequent rugs were of her dog that had passed away, her cat and a close up from a photo of sunflowers in her garden.

As the principal of a small graphic art business, Laurie finds that growing her business is not a 9-5 job. She devotes most days to her business which does not leave much time for other interests. Laurie seems to work on her rugs "in spurts". She "gets into the mood" and hooks intensely. Vacations and our camps are often a good time for her to get out her hooking frame and work on a rug. The project may then be put aside for a while. As a result, it may take a couple of years for Laurie to complete a rug. Many of her rugs are finished with a braided edge.

Laurie has attended about five HCRAAG Camps over the years. She has studied with Norma Batastini, Gail Dufresne and Jayne Hester. Laurie draws inspiration from other rug hookers and "loves the rugs created by Barbara Lugg". "Guild members are real artists" says Laurie. "The design and placement of color takes artistic skills. Painting with wool is difficult."

Laurie is a self proclaimed "thrift shop junkie". She has collected lots of wool, most of which is from recycled garments. However, if she sees new wool that she likes, she will buy it. Laurie likes to dye wool. She "experiments" rather than following set formulas. She prefers Cushing dyes, but also uses ProChem dyes. The dye pot is pulled out when she needs wool for a project.

Since Laurie's first instructor was the Guild's President, it was natural that she would be introduced to and join the Guild. Gail Dufresne was the Guild's Vice President. Laurie has maintained her membership for 13 years and continues to gain inspiration from the rugs hooked by members. In late 2007 Laurie offered to create and maintain a website for the Guild. By early 2008, www.hcrag.com was up and running! The site has been enormously helpful in bringing our Guild to the attention of the rug hooking community. It also helps establish instant credibility with non-members who have interest in our camps, workshops and activities. Last year, Laurie was the first recipient of the Madeline Brightbill Camp Scholarship in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Guild.

Laurie, who loves to garden, lives in Milford, NJ with her husband, Peter, and their two children – Vincent and Elena. Peter is a computer programmer with a large insurance company and is a musician who plays the guitar. Vincent is studying engineering at the University of Delaware and shares his father's musical talents. He plays the drums and keyboard as well as composes music. Elena is a Delaware Valley Regional High School sophomore, a member of the JV basketball team, a Peer Leader and "mostly a social butterfly".

Our Guild is extremely fortunate to have Laurie Rubinetti as our member and webmaster. Visit the "Hooker of the Month" page on our website to see rugs hooked by Laurie.

From Joyce Comb's Dye Pot – When it comes to good books on color theory and dyeing, Joyce says: "There are many great books on dyeing but I seem to use the same two every time I get out my dye pots.

- 1) Primary Fusion- A Guide to Dyeing with Only Three Primary Colours by Ingrid Hieronimus. This book uses only ProChem dyes and comes with a bunch of swatches that help me choose the color I need.
- 2) Recipes from the Dye Kitchen by Maryanne Lincoln. The book is part of Rug Hooking Magazine's Framework Series. Maryanne Lincoln has a great understanding of color and gives formulas using both Cushing and ProChem dyes. Maryanne also does a lot of dyeing using only primary colors."

Tips from Heloise (a.k.a. Barbara Lugg) -- A hooker new to dyeing wool recently asked Heloise (our own Barbara Lugg) "How do you do casserole dyeing? "

Heloise says: The first step in casserole dyeing is to soak wool strips in detergent water or water with a wetting agent. Assuming you are dyeing three colors, mix each in one cup of boiling water and lay the strips side by side in a casserole or long flat pan. Do not wring out. (Gail Dufresne suggests scrunching for more pleasing uneven color effect.) Pour some of the first color across the bottom third of strips, next the second color across middle and the last color across the next third. More layers may be added. Pour 1/3 cup of vinegar around the edge of the pan. Cover with foil and bake 1 hour or simmer 30 minutes. Rinse and dry.

Guild Member Therese Shick Writes on Designing Rugs -- One of our new members, Therese Shick, has an article in the February/March issue of the ATHA Newsletter (see page 44) on designing rug patterns. The article is in connection with a sampler project, but Therese's suggestions apply to all sizes of hooking projects. Well done Therese!

McGown Newsletters Added to HCrag Library -- Susan Atwater purchased Madeline Brightbill's collection of McGown newsletters at our January auction and donated them to our library. Librarian Kathy Donovan has organized them in binders, as follows:

Binder 1

1993 Volume 22 -- #2, 3 and 4
1994 Volume 23 -- #1 and 2
1995 Volume 24 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4
1996 Volume 25 -- #1, 3, and 4
1997 Volume 26 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4

Binder 2

1998 Volume 27 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4
1999 Volume 28 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4
2000 Volume 29 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4
2001 Volume 30 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4
2002 Volume 31 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4

Binder 3

2003 Volume 32 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4
2004 Volume 33 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4
2005 Volume 34 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4
2006 Volume 35 -- #1, 2, 3 and 4
2007 Volume 36 -- #1 and 3

Any Guild member who wishes to borrow these newsletters or any other item from our library should contact Kathy 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. We thank Susan for the donation and Kathy for organizing the newsletters for easy reference.

Rug Hooking Websites – Susan Atwater brought to our attention the website for Rug Hooking Daily -- www.rughookingdaily.ning.com. It provides a forum for rug hookers and mixed media artists with contacts and communications. You can post your art work, special interests and events. There are also educational videos by Gene Shepard, Gail Dufresne and Deane Fitzpatrick.

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 Lucille Festa and on March 20-22, 2009 with Norma Batastini. For more information contact Norma at 973-746-5361 or g_batastini@msn.com.

Goat Hill ATHA Chapter Rug Exhibit – The Smithville Annex Gallery is the site for an exhibit of rugs hooked by members of the Goat Hill ATHA Chapter from March 10-28, 2009. There is an opening reception on March 10, 2009 from 7-9pm. The exhibit is part of the Women's History Month celebration by the Burlington County Division of Cultural Affairs & Tourism. For more information contact Eleanor Dunker at 609-267-8704 or eldunker@hotmail.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. For more information, call 203-775-4526 or e-mail info@brookfieldcraftcenter.org. Eric Sandberg Workshop – Michele Micarelli is hosting a three day workshop with Eric Sandberg on March 25-27, 2009 from 10-3. It will be at her home in New Haven, CT. Eric will be teaching his “upside down and backwards through the window” technique. This is the technique he used in Le Chateau that appears on the cover of Celebrations X. It works well with a picture of your home or a famous building. To register or for more information, contact Michele at 203-387-8690.

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. 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 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.

Rug Hooking Workshops at Lollipop Farm -- Lucille Festa is offering a series of workshops at her studio in East Rupert, VT. The instructors and dates follow -- Sandy Misreckon (April 6 & 7), Lucille Festa (May 19-21), Norma Batastini (June 8-10) and Jayne Hester (July 15-17). For information, contact Lucille at 802-325-2543 or lucillefest@hotmail.com.

The Little Lakes Guild Workshop (April 20-23, 2009) -- Molly Colegrove, Bev Conway, Bea Grant and Jayne Hester are the instructors in a workshop sponsored by the new ATHA: Little Lakes Guild in the Finger Lakes Area of New York. For more information contact Sharon Lesio at 585-734-5866 or visit the website: <http://lovelylabs.tripod.com/rughooking> for details.

Jersey Girls Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 24 & 25, 2009 at the Firehouse in Oldwick, NJ. Go to www.jerseygirlschallenge.org for more information.

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 McClellan, 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). 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. Advance registration required. For more information, call the Center at 203-775-4526.

Rugs by the Sea – September 13-25, 2009 -- The 22nd year of Rugs by the Sea will be held at the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, NJ for two weeks in September. The first week (September 13-18) will feature Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Lucille Festa, Cindi Gay and Charlotte Price. The instructors for the second week (September 20-25) will be Cherylyn Brubaker, Bev Conway,

Nancy Miller Quigley, Judy Quintman and Abby Vakay. For more information, contact Norma Batastini by phone at 973-746-5361 or by email at c_batastini@msn.com.

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.

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

Fraktur Hooked Rug Exhibit – November 11, 2009 to April 24, 2010 at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA. For more information contact Susan Feller, Guest Curator, at rugs2wv@yahoo.com with "Fraktur Rugs" in the Subject Line.

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

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 Rubinetti -- 908-995-4030 or Lrubinet@ptdprolog.net

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

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

Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild Meeting Minutes from February 13, 2009

Meeting Called to order at 10:00AM by President Weezie Huntington

Four guests were introduced.

Old Business:

- . Third Annual Rug Hooking Retreat was a success with 13 people attending
- . Spring Fling final payment of \$125 is due at this meeting. Each teacher has around 9 people signed up. This event will be opened to people outside the Guild. The dates are 3/20, 3/21, and 3/22. There will be a meet and talk with the teacher on Friday night and hooking from 9 to 4 with teachers on Saturday and from 8:30 to 3:30 on Sunday. Students will be able to hook in the evening.
- . Summer Camp is filling up. There are approximately 11 openings. We have had interest from hookers outside the Guild.
- . Winterthur Bus Trip was discussed. The April 29 bus trip will leave Hunterdon County Complex at 8:30AM and will return at 6:00PM. Over half the seats are already taken.
- . The North Hunterdon County Library, Clinton, NJ, will feature a rug show and there will be a demonstration of Rug Hooking and an Open House on March 7 from 12 - 4. Anyone interested in demonstrating please contact Irene Pasternak.
- . The Jersey Girl Rug Show has a web site with an entry form. The show will be on April 24 and 25th. Rugs can be brought to our April meeting. Sharon Ballard will deliver them to the show. Please pre-register rugs.
- . There are still officer positions that need to be filled. A sign up sheet was passed around to the membership to encourage them to sign up to be an officer.

New Business:

- . Our March meeting will feature Gail Dufresne and a lesson on how to do Hooked Eyes.
- . The April meeting will be on the 3rd at the Police Station.
- . Connie Coleman and Kay Weeks will teach the beginner's class at our summer camp.
- . Our membership voted to thank our beginner class teachers by paying for one day of their camp costs.
- . Eileen Mahler's rug Antique Pineapple – Through my eyes, received the Viewer's Choice Award at Hooked in the Mountains, Shelburne Museum's rug show.
- . Membership voted to renew our Rug Hooking Magazine subscription for two years. This subscription is donated to the Hunterdon Library.

Sunshine:

Barbie Beck Wilczek is recuperating from knee replacement surgery. Virginia Sutton is doing better.

Show and Tell:

Program:

Our program with Deanna Kinney and Joan Lucas was enjoyed by all!

Respectfully submitted by:

Joyce Combs

Secretary