

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter

March 2010

From the President's Corner – As our newsletter is being finalized, the weather forecast calls for the fourth major snow storm of this winter. Yet, in spite of the record amounts of snow, there are signs of spring. Beneath the snow, daffodils and other spring bulbs are pushing up through the cold soil. The buds on maple trees are swelling. Flocks of bluebirds and a few early robins have returned. Our March Madness workshops take place on the weekend when spring officially begins. “Dilly’s Corner”, a favorite local soft ice cream and fast food restaurant (across the river from Stockton), is being spruced up in preparation for another season. All these signs signal that the return of spring is not far away.

Requests for the Guild to demonstrate at spring sheep shearing events are another indication that spring is just around the corner. The Peter Wentz Farmstead and the Howell Living Farm have invited us to help them celebrate the annual ritual of removing their sheep’s winter coats.

For now, we hunker down for another storm. Rather than fight the weather, we gather the wool needed for our latest project and prepare to use the time to do some serious hooking. How better than to sit by the fireplace or in a warm kitchen and pull the loops on our current rug with our favorite music or book tape playing in the background. Sounds good to me!

Keep on hooking! -- Weezie

March Meeting – Friday, March 12, 2010 – The March meeting returns to our regular location, the Administration Building (Building #1), which is part of the Hunterdon County Complex, on Rt. 12 outside of Flemington from 10:00 to 2:00. The street address for the Complex is 1314 State Highway 12, although that does not appear on the road.

Guild Program – The program will be a fun filled, educational *Round Robin* of member led demonstrations. The great line up that covers a wide variety of interests is listed below:

- Joyce Combs– *Sleeve Applications*.
- Weezie Huntington– *Transferring Patterns*
- Gisele Meader – *Labels*
- Nina Seaman – *Alternative Materials*
- Karl Gimber - *Recycled Garments*

Show & Tell – Bring your “Olympic Challenge” rugs or whatever you worked on and share what your Olympic goal had been. Current hooking projects are always welcomed at Show & Tell.

Hospitality – Sharon Ballard, Cindy Boults, Joyce Combs and Margaret Lutz are the refreshment volunteers for March. We thank them in advance for providing the treats that add to our meeting enjoyment.

Membership – We welcome Betsy Warner to our Guild. Her contact information is shown below.

Betsy Warner
900 Valley Road
Apt. D 401
Melrose Park, PA 19020
215-782-8436
elizabethfwarner@aol.com

Cathy Edwards recently moved to South Carolina and sent the following note. “I feel like a thief in the night! I had fully intended to attend the December meeting of the Guild but circumstances dictated that we leave NJ before we had planned. Previous to that I had missed many of the meetings because of being down here looking at real estate. I really miss the Guild and all of you. You know the old saying - you don't know what you have until it's gone. I've been trying to find hookers here but nobody even seems to have heard of hooking. I am in Salem, SC. The closest ATHA chapter I can find is in Charlotte which is a good two hours away but I am looking into that further also. I am planning to attend the workshop in August - just have to decide on which teacher. Just wanted to say thanks for all the work you and all the other ladies put into making the Guild a place of enjoyment, camaraderie and learning. I have certainly enjoyed all the friendships over the past ten years and hope to be able to attend meetings when I return to NJ. All my best. Cathy Edwards”

Cathy's new address is 7 Starboard Tack Drive, Salem, SC 29676 and her phone number is 764-719-0183. Her email address is unchanged.

Sunshine – Our condolences are extended to Sharon Ballard who lost her brother Mark on February 21, 2010. Connie Coleman slipped on ice and broke her hip. She is now home from rehab and slowly healing. Vicki Calu, the local popular rug hooking instructor, has been hospitalized. She was recovering from a broken knee when it gave way and she subsequently broke her elbow and humerus bones. We wish Connie and Vicki a speedy recovery.

March Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to those celebrating their special day this month – Helen Dowling (3/7), Loriann Fell (3/14), 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). Happy Birthday to you all!

Openings Still Available for March Madness – March 19-21, 2010 – Time is getting short, but there are still a few openings in Michele Micarelli's Workshop. Her workshop will have two tracks. You can bring any project to work on or begin the pattern inspired by the fabulous Klimt painting, the Tree of Life.

Those electing to work on the Tree of Life will find amazing geometric configurations hidden in the branches and underground. The shapes that just seem to appear as stylized flowers and seeds are fodder for color and texture as well as some mixed fabrics and yarns. Michele will be coming

loaded with wool and other supplies for your hooking adventure. Laughter guaranteed. Patterns can be purchased from Michele.

The “Purses, Pocketbooks, Handbags” workshop is currently full.

The Hampton Inn in Flemington will be the site for our 2nd annual March Madness weekend. Participants can stay over night or commute. The weekend begins with a wine and cheese reception with the instructors on Friday night from 5 PM to 7 PM. Our favorite massage therapist, Joy Andrews, will be there Saturday afternoon to help relax any stiff muscles.

The fee for members is \$150 and \$175 for non-members. Send your check made payable to HCRAAG to Karl Gimber, P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913.

New Officer Slate Taking Shape -- With our by-laws providing for officer elections in April, it is satisfying to see that members are coming forward to assume new roles. The following nominations have been received:

- Co-Presidents – Joyce Combs & Dee Rosebrock
- Vice President – Debbie Walsh
- Historian – Open
- Hospitality – Deanna Kinney
- Librarian – Kathy Donovan *
- Programs - Open
- Publicity/Newsletter – Karl Gimber *
- Secretary – Lynda Kling
- Special Events – Open
- Summer Camp Director – Dee Rosebrock
- Sunshine – Janet Santaniello
- Treasurer – Margaret Brightbill *
- Webmaster – Laurie Rubinetti *

* incumbent

The positions of Historian, Program Coordinator and Special Events Chair remain open. The responsibilities of these positions are as follows:

Historian -- Our Historian is responsible for maintaining records of historical interest. This includes newspapers articles, press releases, photographs and correspondence received. Most of the items are kept in the Guild’s scrapbook.

Program Coordinator – The Program Coordinator is responsible for arranging a regular location, the schedule and programs for each meeting, which will include regular Show & Tell.

Special Events Chair – The Special Events Chair oversees a committee to consider and organize special events such as retreats, hook-ins, demonstrations, exhibits and fundraising.

If you need additional information, please check with the incumbents, Marion Michele (Historian), Kitty Platt (Programs) and Carol Kindt (Special Events). Our by-laws provide for

senior and junior roles, which allows for a period to be an understudy. Consider the possibility of having a co-chair working with you.

Guild Members Casebolt and Worthington Featured in ATHA Newsletter -- Guild members Claudia Casebolt and Karen Worthington have rugs featured in the February/March 2010 issue of the ATHA Newsletter.

Claudia's "I Love New Jersey" rug was created last year for the Jersey Girls Exhibit sponsored by the Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter. As a Washington State transplant, Claudia chronicles all that she has come to love about New Jersey. Her article also provides insights into the creative process used in designing her special rug.

"Leslie's Hope" is the rug Karen Worthington designed and hooked for her sister, Leslie, who was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. Karen's rug was used as a model for one that Leslie, a new rug hooker, would complete. Patterns and kits of the rug are available from Karen's business, The Blue Tulip, with a percentage of the proceeds donated to The Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Fund Raising Hook-in and Rug Show - March 20, 2010 -- The Woolwrights ATHA Chapter is sponsoring a hook-in and rug show on March 20, 2010. It will be held from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601 (www.farmandhomecenter.com). There will be 15 vendors (including many of our favorites), a guest rug show and a mat swap. Proddy and punch needle demonstrations will take place during the day. A gorgeous stand and frame from K's Creations will be raffled. A box lunch will be available. Raffle tickets for a hand crafted hooking stand and a 14" hexagonal frame from K's Creations will be available at our meeting.

This event is a fundraiser for the 2011 ATHA Biennial that will be held in Lancaster, PA. For registration, directions, vendor names, photo of raffle items go to: www.woolwrights.com.

New Events Added to Guild's Demonstration Schedule -- The Bouman Stickney Farmstead in Readington Township, NJ has invited the Guild to demonstrate rug hooking from 1 PM to 4 PM during their Open House on April 11, 2010. This will be our first demonstration for the year. Carol Kindt is the Event Coordinator. Please let her know if you can help.

Howell Living Farm will have its annual Sheep Shearing Day on May 1, 2010. Sheep's wool and rug hooking go hand-in-hand, so it is natural for us to be there. The possibility of a rug exhibit for that day is being explored. The new barn room attached to the Visitor's Center is an ideal location for an exhibit. The room is big and will accommodate a large number of rugs.

Guild Informs Public Through Rug Hooking Demonstrations -- Educating and informing the public about traditional rug hooking is one of the objectives of our Guild. Demonstrating rug hooking at local events is the major way in which we fulfill this objective. Our participation not only helps promote rug hooking and our Guild, but also helps support local organizations and historical sites. The current schedule for 2010 is shown below.

April 11	Bouman Stickney Farmstead (Readington Twp)	Carol Kindt
April 24	Peter Wentz Farmstead (Sheep Shearing)	Karl Gimber/ Joanne

May 1	New Jersey State History Fair (Titusville, NJ)	McIllmurray Margaret Brightbill
May 1	Howell Living Farm (Sheep Shearing)	Karl Gimber
July 31	Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)	Karl Gimber
August 25-29	Hunterdon County 4-H Fair	Dee Rosebrock
August *	Plumsteadville Farmers' Market	Connie Coleman
September 11&12	Sheep & Fiber Festival (Ringoos, NJ)	Weezie Huntington
September *	Heritage Day (Trappe, PA)	Joanne McIllmurray
September 18&19	Holcombe-Jimison Farming Festival (Lambertville, NJ)	Gisele Meader
September *	Historical Fall Festival (Hilltown, PA)	Karl Gimber
October 2	Colonial Market Day (Newtown, PA)	Karl Gimber
October *	Apple Butter Frolic (Harleysville, PA)	Joanne McIllmurray
October 16	Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ)	Karl Gimber/Carol Kindt
October 2 & 3	Millbrook Days	Deanna Kinney/ Joan Lucas
November 6-7	Thanksgiving in the Country (Stockton, NJ)	Joyce Combs

* date not confirmed

All members are encouraged to assist in our demonstration efforts. You can participate for an hour or two or for the entire day. It is a satisfying activity to share our commitment to rug hooking with others. Please contact the coordinators for information on how you can help.

14th Annual HCRAAG 2010 Rug Hooking Camp – August 9-13, 2010 – Our rug hooking camp is shaping up to be another stimulating week with three exceptional instructors -- Cherylyn Brubaker, Jen Lavoie and Diane Phillips. Two workshops will be devoted to specific subjects – landscapes (Jen Lavoie) and portraits (Diane Phillips) – and one open workshop (Cherylyn Brubaker). The workshop descriptions are shown below.

Cherylyn Brubaker You are invited to work on the pattern that excites you! All styles of hooking and pattern designs are welcome. Cherylyn particularly enjoys hooking in the primitive style with over dyed textured fabrics, but is equally at home with fine cuts. Achieving depth and richness in our rugs through value, texture and color is what she strives for. Discussions are planned during the week on topics such as color planning and background techniques.

Cherylyn resides in Brunswick, Maine and is the owner of Hooked Treasures. A former graphic designer and a certified teacher with the Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia, she teaches at workshops in the Northeast and Atlantic Canada. Her work has been featured in Celebrations X and XVII. Most recently she was a contributor to the book "Pattern Designs for Rug Hookers". Her pattern designs and finished rugs can be viewed on her website -- www.hookedtreasures.com.

Jen Lavoie -- Jen Lavoie lives in Huntington, Vermont. She was featured artist at the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild's annual show at the Shelburne Museum in 2007. Her work can be seen in Anne-Marie Littenberg's most recent book, Hooked Rug Landscapes. She

uses a variety of cuts and dye techniques, including painted wool, dip dye and gradation value dyes, to create landscapes and pictorials in a painterly style.

In class Jen will spend time with you problem solving and helping you find your own personal style and expression. Her focus is on discovering originality and true mastery of the medium. Class will consist of individual student sessions as well as short talks on process, wool as an art medium, dyeing and the principles of color, texture, line and perspective in rug hooking. Jen wants you to find inspiration to hook from your own personal experiences in life and even if you are working on a pattern, to discover what makes it truly your own artwork. All types of projects are welcome!

Diane Phillips – This workshop will focus on hooking faces, portrait style. The faces will be at least 8 inches from forehead to chin so that you can play with color and expression. An imaginary person, a family member, a national figure or YOURSELF- all faces are fair game. We will have individual lessons as well as daily demonstrations of hooking eyes, noses and mouths. We'll learn how many lovely colors can enhance skin and learn some techniques of dying unique shades of skin for all the world's people. Hooking hair gives us great opportunities for textures. Diane's personal style swings from very folksy to realistic, so you can work in your own style or try a new one. All cuts of wool from 3 to 7 are fine – Diane believes in cutting the size one needs to get the look one wants. She will provide lots of samples and inspirational materials as well as a DVD she produced for the Home and Garden Channel. Come have fun and hook a portrait that will become a treasured rug!

Diane lives in Fairport NY with her husband, Bruce, and four dogs. For eight years she directed the rug school held by the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont. In 2009 Diane was the Featured Teacher at the Sauder Village Rug Show and School in Ohio and will be a featured artist at the Hooked in the Mountains Rug Show in Vermont this November.

The fee for the week is \$150 for HCRAAG members who paid their dues by November 13, 2009. It is \$225 for others. To register, just send a \$25 nonrefundable deposit to Karl Gimber at P.O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913. Make your check payable to HCRAAG.

The Madeline Brightbill Scholarship Fund provides a full scholarship for attendance at our annual rug hooking camp. The scholarship can be used to recognize a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild, for someone who would not attend otherwise, to recognize a long time member, to welcome a new member, etc. In other words, the criteria are very broad. Nominations should be submitted to Weezie Huntington, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, by March 12, 2010.

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 Director, Dee Rosebrock, know.

Fraser Cutter Blades Needed - Annie Edwards recently purchased a Fraser Model A Bliss wool cutter. She was able to purchase a #3 blade from a Guild member, but still needs #2 and #7 blades. Please let her know if you have any for sale (215-297-8494 or anniechervinedwards@yahoo.com.)

More on Judging Hooked Rugs – Thanks to Susan Feller, we gain insights into yet another approach to judging hooked rugs. The Ontario Hooking Craft Guild (OHCG) will have a rug competition at their 44th Annual Meeting in 2010. For rugs hooked in the traditional manner, the scoring system is as follows:

Overall Impression (25 points possible)

- Well presented
- Clean
- Neat
- Visually pleasing

Composition (20 points possible)

- Color is balanced – shows movement around the piece
- Color selection complements or enhances each other
- Appropriate use of textures (if applicable)
- Appropriate choice of color for background - mottled or variegated
- Uniqueness of design (applicable for original patterns)

Technique (35 points possible)

- Even loops and height
- Proper tension
- No backing showing
- No crossovers or twisted loops
- Shading is realistic (if used)
- Shading of flowers/leaves shows proper separation of petals and leaves
- Motifs are balanced in piece

Finishing (20 points possible)

- No raw edges showing
- Neatness of finish
- Well pressed and lies or hangs flat (if applicable)
- Good corners
- Neat stitching

Note: Oriental rugs may have a fringe added at one or both ends

The OHCG has an alternate judging criteria for rugs hooked in a non traditional manner (e.g., sculpting, proddy, punch needle and 3-dimensional). More on that next month.

Featured Member – Claudia Casebolt -- Claudia Casebolt's passion for rug hooking is all about creativity. She was drawn to traditional rug hooking because it allowed the artisan to be creatively involved with each step from designing the pattern to selecting the wool palette to the actual hooking. Claudia did not find these complete creative possibilities in any of the other fiber arts she had done. The history of rug hooking and the recycling element are additional attractions. She also likes the flexibility possible with hooked rugs. Claudia notes that "If you do not like what you have done, you can pull it out and change it. Once you create a piece of pottery, you are stuck with it, if you do not like it."

Claudia's first exposure to rug hooking started during a two month camping trip to the Maritime Provinces in 1990. In Nova Scotia she saw someone hooking a bright floral pattern. Claudia did not like the colors but was clearly drawn to the art form. Continuing

their trip, Claudia and her husband, Steve, stopped at the Grenfell House and Museum in Newfoundland. There she saw many hooked rugs hanging on the walls. At the museum Claudia noticed an announcement for a rug hooking workshop to be conducted by Jessie Turbayne the following day. Jessie was writing her first book and wanted to revitalize interest in rug hooking in Saint Anthony. The workshop was intended for the local community, but Claudia was permitted to attend. The Grenfell Museum allowed the participants to use one of their patterns.

Claudia's plan was to hook with nylon in the Grenfell manner when she returned home. She had just moved to New Jersey and through the Newcomers Club of Princeton met Elizabeth Walker who amazingly was from Newfoundland. Elizabeth was "a serious rug hooker" and took Claudia under her wing. All the leftover # 4 cut hand dyed wool from a large rug Elizabeth was working on went to Claudia. The two of them hooked together for five years. During that time they were joined by five other local rug hookers who formed the nucleus of what became known as the Hooksome and Chatmore Group. Claudia is the only remaining member of the original group in the area.

Even though Claudia started hooking with yarn at Jessie Turbayne's workshop and then with the #4 cut wool given to her by Elizabeth Walker, she has always liked primitive style rugs that complement the primitive furniture in her home. Claudia prefers to work with recycled wool. She has used her "share of dyed wool", but likes it best "as is". According to Claudia her "perfect rug is one hooked in a #6 cut, using 'as is' recycled wool with lettering in a pattern that she has drawn." Interesting borders are also important. A personal storyline is often found in her patterns. Claudia says "When you look at the big picture, I want my rugs to be a storyboard of my life." Not surprisingly, Claudia rarely works with commercial patterns. Over the years, she has hooked in #3 to #9 cuts. Her next rug will use #4 and #5 cuts since that is what the pattern calls for.

Elizabeth Walker and Hildegard Von Tenspolde provided the foundation for Claudia's rug hooking. She does not attend many camps, but in the early 90s, Claudia attended the Truro Camp in Nova Scotia for four years where she worked with Germaine James, Doris Norman (before she taught Celtic designs) and Dorothy Height. She is unable to attend the HCRAG Camp because she and Steve normally travel during the summer, but she loves to go to the Cape May Rug Camp every fall. Over the years, Claudia has worked with Gail Dufresne, Michele Micarelli, Kim Nixon, Jule Marie Smith and Abby Vakkay. She approaches instructors in a very deliberate manner. They are selected based on what she wants to learn but "I do not want my work to look like the teacher's" says Claudia.

Hooking two hours a day with a book tape playing is her dream. In reality, hooking two days a week is more the norm. The Hooksome and Chatmore Group meet on Thursdays, so that provides one day. Claudia and Tracy Fetzer often hook on Tuesdays. Claudia and another friend, who is not a rug hooker, try to get together on Fridays where they visit while Claudia hooks and her friend does office work. A day spent sitting, talking and hooking is the ideal.

Her early instructors introduced Claudia to the rug hooking guilds in the area. Elizabeth Walker brought her to the Alice Beatty Guild and Hildegard Von Tenspolde was active with the Bucks-Mont Guild. From there Claudia learned of HCRAG. She continues her guild involvements because of the creativity she finds there. She is especially attracted to programs with outside speakers.

When it comes to hobbies and interests, Claudia's list is a long one. High on the list for her and Steve is travel. Two years ago, they spent six months going around the world. Claudia spent much time planning all aspects of the trip. They spend each summer camping and traveling. This

coming summer they plan to visit Newfoundland again. Photography, quilting, Ukrainian egg decorating, reading, flea marketing, baking and visiting museums are also on the list of interests. Claudia collects folk art as well as outsider art.

Claudia and Steve live at The Lawrenceville School where Steve teaches physics. He is very involved in raising cactus and succulents and enters many of his plants in the Philadelphia Flower Show every year. He also makes most of the pots for his plants. The Lawrenceville School provides a special living community that fosters Claudia's creative instincts. They live on the school campus with their four cats: Bogie, Bacall, Yuki Lu and Fleas.

Claudia was a hospital Medical Technologist for about 14 years before she and Steve moved from Washington State to the East Coast. They have two children. Their son, Tarmigan, is 29 years old and is an engineer living in California. Daughter, Sahale, age 26, is a graduate student at the University of Iowa where she is studying invertebrate paleontology. When Steve retires they plan to move back to Washington to the house they bought 25 years ago in Gig Harbor.

Claudia teaches a beginning group of rug hookers in her home. She helps them to design their own patterns right from the start and encourages them to use recycled wool whenever possible.

HCRAAG Library – Thanks to Marion Michel the Guild's library has grown with her donation of the following books:

- The Hooked Rug by Kent, William Winthrop, 1930 (1971 reprint)
- You...Can Hook Rugs by McGown, Pearl K, 1951
- The Lore and Lure of Hooked Rugs by McGown, Pearl, 1966
- Rug Hooking & Rug Tapestries by Wiseman, Ann, 1969

Our 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 freija2@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.

From Joyce Combs' Dye Pot – This month I want to share a favorite and easy dyeing technique known as casserole dyeing. Wet wool is placed in a flat pan with at least 3 inch high sides. Dye formulas are spotted over the wool. White vinegar should be added to the dye formula. Cook for 45 minutes on the stove or in a 300 degree oven for one hour. Cover with aluminum foil. Watch the steam, it burns!

Tips from Heloise (a.k.a. Lydia Lewis) – Here is an opportunity to use your ingenuity and have fun putting together several small rugs to form a larger one. For example, Heloise has 4 stair raisers that are not being used and if put together they would make a cute small rug, or used as a border on a square rug. To combine completed rugs, join them by whipping the binding together. If the bindings are of different colors find a coordinating color. Plan the rug carefully, making sure that the squares are of matching size- or if used as borders - of correct size to fit perfectly in the final assembling.

From the Archives – March was a busy month for the Guild in its early years. Here is a sampling of some of the programs.

- March 1978 – Demonstration Workshop of Sculptured Mushrooms by Barbara Barr
- March 1979 – Lecture/Demonstration on “Miniature Rugs for Doll Houses” by Vera Davis, a member
- March 1980 – “Helpful Hints on Hooking” presented by the membership
- March 1981 – Lecture on “Different Pattern Treatment of Identical Designs” by Sharyn Curtis and Sonia White, members
- March 1982 – Trip to “Hooked Rug Designs for Fifty States – An Exhibition by Molly Nye Tobey” at the American College at Bryn Mawr
- March 1982 – “Dyeing with Natural Materials Demonstration” by Betty Oldenburg of the Oldebroke Spinnery
- March 1983 – “Color Planning Rugs”

It is interesting to note that some of the program topics are similar to ones still offered today. Others have not been done for some time. Are there any ideas here for future Guild programs?

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 updates the site monthly. Take a look!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Fraktur Hooked Rug Exhibit – November 28, 2009 to April 24, 2010 at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA. Susan Feller is the Guest Curator for an exhibit of contemporary hooked rugs that were inspired by Pennsylvania German fraktur drawings. The rugs are on display with fraktur and redware pottery items from the Heritage Center’s collection. For more information, contact the Heritage Center at 215-679-3103 or www.schwenkfelder.com.

Exploring Molas with Norma Batastini – March 8-10, 2010 – The Kuna Indians of the San Blas Islands off the coast of Panama are known for their beautiful hand stitched molas. Layers of brightly colored cottons are cut away to form intricate designs inspired by their flora and fauna. Norma has designed several rugs reflecting the styles and themes of the traditional molas. The class will explore the techniques, colors and subjects of traditional molas and how they translate into rug hooking. You may choose one of Norma’s designs or she will work with you to design your own. For more information, contact Norma at 973-746-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com.

The Textures of Africa with Linda Woodbury – March 12-14, 2010 – This class combines two of Linda’s loves, rug hooking and the animals of Africa. The class will explore the use of textured wool when hooking animals and flowers. Linda will discuss the ins and outs of recycled wool, the treasures that make her work unique. You may choose from five designs in the African Series: the elephant, lion, greater kudu, rhinoceros and zebra. You may also work on any other design suitable for textures. For more information, contact Linda at 973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

Woolwrights Spring Hook-in – March 20, 2010 -- The ATHA Woolwrights Chapter is hosting a hook-in at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center. This is a fundraiser to support the 2011 ATHA

Biennial Conference that will be held in Lancaster, PA. For more information and to register visit www.woolwrights.com.

Hooked Rug Presentation at Longstreet Farm – March 27, 2010 -- “Tavern Sign Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell” is the subject of a presentation by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber at Longstreet Farm from 1-3 on March 27, 2010. The Gimbbers will also use their 50 + hooked rugs to help discuss their journey as rug hooking artisans. For more information contact Ronnie Grothusen at 732-946-3758.

Hook-in and Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 17, 2010 – The Fairfield Grace United Methodist Church (1089 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT) is sponsoring a hooked rug exhibit on April 17, 2010 from 9: 00 AM to 2:30 PM.. To mark the exhibit’s 50th anniversary, this event will include an all day hook-In. Exciting vendors will have everything for your rug hooking needs including rug designs, hooks, books and more wool than you can imagine. At 1:00 PM Michele Micarelli, Vivily Powers and Loretta Scena will have a panel discussion covering such interesting topics as dyeing, rug schools, finishing techniques, and trends in this fiber art. You will not want to miss this event! Contact Pat Jurgielewicz at prj@discala.com or 203.445.8896 for information..

Hooked Rug Exhibit – April 24 to May 2, 2010 – The Monmouth County Park System is sponsoring a hooked rug exhibit at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ from April 24 to May 2, 2010. The hours are from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission is free. The Longstreet farm rug hookers will be exhibiting their handiwork. The exhibit will feature work from ATHA members along with novice rug hookers showing off their artistic talents in primitive and fine cut traditional hooked rugs. For more information call the Farm at 732-946-3758.

Rugs by the Sea – September 12 – 24, 2010 -- The popular rug hooking school returns to Cape May, NJ for its 23rd season. The instructors for the first week (September 12 -17) will be Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Kris Miller and Judy Quintman. Week two (September 20 - 24) features CherylN Brubaker, Bev Conway, Lucille Festa and Cindi Gay. For more information contact Norma Batastini at 973-946-2936 or g_batastini@msn.com or Linda Woorbury at 973-743-6835 or Linda.woodbury@gmail.com.

ATHA Biennial Conference in Lancaster, PA – October 19-22, 2011 -- For more information, contact Mary Lynne Naples at marylynnelan@aol.com.

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 12, 2010 Monthly Meeting – Round Robin Demo (Gisele Meader and others) *

March 19 – 21, 2010 – March Madness – Flemington Hampton Inn

April 9, 2010 -- Monthly Meeting -- Back a Jacket (Lydia Lewis)**

May 14, 2010 – Monthly Meeting – Program TBD *

June 11, 2010 -- Monthly Meeting - - Annual Picnic*

August 9-13, 2010 – HCRAg Rug Hooking Camp – Educational Services Commission School

August 12, 2010 – HCRAg Beginners’ Workshop – Educational Services Commission School

*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.

** 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.

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

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

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

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

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

Special Events – Carol Kindt 908-782-7306 or ck-rk@comcast.net

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

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

Dee Rosebrock (Asst. Treasurer) – 609-771-0596 or uncoolfred@aol.com

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

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

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

HCrag Meeting Minutes February 12, 2010

Meeting was held at the Court Room/ Police Station /Raritan Township Municipal Buildings)

Meeting was called to order by President Weezie Huntington at 10:10AM.

Old Business:

Sunshine, Sue Woodworth reviewed the many losses of loved ones by Guild members in the recent weeks. It has been a sad month.

March Madness is moving along. Handbag patterns and wool were distributed to those that ordered them. A few spots remain in Michelle Micarelli's class. We have a few people interested in those spots at this time. The balance of the fees are due now.

The January Retreat was a success with progress on many projects.

April elections need volunteers for new officers. Joyce Combs has volunteered to be Co-President with Dee Rosebrock. Lynda Kling volunteered to be Secretary. Debbie Walsh for Vice President.

New Business

Howell Farm would like to have the Guild demonstrate rug hooking on May 1.

Bouman Stickly Farm is requesting the Guild to demonstrate April 1.

Volunteers are needed to take the lead for these events and coordinate participants.

Summer Camp for 2011 teachers, Kris McDermet, Iris Simpson, and Jane Halliwell Green.

Dee Rosebrock asked for rugs and volunteers for the 4 H fair. 8/25 - 8/29.

Our February Program followed the meeting. "Something to Warm the Heart", Lydia Brenner and Cheryl Halliday showed their pet rugs and discussed the way they create their rugs.

Show and Tell followed

February Mat Swap.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

Joyce Combs