

# THE LOOP

## **The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild (HCRAAG) Newsletter**

November 2016

**Presidents' Letter** – INSPIRATION OVERLOAD!!! I have just returned from the Hooked in the Mountains event. This is an event, if you are not familiar with it, that has a significant exhibit of hooked pieces, as well as several days of classes offered. The exhibit is similar to our Hooked Rug Festival, with about 400 pieces this year, covering all kinds of hooking—traditional, 3-D, combining hooking with braiding, with felting, with sculpture. And then don't forget to mention that there are about 16 vendors! Oh, my. I went with good, strong intentions not to buy anything. I will not confess what I spent, lest my husband stumble upon this.

I took a class from Liz Alpert Fay, an artist from Connecticut who I have worked with before, that was titled "Exploring the Abstract Circle". Cool stuff. We played for three days. I will be bringing some of the ways we played to share with you over the next few months. Liz does huge pieces, all of them beautiful and different. While we did not do any hooking at all, this was dedicated play time—something we do not allow ourselves on a regular basis—a time to come up with different ideas. Definitely not the same old stuff!!

There are talks scheduled throughout the day by various people, on various topics. There are three featured artists, this year Liz was one of them, Jackye Hanson with her Waldoboro style hooking, and Davey DeGraff, a prolific local hooker who has mentored many in the area. Each of them gave at least one talk on their work, and then there were talks by others, including our favorite Susan Feller.

Susan's talk was about how to do your own gallery walk. This was very interesting, and I went back and photographed the rugs she spoke about, and will present (although in a much simpler fashion) all that she mentioned. I hope I can remember even half of it. It was a great talk.

There is so much creativity in the Green Mountain Guild. There is also so much creativity in our Guild too. It is so wonderful to go to an exhibit like this. Anytime you have the opportunity to see a large body of work, I encourage you to go. It is worth the drive!!! Take pictures, although don't post them on social media. Look at what people are doing, up close and personal. What materials are they using, what was the inspiration for a particular piece, how was it executed? Could you to it? Would you be willing to try even if you were to fail?

So, Expand your Horizons!! Keep pulling loops, but think about playing too.

In wool, Weezie, Jan and Fred

**November Meeting – Friday, November 11, 2016** – Our November 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 1 Municipal Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822-3446. The meeting runs from 10-2. Guests are always welcome.

**Guild Program** – Cindy Comly, a local professional hooked rug restorer, will share how she started rug hooking and then repairing rugs. She will explain her approach to repairing a damaged piece and the materials and tools she uses. Cindy will provide descriptions and samples of various types of rugs repaired including work-in-progress. She will include “do’s and don’ts” for rug making that can affect any future damager and or repair.

**Show & Tell** – Please bring and share your current projects.

**Hospitality** – Our hospitality volunteers for the month are Sandy Denarski, Linda Ehly, Barbara Lugg, Robin Nissenfeld, and Barb Perry. We thank them all for their contribution to the enjoyment of our monthly meetings!

**November Birthdays** – Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month – Fred Cole (11/2), Elizabeth Dey (11/29), Ellen Di Clemente (11/16), Barbara Kimbrough (11/16), Carol Kindt (11/11), Eileen Koch (11/22), Robin Nissenfeld (11/3), and Kay Weeks (11/15).

We wish them all the happiest birthdays. Enjoy your day!

**Membership** – **Notice:** Dues must be paid by this meeting in order to receive the reduced member rate for the 2017 Rug School. The membership renewal form is available on our website – [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com).

**Sunshine** – Our condolences are extended to former member, Mary Schenck, at the passing of her husband, Bob, after a courageous battle with cancer. Sympathy cards can be sent to Mary at 65 Country Road #627, Phillipsburg, NJ 08865.

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

## **Guild News & Events**

### **“Signs of the Times: Hunterdon Taverns & the Placards that Attracted Patrons”**

**(November 1, 2016)** – The Hunterdon 300<sup>th</sup> Organization is sponsoring a presentation by Dan and Marty Campanelli that will be followed by an exhibit and brief discussion of hooked tavern sign rugs created by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber that were inspired by historic Hunterdon taverns. The event will be held at the Main Branch of the Hunterdon County Library at 7:00 pm. For further information, please check -- [www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org) -- or call 908-788-2030.

### **Guild Member Lucy Walsh’s Rugs Featured at the Township of Lebanon Museum --**

Hooked rugs by Fiber Artist Lucy Walsh of Clinton, NJ will be on display at the Township of Lebanon Museum, 57 Musconetcong River Rd, Hampton, NJ 08827 for the month of November. Admission is free. Guild members are invited to the opening reception on Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 1:00 - 5:00 PM.

Lucy has been creating hand-crafted hooked rugs in the traditional style since 1990. Her rugs have received numerous awards, and have been featured on rug hooking websites and rug hooking publications. They have also been exhibited in many local galleries. Among the more than 30 rugs on display is “Orphan Train” which was recently exhibited at the reunion of Orphan Train descendants in Little Falls, Minnesota. You can learn more about Lucy’s rugs by going to her website -- <http://lucywalsh.vpweb.com/>. For museum hours or additional information about the exhibit, visit <http://www.lebanontownship.net/services/museum.aspx>.

**Hooked Rug Exhibit – “Tavern Signs: Contemporary Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell” -- (November 19, 2016 to February 18, 2017)** – An exhibit at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA will feature the tavern sign rugs designed by Guild members Karl and Mary Jo Gimber. Many of the rugs exhibited are included in the recently published book by the Gimbbers. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit [www.schwenkfelder.org](http://www.schwenkfelder.org).

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Colonial Christmas Added to Guild’s Demonstration Schedule** -- The Guild will be demonstrating at the Jacobus Vanderveer House & Museum in Bedminster, NJ on November 26 and 27, 2016 during its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Colonial Christmas. The Vanderveer House was the Revolutionary War headquarters for General Henry Knox during the winter of 1778-1779. The activities for the day include house tours, holiday shopping, colonial re-enactors and colonial Christmas music. The Museum is located at 3055 River Road, Bedminster, NJ and its website can be found at [jvanderveerhouse.com](http://jvanderveerhouse.com).

Therese Shick is coordinating our participation. She needs two volunteers for both days and suggests two shifts – 10-1 and 1-4. Period clothing is encouraged but not mandatory. Volunteers are permitted to sell their work. Please let Therese know if you can help or have questions by contacting her at 908-735-7985 or [etshick@gmail.com](mailto:etshick@gmail.com).

**A Few Spots Remain – January Hooking Retreat (January 13-15, 2017)** -- Ten places remain for our popular January rug hooking retreat that will again be held at the Hampton Inn in Flemington, NJ following our monthly meeting. Participants can commute or stay overnight. The cost for the weekend is \$45 – a real bargain! You can sign up at the November meeting or by sending a check made payable to HCRAAG to Weezie at 69 Minuteman Circle, Allentown, NJ 08501. Participation is limited to members.

**Guild’s 21<sup>st</sup> Rug Hooking School (August 7-11,2017)** – The announcement of the instructors for our 2017 Rug Hooking School has generated considerable excitement. Instructors *Maggie Bonanomi, Cammie Bruce, Capri Boyle Jones, and Cindy Irwin* follow in the Guild’s tradition of inviting highly regarded and sought after teachers who will spend the week with us. Rug School will begin on Monday, August 7, 2017 and run to Friday, August 11, 2017. The registration form is available on our website.

The fee is \$200 for those who are Guild members at the time of our November 2016 meeting (November 11, 2016). A registration deposit of \$100 is required. Non-members (fee \$275) can register if there are any openings after January 30, 2017. If someone joins the Guild between November 11, 2016 and January 29, 2017, they will be able to register before January 29 but will have to pay the \$275 fee.

Registration forms were accepted beginning at the October meeting but no class list will be established until November 1, 2016. If a class goes over the maximum number of students, we will take all registration forms for that class that have arrived by November 1, 2016 (no matter how they are received) and use a lottery system to choose the members that get into that class, and to determine the order of names on the wait list.

The following information is being provided so that members not familiar with the instructors can get to know them.

### Maggie Bonanomi

“I never know where to begin! I grew up sewing and creating things, I have been making wool applique for at least 20 years and nearly have hooked rugs that long as well. I learned rug hooking from Emma Lou Lais; she was a wonderful teacher. I have had the opportunity to design for Linda Brannock of Star Quilt Co, Renee Nannaman of Need’l Love, Blackbird designs as well as Blackberry Primitives. I have written eight books with the Kansas City Star. I have also been published in American Patchwork and Quilts magazine as well as Primitive Quilts and Projects and Quiltmania, a French publisher bought my first two books to publish in France.

“I have traveled around the country to teach, which I enjoy very much. I went to France in 2012 as well to promote my books as well as taught three workshops and thank goodness had an interpreter for that.

“I would say my style is primitive, designs simple. Color and design are what I usually am known for and are most important to me. I enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and love to share many timesaving tips I have found. I love the whole process of a project from design to every loop or stitch. I like to incorporate other fabrics into my applique; I even added some velvet to a hooked mat once. I have been tearing and cutting my wool strips, I began to do that years ago when I was trapped at home due to a bad snow storm. I’d just started to hook with a 9 cut (about 11 years ago) well I haven’t ever gone back. I like the look of torn strips in my rugs.

“I grew up moving around, my father was in the Air Force, I married my hubby while living in California and he returned to the Army; after his tour in Vietnam we moved around, with two tours in Germany. I reside now in Lexington, Missouri with my hubby of 46 years. My home is a pre-civil war home dated about 1841-1845. I have a studio/shop on Main St here in Lexington called the Purple Turnip. I have two grown daughters with their own families and wonderful grandchildren for us to enjoy. This year we finally got ourselves a West Highland Terrier puppy named Lulu, she really runs the place we only pretend that we’re in charge.”

Maggie feels that she can better teach her own designs rather than someone else's and will be sending a list of her designs to choose from. You may also transfer a pattern from one of Maggie's books that are in your personal library. For those students interested in applique, Maggie will offer a specific kit that includes instructions and wool. The cost will range from \$85 to \$125.

Note: -- Maggie will be teaching at the 2017 ATHA Biennial in Cleveland. An image of one of her wool applique pieces can be seen on page 19 of the October/November issue of the ATHA Magazine.

### Capri Boyle-Jones

Capri has been developing her art in fiber professionally thru hooking, designing, dyeing, creating, and restoring rugs for twenty-four years. Owner of Capri Boyle Rug Studio, Inc., a McGown accredited teacher, member of ATHA and National Guild of Pearl K. McGown Hookcrafters. Capri is experienced in and teaches a wide variety of styles while her personal painterly style is Impressionism, focusing on the use of light and color. You may find her artwork in *Rug Hooking Celebrations*, at Quayside Art Gallery in Pensacola ([www.quaysidegallery.com](http://www.quaysidegallery.com)), The Cultural Arts Alliance ([www.CulturalArtsAlliance.com](http://www.CulturalArtsAlliance.com)), various exhibits, art shows throughout the US, and private collections.

In this open class, any hooking style and size cut can be applied to your project. Capri will assist you in achieving your preferred outcome. From problem solving an existing project to

developing new skills with your hooking, the possibilities are unlimited. Custom design is available upon request.

### Cammie Bruce

Primitive and unique finishes are what you get when you take a class with Cammie Bruce. Bring your wide cuts (#7 and up) and experience the primitive arts of Cammie. She loves incorporating textures, plaids, dyed, and any other kind of wool you have into your own rug. Her work with color is subtle but definitive. Cammie enjoys playing with shapes and has created many interesting finishes, edges and borders on her rug designs. She can help you customize your pattern edge with a unique finish. Cammie has been teaching since 2002.

You can find Cammie's work on her blog: [primitivejunky.blogspot.com](http://primitivejunky.blogspot.com) and her patterns at [www.etsy.com/shop/primitivejunky](http://www.etsy.com/shop/primitivejunky)

### Cindy Irwin

Cindy Irwin has been hooking rugs since 1983. She is a certified McGown teacher and holds classes in her home. Cindy is a juried member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen and President of the Conestoga Guild of McGown Rug Crafters. She is the assistant director of Northern Teacher's Workshop, Director of Loanables for The Pearl McGown National Guild, and on the Board of the National Rug Hooking Museum. Cindy Irwin is well known among her students for embellishing rugs with gemstones.

Cindy will be holding an open class. She has a selection of over 70 Amish patterns available. Cindy also has original purse patterns and will have four chapters in the Rug Hooking Magazine book on purses coming out in April. Her purse design patterns will be in the book and she can teach them to students who have purchased the book. Cindy also sells patterns based on the work of Lisa Arkus. These are whimsical and fun to hook. Please visit Cindy's web site @ [cindyirwinrughooking.weebly.com](http://cindyirwinrughooking.weebly.com) Cindy Irwin's rugs have been included in Celebrations nine times. Her Klimt's The Virgin is in 2015 Celebrations as an honorable mention and can be seen on the Guild's website.

**Attend Rug School Free** -- Anyone housing a teacher will get to attend rug school for free and will get the teacher of their choice as long as an opening still exists in that class. 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.

Please note that at the present time, it appears that a lottery will be utilized to select the participants in two of the workshops. Any member who offers to house one of the instructors by November 1, 2016 will be assured of getting the teacher of their choice. Housing is still needed for three teachers – Capri, Cammie and Cindy.

If you have questions or interest in providing housing for an instructor, let Rug School Directors Lydia Brenner or Debbie Walsh know.

**Rug School Scholarships Available** – Two full scholarships for our 2017 Rug Hooking School will be awarded.

The Guild's Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in memory of deceased members. It provides a full scholarship to a deserving member to attend the HCRAG summer rug hooking school and is awarded based on nominations received from our members. The guidelines for granting the prize are quite broad: it could be used to

- say thanks to a member who has made an important contribution to the Guild;
- recognize a long-time member;
- welcome a new member;
- acknowledge someone who has shown a real commitment to rug hooking; or
- for any other purpose that seems appropriate.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award, or if you would like to be considered yourself, please contact Jan or Weezie by December 1, 2016. The scholarship recipient will be announced at the December meeting. One position in each teacher's workshop is being left open until the Scholarship is awarded so the winner can select the teacher of her/his choice.

Teri Dabrowski is sponsoring a Rug School Scholarship. This scholarship will be a random drawing from the names of those members signed up (at the member by November rate). The date for the drawing has not yet been established but will probably be late winter. Thank You Teri!

**Guild Volunteers Support Community Festivals** – Our demonstrators participated in two popular local events – the Apple Butter Frolic and Colonial Market Day – on October 1, 2016.

- Apple Butter Frolic – The Frolic is held on the grounds of the Mennonite Heritage Center in Harleysville, PA and has been enjoyed by the local community for over 40 years. Pat McDonnell served as our event coordinator and reported that “Juliana Kapusta, Jean Laurence and I attended the Frolic last Saturday. It was a chilly day, but we had a good time demonstrating nevertheless. Many visitors stopped by and tried hooking on a pattern. It is a lovely event. The staff thanked us for coming.”
- Colonial Market Day – Historic Newtown, Pennsylvania is the site for this popular event featuring crafters, artisans, fine arts, entertainment, and food. Lydia Lewis coordinated our involvement again this year and reported that “it was a damp chilly day but Newtown Market Day was held as scheduled. With only a few sprinkles there were many people coming into our HCRAG booth. Both adults and children took turns pulling up loops. Many were interested in the creations we make besides rugs. Several women had mothers who hooked. The most asked questions were how long does it take to make a rug and how much would it cost. We definitely could have sold beginner kits to all ages.”

We are grateful to Lydia, Pat, Juliana, and Jean for supporting the Guild on what was a cool and damp October day.

**Report on Hooking Retreat** – We thank Gail Ferdinando for organizing our October retreat. She provided the following report:

“We may have been a small group (15) at the first fall retreat, but we had a great time and got a lot of hooking done! A few people were working on their owl rugs, using many new stitches and started at an ATHA guild class, some on the rugs that were started in summer

camp, and then there was Therese who started and completed about 18 holiday mats (well maybe it was three, but it seemed like 18!)

“Marian Hall brought a huge selection of beautiful dyed wools for sale. Dee was kind enough to take orders and then pick up from Paneras for us on Friday night and we found a local restaurant that delivered soups, salads and sandwiches on Saturday. We had lots of snacks and even more laughs.

“If you could not make this retreat, consider joining one of our upcoming retreats in January and/or April. They are a real bargain at only \$45 for the three day weekend and a great way to spend time with friends and get a lot of hooking done.”

**Members Enjoy Brandywine Guild’s Hook-in** -- Over 20 Guild members journeyed to the Kimberton Firehouse on Saturday, October 22, 2016 to be with 200 of their closest friends. Kathy Kane and Eileen Koch met at a Park’n Ride in upper New Jersey at 6:30 AM and were at the head of the line when the doors opened! The day was cold and damp – perfect for being inside enjoying, seeing and making hooking friends.

The Brandywine Hook-in is an area favorite with registrants coming from southern New England, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. The venue is ideal with a large well-lit banquet hall that provides a comfortable room for the hookers and vendors. A full range of events and activities kept the day moving and enjoyable. The well planned day included:

- Desirable door prizes
- Talon Rug Hooking Frame raffle
- Eleven popular vendors
- Mat Swap
- Book signing – Mary Jo & Karl Gimber
- Rug exhibit
- Delicious lunch and homemade snacks
- Food drive for Chester County Food Bank

We congratulate and thank our Brandywine friends for providing this enjoyable day for rug hooking enthusiasts.

**Kathleen Herbert Provides Rug Hooking History** -- Textile artist Kathleen Herbert educated and entertained the Guild at the October meeting with her presentation that took us through the history of rug hooking from the mid-1800s Waldoboro until vintage McGown hooked rugs. Using rugs from her collection, Kathleen traced the history of hooked rugs from its earliest days in northern North America to present day rug hooking styles. One fact she stressed was that true Waldoboro rugs were always hooked on linen. Also, not all Waldoboro rugs are sculpted. Remember if it is hooked on burlap, it is not Waldoboro!

Kathleen encouraged members to visit historic sites that display hooked rugs. Her favorite sites are:

- Beauport Museum
- Cogswell Grant – summer home of Nina Fletcher Little, Essex, MA
- Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT
- Rug Hooking Museum of North America, Nova Scotia

She also provided her suggested reading list shown below for those who want to pursue the subject:

- Tennant, Emma. *Rag Rugs of England and America*. London: Walker Books Ltd., 1992
- Kopp, Joel and Kate. *American Hooked and Sewn Rugs*. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., 1975
- Kent, William Winthrop. *The Hooked Rug*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1930
- Waugh, Elizabeth & Foley, Edith. *Collecting Hooked Rugs*. New York: The Century Co., 1927
- Lavery, Paula. *Silk Stocking Mats*. Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press, 2005
- Turbayne, Jessie A. *Hooked Rugs*. West Chester, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 1991
- Turbayne, Jessie A. *The Complete Guide to Collecting Hooked Rugs*. Atglen PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd. 2004
- Peladeau, Mildred Cole. *Rug Hooking in Maine 1838 - 1940*. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 2008
- Lawrence, Evelyn and Wright, Kathy. *Rug Hooking Traditions with Magdalena Briner Eby*. Winchester KY. Traditions. 2011
- Ryan, Nanette and Wright, Doreen. *Garretts and The Bluenose Rugs of Nova Scotia*, Reprinted by Spruce Top Rug Studio, Mahone Bay N.S. 1995
- Conrad, Suzanne and Hugh, *Rescued from Oblivion*, Author Houser, Bloomington, IN, 2010
- McGown, Pearl, *You Can Hook Rugs*, Buck County Printing Co., Boston, MA, 1951

Several of these books are in the Guild's Library.

**HCRAG Library** – Our Librarian, Kathy Donovan, reports that the following have been added to our library:

Another Place and Time by Maggie Bonanomi donated by Mary Jo Gimber features 18 primitive projects inspired by her travels near and far. Maggie is one of our teachers for summer of 2017. Take a look at samples of her wool applique and hooked rugs.

Rug hooking with Deanne Fitzpatrick. This book features over 40 distinctly Deanne rugs from the past 20 years of her creating.

Sculptured Rugs in Waldoboro Style by Jacqueline Hansen with Trudy Brown. If you were fortunate and able to attend Hooked in the Mountains rug show this year you saw an assortment of rugs created in the Waldoboro style by one of the featured artists and this book's author Jackye Hansen. Take a look at this book and learn more about the history and creation of Waldoboro rugs.

Kathy brings a selection of books to each meeting. A listing of the resources available to members from the Guild's library can be found on our website ([www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com)). If there is a specific item you want from our library, contact Kathy by 12:00 noon on the day before our meeting and she will bring it to the meeting. Kathy can be reached at 908-755-1670 or [frejja2@verizon.net](mailto:frejja2@verizon.net).

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

**Lucy Trask Barnard and Her Rugs (Part 5)** -- The May 2016 issue of *Maine Antique Digest* has a fascinating article by Mildred Cole Peladeau on rugs hooked in the mid-1800s by Lucy Trask Barnard. We conclude the story by quoting from the article:

“The four new discoveries (the three items at the Farnsworth, two rugs and a quilt, and the rug on linen), together with the three at the Metropolitan give us an intimate sense of Lucy Trask Barnard, who spent her entire life in Dixfield, where unlike an isolated farm wife, she would have been exposed to any culture in the town at that time. According to family legend recorded by Grimm, Barnard was a ‘true pioneer woman who went far and near in cases of sickness and trouble to minister to the sick and dying. Her knowledge of plants for medicinal cures came in handy to local families. She taught many terms of the village school, and was beloved as a girl, a teacher, and a woman.’

“Barnard was born in Dixfield on December 16, 1800, the second daughter of Amos and Lucy Parke Trask. Amos was one of the first settlers of Dixfield and was described by Isabel Russell in a paper delivered to the Advance Club of Dixfield in 1959 as a ‘self-made man, industrious, frugal, a generous neighbor and a faithful friend... When he died [on November 14, 1821] he was a rich man for those times, having an estate worth \$10,000.’ In 1820 Amos had bought the Dr. Dix house in the center of town, which would serve as home to Silas and Lucy Barnard and their descendants for three generations. Now known as the 1820 House, it still survives on Weld Street.

“All members of the Barnard family appear to have been well educated, a fact made apparent by the remnants of the family library inherited by Grimm’s brother Dr. Daniel Root of Lowville, New York. The 32 scholarly tomes accent the interest and pursuits of Silas, Lucy, and other members of the family. Dr. Root’s assessment: ‘So what do these tell me about Silas, Lucy Trask, Melissa Wheeler and the rest? They were certainly very learned... These are tough books about hard subjects! And they were clearly passionate about things... Melissa about her academic studies, Silas about geography, presidential and Rhode Island politics, and probably about Wilberforce [William Wilberforce (1759-1833), and Englishman passionate about the abolition of slavery]; Lucy about religion and her academics. And it surprises me a bit –that there were more women signing these books than there were men -- It is a small sample, but it clearly shows the value they placed on educating girls.’

“Well educated and a surveyor of note, Silas was able to provide Lucy and their eight children with a comfortable living. Not only did he work for the state in surveying the original boundaries of many Maine towns, but he was also involved in the settlement of Maine’s so-called Aroostook War. He surveyed the disputed northern boundary between Maine and Canada, which led to the adoption of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842. It established the international boundary between Maine’s Aroostook County and Canada as it exists today.

“An unattributed clipping of Lucy Barnard’s obituary, following her death on September 25, 1896, was familiarly titled ‘Aunt Lucy Barnard.’ It reads, ‘The appellation Aunt Lucy is not misplaced. Not only was she Aunt Lucy to relatives, almost numerous as the sand in the sea shore, but for years and years she has been Aunt Lucy to everybody.’”

This concludes the story of Lucy Trask Barnard.

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

In order to have a rug added to the site, send a photograph to Karl Gimber at [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto: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.

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

**Featured Member – Alma Coia** -- Alma Coia is the consummate rug hooking artisan. She does it all – teaches, dyes, designs, mentors and hooks exquisitely! On top of that Alma is a pilot! (More on that later.) She has also served as the director of several rug camps/schools. Her introduction to rug hooking came in 1970 when a new staff member at the school where she worked as the Director of Guidance and taught needle arts to adults told her about rug hooking and said “You will love it.” This led to taking a class in Moorestown, NJ with Lillian Isaakson and where she worked on her first hooked piece.

Shortly thereafter, Alma and her friend attended a week long rug school held at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina. The instructor was McGown certified Leona Cook who introduced Alma to Pearl McGown's patterns and techniques. That experience inspired Alma's interest in fine cut rug hooking. Leona Cook was impressed with Alma's work and recommended that she consider teaching and becoming McGown certified. Alma submitted her patterns to Pearl who was sufficiently impressed to start her at the 2<sup>nd</sup> level of certification training. By her second year, Alma was teaching and went on to be certified three times. Her teaching background was an asset as Alma helped develop the curriculum for McGown teacher workshops. She went on to serve as a McGown certified instructor.

In the 47 years that Alma has been involved with rug hooking, she has attended most rug hooking schools and McGown Teacher Workshops on the east coast. “You name it and I have been there,” she notes. From 1976 to 1990 Alma attended the Country Inn Rug School in New Hampshire. Alma's interest in teaching eventually led to establishing and directing rug hooking schools. She was the Co-Director of the Maryland Shores Rug School that she started with Janice Russell who lived in Maryland. Alma discontinued that role when she and her husband, Robert, started to spend six months of the year in Florida. While in Florida, Alma taught at the “Scrub Hooking School” in Sebring, Florida. “The name of the school came from the scrub lands in the area.” When Alma was back in Pennsylvania, she was a frequent instructor at the popular Highlands workshops before they were discontinued.

Alma had the benefit of learning from the “old timers” such as Betty McClentic, Vivily Powers and Ethel Bruce. Norma Batastini is a current favorite teacher.

She prefers to hook flowers and pictorials using mostly #3 cuts of wool. Alma has hooked with cuts as wide as #8 strips but clearly prefers to work with #3, 4, 5 and 6 cuts. She hooks at “every opportunity I have at home and with others.” Alma often sits in when Cherry Halliday teaches a class and hooks “in the corner.”

Alma “loves to dye, especially spot dyeing.” She says “name a dyeing method and I have tried it.” Nine years ago Alma moved into a retirement community and decided to stop dyeing wool fearing that the vinegar odor might offend her neighbors.

Over the years, Alma belonged to several guilds including the Bux-Mont Guild where she served as secretary for 10 years as well as a guild in Burlington County, NJ that started as an embroidery guild. Neither guild is active today. Alma hooks on Friday afternoon with friends from her Highland days. She is also a member of the Wool Whisperers ATHA Chapter. Alma learned about the Hunterdon Guild from Gail Dufresne at a McGown Northern Teachers Workshop.

Alma is a graduate of West Chester and Rutgers. She retired after 30 years as a Director of Guidance. Both Robert and Alma shared an interest in flying. While Robert was working on getting his commercial pilot's license, Alma decided to learn too. "If I was going up in the air, I felt that I better know how to fly the plane so that I could get back down on the ground," Alma says with a grin. She surprised Robert when she bought him a two seater Cessna 150. She notes that the plane was sold for a profit after Robert's passing. "Planes appreciate in value unlike cars!"

In addition to rug hooking, Alma's other interests include quilting, knitting and tatting. She also has a collection of Civil War era doll quilts and antique dolls. Fabric from the 1930s is another area of interest. As Alma reflects on her 47 years of rug hooking, she credits the creativity, learning and rewarding results flowing from rug hooking for her ongoing enthusiasm. She has never had interest in selling her rugs. Most of them are given to friends with the others used to decorate her home. "I do have 37 pillows and have now stopped making them!" She notes that she has "only sold one rug over the years."

We are privileged to have Alma Coia as a HCRAAG member!

### **Hooking Information & Techniques**

**From Nina's Notebook -- Thanks-giving!** A word associated with the month of November. I put in the dash to emphasize that it is a time for us to think about the bounty of our lives and give thanks. November is often a dreary month, filled with chilly, gray days. The trees are bare, the ground has turned to beige and only a few bright berries hang from the trees and bushes. The world around us appears to be moping. Even the sun when it does appear is pale and wane, giving off little warmth or light. It is certainly not enough to lift the pall around us. And yet in the midst of the gray and somber mood we are asked as a nation and as individuals to give thanks. At first I am tempted to say, for what? But I am quickly reminded that there is much for which I am thankful.

After family and friends, HCRAAG and all the hooking mentors which I have had as well all the hooking groups to which I belong are at the top of the list. The rug artisans who gather each month offer an amazing range of talents. Show and Tell each month is certainly a witness to that. The programs presented bring new and exciting information about our art. The wool that Jan and Fred Cole bring provides us with the necessary materials to hook. And how could I fail to mention our newsletter, website and gallery as sources of inspiration?

Being thankful is a state of mind which benefits each of us as rug artisans. Each day brings new opportunities to meditate on this idea. New designs come pouring out of our heads. For example, Thanksgiving, the holiday, is usually a time when families gather for a special meal. Who are some of your favorite people at that gathering? Perhaps a portrait of that person is in your future. And what about a place that is most meaningful to you? As many of you know, my island home in Nova Scotia appears many times in my mats. Animals are beloved subjects too...birds, cats, dogs whatever was your favorite can be immortalized in a mat.

And so, in spite of the gray, gloomy days, we will summon the artist within each one of us and contemplate how we will display our thankfulness for the bounty we have!  
Happy Thanks-giving! And Happy Hooking! Nina Seaman

**From the Dye Pot – Colonial Home Dyeing** -- The Forgotten Art of Growing, Gardening and Cooking with Herbs by Richard Bacon provides “instructions and recipes for herb planting, growing, harvesting, and drying and for gardening, housekeeping, decorating, dyeing, cooking, and eating with herbs.” The segment on home dyeing is provided below:

“Spinning, weaving, and dyeing were as much a part of the colonial homestead as were cooking and washing. Vegetable dyes were universally used until the late 1800s, when they were supplanted by chemical dyes. Plants grown for dyeing included bedstraw, bloodroot, anchusa, chamomile, lily-of-the-valley, dock, yellow flag, calendula, wild marjoram, safflower, St. Johnswort, dyer’s greenwood, Fuller’s teasel, and soapwort for washing wool.

“Many dye plants give different colors as the season progresses. For example, St. Johnswort dyes green in the spring, later yellow, and finally gold. As with commercial dye lots, home dyes will probably not produce exactly the same color twice. Care should therefore be taken to provide a plentiful supply for any dyeing project.

“Iron kettles were often used for mixing dyes but tended to produce ‘sad’ or grayed colors. Today we use enamel, stainless steel, or glass utensils. Wool is relatively easy to dye because animal fiber absorbs stain more readily than plant fibers like cotton and linen.

“General Directions for Dyeing Wool – Cover the plant material with cold water and let it soak overnight. Generally count on a peck (about 7 quarts) of chopped or crushed herb material or 8 ounces of chopped root to dye 1 pound of wool. Bring to a boil and simmer for the specific time recommended. When ready to dye, pour in enough warm water to cover 1 pound of wool (about 3 to 4 gallons), enter the wool into the dye pot, bring to a boil and simmer to the desired color. This will take 30-60 minutes. The color will generally be better if the plant material is left in during the dyeing process, but you may strain it out if you prefer. Put the wool in a pot of hot water to rinse. Repeat until the rinse water is clear. Dry dyed wool in the shade.”

Information on the use of specific plants will be discussed in subsequent articles.

**Tips from Heloise – Preventing Gripper Bar Damage** – Kathy Kane incorporates various yarns, roving and mixed media materials in her rugs. She has experienced that the gripper bars on her frame often pull out hooked portions when she is removing her rug from the frame. Kathy discovered a solution to the pulling problem which she shared with Heloise.

After a section is hooked, Kathy takes a piece of Glad Press’n Seal and presses it on the back of the hooked portion of the rug and runs her finger around the edge of the hooked area. The Press’n Seal protects the hooked area from being pulled out by the gripper bars and is removed when the rug is finished.

**Recipes – Jane Anderson’s Pumpkin Whoopie Pies** – Members who attended our October meeting were treated by Jane’s seasonal Pumpkin Whoopie Pies. We thank her for sharing the recipe with us.

### Dough Ingredients

- 2 cups packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 1/2 cups solid pack pumpkin puree
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

### Filling Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 3/4 cup shortening

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease baking sheets, or line baking sheets with silicone baking mats or parchment paper.
2. Combine oil and brown sugar. Mix in the pumpkin, eggs, and vanilla and beat well. Add flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, ginger and cloves. Mix well.
3. Drop dough by tablespoon onto the prepared baking sheets. Use the back of a spoon to slightly flatten dough into circular shape. Note that the dough will pretty much retain its shape when baked, it does not spread.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F for 10 to 12 minutes.
5. Remove cookies from baking sheet and cool completely on a wire rack.
6. To Make Whoopie Pie Filling: Beat together all filling ingredients until light and fluffy.
7. To Assemble: Spread the flat side of one cookie with a spoonful of filling. Top with another cookie.

## **Rug Hooking Events and Related Activities**

“Signs of the Times: Hunterdon Taverns & the Placards that Attracted Patrons” (November 1, 2016) – The Hunterdon 300<sup>th</sup> Organization is sponsoring a presentation by Dan and Marty Campanelli that will be followed by an exhibit and brief discussion of hooked tavern sign rugs created by Karl and Mary Jo Gimber that were inspired by historic Hunterdon taverns. The event will be held at the Main Branch of the Hunterdon County Library at 7:00 pm. For further information, please check -- [www.hunterdon300th.org](http://www.hunterdon300th.org) -- or call 908-788-2030.

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

Hooked Rug Exhibit – “Tavern Signs: Contemporary Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell” -- (November 19, 2016 to February 18, 2017) – An exhibit at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA will feature the tavern sign rugs designed by Guild members Karl and Mary Jo Gimber. Many of the rugs exhibited are included in the recently published book by the Gimbbers. For more information, call 215-679-3103 or visit [www.schwenkfelder.org](http://www.schwenkfelder.org).

“Exploring the Tarot – 23 Artists Hook the Major Arcana” -- A hooked rug exhibit organized by Michelle Micarelli and Loretta Scena will be on display in Woodbridge, NJ at the Barron Arts Center from February 4-26, 2017. To view the newsletter listing this event go to website link <http://twp.woodbridge.nj.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1339> and for directions and hours of the Barron Arts Center go to link <http://www.twp.woodbridge.nj.us/150/Barron-Arts-Center>

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](mailto: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 Barbara Boyko at 267-544-0371 or [boykobarbara@yahoo.com](mailto:boykobarbara@yahoo.com). Visit the Lamb Yankees website at [www.lambyankees.weebly.com](http://www.lambyankees.weebly.com).

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

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

- Mercer Hookers meet on the first Thursday of every month from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Mercer County Library in Pennington, NJ. It would be a good idea to contact Weezie Huntington ([weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com)) if you are coming for the first time. The hook-in is open to anyone sharing an interest in rug hooking. Bring your lunch.
- A “Gathering” of rug hookers meet at Historic Longstreet Farm, Holmdel, NJ every Tuesday from 10-3. The hook-in is open to rug hookers of all levels. For more information, call the Farm at 732-946-3758.
- Woolkeepers meet at the Tewksbury Township Library in Oldwick, NJ each Tuesday at 10:00. All interested in rug hooking are invited regardless of experience. Contact Linda Reitz for details at 908-534-2659 or [lindarz16@gmail.com](mailto:lindarz16@gmail.com).
- Midland Park Rug Hooking meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month from September to June at the Midland Park Library (Bergen County) from 10:00 to 3:00 or later. The cost is \$50 if paid in September or \$10 a session to cover the cost of insurance required by the library. Everyone is invited. For additional information, contact Chris Coslet at 973-962-1884 or [chris622@optonline.net](mailto:chris622@optonline.net).

## HCRAAG Calendar of Events --

**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 21, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Proddy Flowers (Jan Cole) – Location TBD**

**May 12, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – TBD – Location TBD**

**June 9, 2017 – Monthly Meeting – Summer Luncheon & Show & Tell Gift Drawing - Location TBD**

**August 7 –11, 2017 – 21<sup>st</sup> Rug Hooking School – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ**

**August 8, 2017 – Beginners’ Workshop – ESC School, West Amwell, NJ**

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

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

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

**Co-Presidents** – Jan & Fred Cole – 610-967-5773 or [jantique@ptd.net](mailto:jantique@ptd.net)

Weezie Huntington – 609-477-4339 or [weezie711@gmail.com](mailto:weezie711@gmail.com)

**Vice President – Membership** -- Ellen DiClemente – 908-284-9570 or [ergot53@embarqmail.com](mailto:ergot53@embarqmail.com)

**Director – Communications** -- Karl Gimber -- 215-297-0803 or [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net)

Mary Passerello – 908-782-1765 or [mpassere@comcast.net](mailto:mpassere@comcast.net)

**Camp Directors** – Lydia Brenner – 732-687-2487 or [lbrenuva@comcast.net](mailto:lbrenuva@comcast.net)

Debbie Walsh – 908-272-7012 or [debywalsh1@gmail.com](mailto:debywalsh1@gmail.com)

**Historian** -- Sonia Force – 908-782-5716 or [sojon@comcast.net](mailto:sojon@comcast.net)

**Hospitality** -- Deanna Kinney – 908-832-7587 or [deakinn@yahoo.com](mailto:deakinn@yahoo.com)

Diane Liberto (Transporter) – 908-782-7563 or [diane.mannon@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.mannon@yahoo.com)

**Librarian** -- Kathy Donovan – 908-755-1670 or [frejja2@verizon.net](mailto:frejja2@verizon.net)

**Mentoring** – Amy Korengut – 908-221-9061 or [akorengut@gmail.com](mailto:akorengut@gmail.com)

**Programs** – Facilities – Lisa Savino – 908-534-1517 or [lisasavino55@gmail.com](mailto:lisasavino55@gmail.com)

Show & Tell – Martha Thieling – 201-572-9885 or [ahtram1@aol.com](mailto:ahtram1@aol.com)

Monthly Program – Various members

**Secretary** – Jane Anderson – 908-735-4355 or [jasuanderson@gmail.com](mailto:jasuanderson@gmail.com)

**Special Events** – Open

**Spring Hook-in** -- Diane Liberto – 908-782-7563 or [diane.mannon@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.mannon@yahoo.com)

**Sunshine** -- Gail Ferdinando -- 908-735-6720 or [thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com](mailto:thebrownieexpress@embarqmail.com)

**Treasurer** -- Jean Laurence -- 610-287-9278 or [j\\_laurence@verizon.net](mailto:j_laurence@verizon.net)

Dee Rosebrock -- 609-771-0596 or [deerosebrock@aol.com](mailto:deerosebrock@aol.com)

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

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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 [karlg12@verizon.net](mailto:karlg12@verizon.net) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

## **HCRAG CLASSIFIEDS**

Karen Worthington (The Blue Tulip) has an elderly client who has a **Bliss Table Top Cutter (White) for sale**. She is asking \$150. For more information, contact Karen at 908-859-6350 or [karen@thebluetulipwoolery.com](mailto:karen@thebluetulipwoolery.com).

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**Please submit any items to be included on the Classified Section of "The Loop" to Mary Passerello at [mpassere@comcast.net](mailto:mpassere@comcast.net) or 908-782-1765 by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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**