

THE LOOP

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAG) Newsletter

March, 2016

Presidents' Letter – As I write this, it seems the world has gone mad. How do you cope with things that? Actually, that is not irrelevant to hooking. With all the pundits making predictions, and public people accusing each other of all kinds of things, I tend to try to escape, and what better way to do that than to do something creative, something positive. Both hooking and photography provide that escape for me. And they work together. I have always considered my camera my most important hooking tool.

I take pictures of patterns, artwork, windows, mosaics, flowers, clouds, sunsets, sunrises, and landscapes. While most of what I shoot for hooking purposes never makes it into a pattern or a rug, I have a file of ideas, and examples of how colors work (or not) together -- dramatic skies with fields below, mountains with skies above, etc. I can always go to these ideas with no worry about copyright infringement.

Speaking of that, I was in Florida a few weeks ago, and one of the places I toured was Flagler College in St. Augustine. It is the old Ponce de Leon Hotel. In their dining hall, which has many Tiffany stained glass windows, they have many of the original hand carved chairs, about 100 years. What jumped out at me was the little half-round mat that has a cherub's face and says 'welcome' that was carved in the chairs 100 years ago. If I want to hook that, I can just draw it. I do not need to worry about copyright.

On to other topics -- we still have a few major openings that need to be filled: Programs (you will get lots of help) and Secretary among the unclaimed. We really need both of those spots filled. Can you do it? Ellen has already lined up almost a full year of programs, so you will have an easy job the first year and lots of ideas and help for the second year. Please, please, please consider what you get out of the Guild vs what you do for the Guild, and see if you might do more.

Wishing you even loops and beautiful colors (and warmer weather). Weezie and Therese

March Meeting – Friday, March 11, 2016 – Our March meeting will be 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 for a GPS is 314 State Highway 12, Flemington, NJ 08822 although that does not appear on the road. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are always welcome.

Program – Jan Cole (Wool'n Gardener) will teach us how to marbleize/marry wools without using dyes. She will do a presentation and will then go through the entire process of marbleizing wools. Her goal is to show how all those "ugly" plain wools can be married to produce one-of-a-kind colors without the use of any additional dyes. In addition, she will distribute printed instructions. She will bring her beautiful wools as well as other hooking items for sale.

Show & Tell – Bring your latest completed rug or current project to share with us.

Hospitality – We thank in advance the following members who have volunteered to bring snacks and treats to the meeting – Ingrid Cosmen, Lois Grieves, Marion Hall, Julian Kapusta, Carol Kindt, and Barbara Lugg, Our meetings are enhanced by their contributions!

Note: It was agreed at the last meeting that coffee will no longer be provided at our meetings. This will reduce the amount of supplies needed to be brought to each meeting and make it easier for those who pick up and return the supply tubs from the storage unit each month. Members are encouraged to bring their beverage of choice.

March Birthdays – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month - Dolores Clark (3/31), Tracy Fetzter (3/4), Ann Gagnon (3/28), Sarah Gerding (3/12), Juliana Kapusta (3/4), Amy Korengut (3/26), Joan Lucas (3/13), Pat McDonnell (3/17), Helen McWeeny-Dowling (3/7), Carmen Mebus (3/21), Laurie Rubinetti (3/29), Therese Shick (3/20), and Linda Woodbury (3/26). We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

Membership – Jane Anderson has a new email address – jasuanderson@gmail.com.

Sunshine – 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 –

Time Approaches to Pass the Baton -- Our by-laws call for the election of officers/chairs at our April meeting with the new team assuming their responsibilities at the May meeting. Many of our current officers/chairs have served in their roles for over two years and now anticipate stepping down. This is a healthy process of renewal that provides for new energy and fresh ideas. It is encouraging that members have been responding to the need for new leadership. The current “slate” is as follows:

President – Jan Cole/ Fred Cole/Weezie Huntington
Vice President/Membership – Ellen DiClemente
Director Communications – Karl Gimber * & Mary Passerello*
Rug Hooking School Directors – Lydia Brenner & Debbie Walsh
Historian – Sonia Force *
Hospitality – Deanna Kinney*
Librarian – Kathy Donovan*
Mentoring – Amy Korengut*
Programs – Open
Secretary – Open
Special Events – Chris Coslet*
Spring Retreat – Gail Ferdinando & Diane Liberto
Sunshine – Gail Ferdinando*
Treasurer – Jean Laurence * & Dee Rosebock *

*incumbent

All members should consider how they can contribute to the ongoing success of our Guild. Please look at the list of positions found at the end of the newsletter and let Therese or Weezie know of the positions in which you have interest in serving or for which you need more information. You can also approach the incumbents with questions.

Hooked Rug Challenge –Humorous Side of Aging -- Eleanor Dunker is encouraging Guild members who are also ATHA members to participate in the ATHA challenge to hook rugs based on the theme of the “Humorous Side of Aging.” The deadline for submitting rugs is December 1, 2016. The rugs will be featured in the February/March 2017 issue of the ATHA Magazine. A high resolution photograph with the details (pattern name, designer, cut sizes and materials used) should be emailed to Joan Cahill, Assistant Editor at ATHAnews@aol.com.

Planning Has Started for 2017 Rug Hooking School -- Lydia Brenner and Debbie Walsh, our Rug School Directors for 2017, have already begun the process of identifying possible instructors. It is important to begin the selection early before the top instructors are already booked.

One of the factors in the selection process is the transportation costs associated with getting instructors to Lambertville. That has often eliminated many instructors who come a great distance. At our last meeting, interest was expressed in considering instructors for whom the transportation costs would be greater than what we typically have incurred. The additional costs would be added to the registration fee for those in that workshop only. This would not affect the fee for the other workshops. Please let Lydia or Debbie know of any instructors you think should be considered.

Information Sought on Informal Rug Hooking Groups – We occasionally get requests for information on informal groups that meet locally for an afternoon or evening of hooking. This is especially of interest to members who are not able to attend our weekday meetings. Information on the Mercer Hookers that meet at the Mercer County Library and “The Gathering” that meet at Longstreet Farm in Holmdel is listed in our newsletter.

We are seeking information on other groups that meet in the area to which Guild members can attend. If you know of any such group, please send the following information to Karl Gimber, our newsletter editor, at karlg12@verizon.net:

- Name of group (if any)
- Location
- Meeting day and time
- Name of contact
- Contact information (phone or email)

The information gathered will be shared in the newsletter.

Sources for Slubby Wool -- Several people have asked Nina Seaman where she gets her slubby wool for her mats. We are grateful to her for sharing the following information:

“I have used products from all three of these sources and I do not hesitate to recommend them.

- FleeceArtist.com -- The website shows several shops in our area that carry Fleece artist yarns. However, I checked out the one in Princeton and they do not carry the slubby wools that I use. Perhaps the shop would be willing to order some.
- TheWoolWorks.com -- This website show the work of HeidiI Wulfroat who owns London Wul. It is a small operation where she owns the sheep, shears them, spins and dyes her wool. Prices are in Canadian dollars which is now discounted about 25%.

- Hookingrugs.com -- This is the website of Deanne Fitzpatrick who has slubby yarn as well as packets of assorted yarns of various colors.”

I am sure there are sources here in the US so if any of you knitters and hookers have some good ones, let me know.”

Exciting Monthly Meeting Programs Scheduled -- Ellen DiClemente is “retiring” as Program Director but has devoted a lot of energy in developing a diverse and exciting group of programs for our monthly meetings for 2016 and 2017. The listing can be found on the HCRAAG Calendar found at the end of the newsletter. Thank You Ellen!

Demonstration Schedule Update -- Diane Liberto and Mary Passerello have volunteered to assume responsibility for our participation in the Hunterdon County 4 H and Agricultural Fair. This event is attended by thousands of visitors and is an outstanding venue for promoting rug hooking and HCRAAG. We thank Diane and Mary for stepping forward and supporting the Guild in this way. A special “thank you” goes to Dee Rosebrock who has coordinated our involvement for the last eight years.

New members are encouraged to join our demonstrators for a fulfilling and relaxing day. It is important to recognize that even if you have only been hooking for a short period of time, you know more about rug hooking and pulling loops than those who come out to these events. The feedback from visitors is gratifying and reassuring. Demonstrators are welcome to come for a couple of hours or the entire day. Feel free to approach the event coordinators if there are questions or if more information is needed.

The current schedule is shown below.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>
April 9	Peter Wentz Farmstead (Worcester, PA)	Karl Gimber
May 7	Howell Living Farm (Lambertville, NJ)	Karl Gimber
July 30 & 31*	Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)	Karl Gimber
August 25	Hunterdon County 4-H Fair (Ringoos, NJ)	Diane Liberto & Mary Passerello
September 9&11	Sheep & Fiber Festival (Ringoos, NJ)	Amy Korengut
September 17	Historical Fall Festival (Hilltown, PA)	Karl Gimber
October 1	Apple Butter Frolic (Mennonite.Heritage Center)	P. McDonnell
October 1	Colonial Market Day (Newtown, PA)	Lydia Lewis

* Corrected date

HCRAAG 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 and organized under the following headings:

- Home Page with monthly message from the Guild’s President(s)
- Guild News & Events
- Guild Calendar
- Hooking Events
- Rug Hooking School
- Guild Demonstration Schedule

- Member Gallery (see more below)
- Featured Hooker *
- Nina's Notebook (creative and inspirational messages from our favorite Nova Scotia hooker – Nina Seaman) *
- Tips from Heloise *
- From the Dye Pot *
- Recipes (HCRAAG members are great cooks too!)*
- Guild Library
- The Loop *
- Resources

*current and past articles

The Member Gallery Page is organized in the following categories:

- Artisanship – photos of members' completed rugs
- Featured Members – rugs completed by our monthly featured members
- Hooked Rug Festival – photos from the 2015 Hooked Rug Festival
- Events – photos from various Guild events such as rug hooking demonstrations, retreats, rug school, and meetings
- Show and Tell – completed “show and tell” rugs shared at our meetings

Members can share the Gallery through email on Facebook, Twitter and other social media links that are provided in the bottom left corner.

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Karl Gimber at karlg12@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.

There is growing sensitivity about protecting artisans from unlawful use of images of their work. A notice appears on the Gallery Page that the images shown are copyright protected. Members are requested to grant the Guild permission to include their rug photos on the website. An authorization form accompanies the newsletter.

Spring Retreat (April 8-10, 2016) – An informal survey of members confirmed that there was interest in having another spring retreat instead of Spring Fling workshops. Gail Ferdinando and Diane Liberto have volunteered to serve as event coordinators.

The retreat will be held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ on April 8-10, 2016 following our April Guild meeting. We usually end late Sunday afternoon, but could stay until 10 PM, if we choose. Joy Andrews, our favorite massage therapist, will be there to help relax stiff muscles. Participation in the retreat is limited to members.

The retreat is a super bargain -- three full days for \$45! New members are encouraged to attend. The retreat is a perfect setting in which to meet other members and to learn from more experienced rug hookers. Our retreats are always a time of sharing ideas and getting advice on current projects. This is a great opportunity to catch up on projects and to get some serious hooking done. Participants can stay overnight or commute. Members reserving sleeping rooms

will get a reduced rate of \$115 plus tax (figure \$130 per night) up to the date of the retreat as long as rooms are available. Mention the Rug Retreat when reserving rooms.

Questions can be directed to Gail at thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com or 908-735-6720. To reserve a spot, give your check made payable to HCRAAG to Diane Liberto at a meeting or send it to her at 8 Allens Corner Road, Flemington, NJ 08822.

Let's welcome spring by celebrating with hook & wool!

Additional Library Donations – In the past month our Guild has again benefited from donations to our Library by dedicated members.

- Brigitte Levine donated the copy of All Flags Flying American Patriotic Quilts As Expressions of Liberty which she won at the last meeting. Written by Robert Bishop and Carter Houck in 1986 it will provide inspiration to you if you want to design a patriotic rug.
- Folk Art Friends by Polly Minick and Laurie Simpson has graciously been loaned to the Guild's library for a period of one year by Mary Jo Gimber. It features hooked rugs and coordinating quilts.

We thank them for their generous donations.

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 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.

Field Trip Planned for May Meeting -- A field trip to the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA is planned for our May 2016 meeting. The Schwenkfelders are a protestant religious sect that migrated to Pennsylvania from southern Germany and lower Silesia in the 1700s. They are one of the groups known as the Pennsylvania Germans. The Heritage Center has a major collection of Schwenkfelder decorative arts such as fraktur and textiles. For additional information, visit the Heritage Center's website at www.schwenkfelder.com. The fee for the day is \$5 and includes:

- entrance to the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center.
- a presentation by fiber artist Susan Feller (Ruckman Mill Farm – www.ruckmanmillfarm.com).
- attendance to the Penn Dry Goods Market (antique show that features antiques and vintage textiles plus things that might have been found on the shelves of an old dry goods store.)
- visit to Kay Leisey's Homespun Shop.

Ellen DiClemente is compiling the car pool arrangements and schedule.

2016 Rug Hooking School – Our 20th Rug Hooking School is scheduled for August 8-12, 2016 with instructors Norman Batastini, Nancy Jewett, Iris Simpson and Ali Strel. There are currently openings in the workshops of Ali, Iris and Nancy.

Camp Fee -- The cost of camp is \$200 for *members with dues paid by November's meeting*. Non-members will pay \$275 if there is available space after January 30th. 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).

Attend Rug School Free -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice. 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 chose to host two teachers, \$200 will also be allotted for your compensation. Teachers need a private room and bath and if you house two teachers, each needs their own room and bath.

If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Anndee Byers or Eleanor Dunker know.

Featured Member – Brenda Smith – Brenda Smith has had a lifelong interest in fiber related, handcrafted work. Her mother taught her to sew when she was three and Brenda has quilted for years as well as knit, crocheted and done counted cross stitch. Her introduction to rug hooking came about in 2011 through supporting a teacher colleague who needed help. Brenda's friend, who was an art teacher in the same school at which Brenda taught, wanted information on rug hooking for one of her classes and asked Brenda if she could attend "a Saturday thing" at Jeannine Happe's Two Old Crows Studio to get information. Brenda went and left with a kit, hook and supplies.

Shortly after that brief introduction, Brenda saw a press release on the 2011 ATHA Biennial in Lancaster and "went to check it out." She recalls walking into the exhibit area and "being blown away!" To go from sitting with eight people working in Jeannine's studio to the Biennial was "so cool." The Biennial experience motivated Brenda to return to Jeannine's open studio sessions where she befriended Eileen Koch, Donna Kolznak and Therese Shick. Naturally they all encouraged her "to check out our Guild." However, Brenda was unable to attend our monthly meetings due to her work schedule.

Brenda loves color and was especially impressed by Cindy Irwin's rugs with her embellishments that were exhibited at the Biennial. She likes to combine the simplicity of primitive patterns to which she was exposed at Two Old Crows with the bright colors she found in Cindy Irwin's work. "I need color," she exclaims. "Using what you have" was learned from her mother and applied to her rug hooking. "I like the make do end of it," Brenda says.

Norma Batastini's workshop on the color wheel at the Guild's 2014 Spring Fling was an opportunity for Brenda to gain a more formal grounding in the use of color in rug hooking. It also provided an opportunity for her to be formally introduced to our Guild (She joined the Guild that weekend.). She left being highly motivated to take what she learned and apply it to her rug projects. A Michele Micarelli workshop at Historic Longstreet Farm in 2015 continued Brenda's exposure to the exciting possibilities of what can be achieved with colored wool in her hooked rugs. The workshops with Norma and Michele have helped Brenda think about how best to use color in her rug design planning.

Brenda's early projects were hooked with #4 and some #6 cuts. While she likes the detail that can be achieved with narrow cuts, she "wants to get things done" and now prefers to hook with larger cuts. Brenda "likes the recycled aspect" and is attracted to hooking with wool from garments she finds at local thrift stores. Brenda is always on the lookout for old clothing made with plaid and textured wool. "I like the challenge of working with what you have," she notes. At the same time, she says "I am a sucker for dyed wool and use both old and new wool."

Dyeing wool is something that Brenda has "played with." Her fascination with color led to trying to dye with Kool Aid, but is finding that the colors are now fading. She recently found a dye kit at the Sheep and Wool Festival in Rheinbeck, NY and is checking to see if the results will be better. "I like to fool around and experiment, but it is nice to be able to go back to a vendor to get more of the same wool if you need it."

Moving forward, Brenda wants to design more of her own rug patterns. She has already designed two "sentimental pieces" for her father and husband. "It is nice to give a hooked rug to someone who appreciates the handwork." Brenda likes rugs with stories behind them and says "they are more than just decorative." She hopes to find a workshop on drawing patterns with meaning.

Brenda tries to "do a little hooking every day." Her frame is always up! She even has a hooking frame in her "retirement home" in Virginia where there is a basic project ready to work on. Brenda "likes making stuff." She often thinks about the difference between an artist and a craftsperson. She does not consider herself an artist but does see "meaning" in the rugs she creates. The rugs that she gives to friends "add something." She is proud that a rug she gave to her father hangs in his workshop.

Brenda and her husband, Glenn, live in Oak Ridge, NJ along with their dog Smitty, a Rat Terrier, and their cat, Pierce. Glenn is a professional firefighter in Teaneck, NJ and looks forward to retiring this year. Their son, Benjamin, lives in Virginia with his finance Sahra. Brenda retired from teaching last September. Her last teaching position was at Montville High School. Her teaching certification is for Family and Consumer Science.

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

Hooking Information & Techniques

From Nina's Notebook – Oh March, will you be a lion roaring with cold winds and icy rain or will you be the lamb with warm breezes and bright sunshine? Or will you tease us with budding trees and emerging flowers only to cover them with flakes of snow?

In Newfoundland and Labrador February and March were knowing as the "matting" season, a time to set up the frame and turn out rugs, wall hangings, whatever was needed or wanted. Paula Laverty in her book Silk Stocking Mats: Hooked Mats of the Grenfell Mission tells the story of

Dr. Grenfell and his mission to provide medical care to the outports and underserved communities of Newfoundland. Women in these areas already knew how to hook using their own designs, materials and equipment which they fashioned from whatever was available locally. An example, hooks were bent nails inserted in a block of wood which was then whittled to fit a woman's hand. Dr. Grenfell introduced their mats to some of his volunteers from New York and New England. The volunteers saw this as an opportunity for the women to sell their mats and provide extra income for their families. The volunteers also collected materials such as silk stockings and underwear to send to the hookers for their mats. Let your stockings run to Newfoundland was their motto. They also set up retail shops to sell and promote the production of mats. A brief review of the book and the Grenfell Mission can be found on Face Book as part of an ad to promote tourism in Newfoundland and Labrador.

We may not want to hook polar bears or ice floes or use silk stockings but March provides us with lots of inspiration. This year Easter falls on the last Sunday in March -- bunnies, colored eggs, little lambs all come to mind. What are some of your images of March? And how about those shamrocks? Or an Irish pub or tavern sign using the information the Gimbers gave us at the last Guild meeting as our guide. March 8 is International Women's Day. Who are the significant women you have known or admired and how would you honor them in a mat?

So, March blow in or blow out, creep in with warm sunny skies and nourish those buds soon to become flowers. Tease us, taunt us but let us get back to the serious work of March, being the rug hooking artisans we are!

Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

Tips from Heloise –Solvron for Embellishments -- Eleanor Dunker shared an embellishment tip with Heloise that uses a product made in Japan known as Solvron which causes wool to shrink, creating puckers in the material. She learned of the product while taking a class at the recent ATHA Biennial in Texas. Solvron was used for the wing in the “Funky Chicken” project taught by Carol Kassera.

The product is easy to use and creates an interesting look. Eleanor provided the basic process:

- Cut a piece of wool that is about 20% larger than the area you want to cover. You need to leave a border.
- Attach a piece of the Solvron to the back.
- Draw the desired shape on the back.
- Using a sewing machine, stitch lines in many different directions within the drawn shape.
- Spray hot water on to the area stitched.

Step-by-step directions with pictures and a chart that allows you to compute for shrinkage are included when you purchase the material. The contact for purchasing Solvron is patyparish@gmail.com. Eleanor purchased a yard that cost \$18 which she expects to go a long way.

We thank Eleanor for sharing this tip with us.

Recipes – Lois Grieves’ Coconut Blueberry Pie (by Joeann Nictakis) – Members who attended the Guild’s 2015 Rug Hooking School will remember the Coconut Blueberry Pie brought by Lois Grieves. It was a real hit! We are grateful to Lois for sharing her recipe.

Crust Ingredients

- 9 graham crackers, whole sheet
- ½ cup pecans
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

Filling

- 1 pint fresh blueberries
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/3 cup sugar
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 1 cup sweetened flaked coconut

Preparation

- Prepare crust by mixing all ingredients in a food processor
- Place berries in bottom of crust
- Whisk together remaining ingredients and pour over blueberries
- Bake for 45-50 minutes at 350 degrees.

Enjoy!

Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities

Maryland Sheep & Fiber Festival (May 7 & 8, 2016) – This major fiber festival will be held at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. For more information go to www.sheepandwool.org or 410-531-3647.

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.

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.hookedinthemountainworkshops.com.

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 McClentic, 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.

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.

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 Barbara Kimbrough at 908-309-3881 or beedkay@gmail.com.

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

HCRAAG Calendar of Events --

March 11, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Marrying/Marbleizing Wool (Jan Cole) *
April 8, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Rug Finishes Round Robin (Members) **
April 8-10, 2016 – Spring Retreat – Hampton Inn, Flemington, NJ
April 9, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Peter Wentz Homestead, Worcester, PA
May 7, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Howell Living Farm, Lambertville, NJ
May 13, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Field Trip – Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center – Penn Dry Good Market – Susan Feller Presentation – Kay Leisey/Homespun
June 4 & 5, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Mercer County 4-H Fair (Howell Living Farm)
June 10, 2016 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon, Show & Tell Drawing and Review of Construction of Michele Micarelli’s Pouch *
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 17, 2016 – Guild Demonstrates at Historic Fall Festival, Hilltown, 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) *
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 HCRAAG 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 -- Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or weezie711@gmail.com
Therese Shick – 908-735-7985 or etshick@gmail.com.

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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.



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

HCRAg CLASSIFIEDS

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