

## **THE LOOP**

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

September 2009

**From the President's Corner** – It is hard to believe that summer is coming to an end and that we are moving into the fall season. I hope this summer was a relaxing and enjoyable time for you and your families. In spite of our monthly meeting hiatus, members were working on Guild activities. We demonstrated at the Sergeantsville Farmers' Market, The Mercer County 4-H Fair and the Plumsteadville Grange Farmers' Market. We organized the exhibit of hooked items displayed at the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair as well as devoting a day informing the public about the historic tradition of rug hooking. Of course, we worked to get ready for our 13<sup>th</sup> annual rug hooking camp.

The high point of summer is always our annual rug hooking camp. This year was no exception. The combination of talented instructors and enthusiastic students made for a memorable week. As the week unfolded, I was struck by the active support provided by camp participants. We are all familiar with the old saying that "20% of people in an organization do 80% of the work." The reverse is true when it comes to the HCRAG Camp! Everyone pitched in, from helping the teachers move in, providing snacks, bringing lunch for instructors and cleaning up at the end of the day. This was a real team effort and a model for what can be achieved when everyone works together. My thanks to all!

I want to encourage more members to bring hooking projects to work on during and after our meetings. Since we have access to our meeting room until 2:00, we can have a mini hook-in each month. It is an ideal time to hook or whip and socialize. Bring your lunch and plan to stay. After all, we are a rug hooking guild!

Keep on hooking! -- Weezie

**September Meeting – Friday, September 11, 2009** -- The September meeting will be held at 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** – "Welcome Back" is the theme for our September meeting. It is intended to allow us to share our summer rug hooking projects and activities. There is a lot of catching up to do. Those who attended camp should share with everyone else, some tidbit or hint that you learned at camp--even if you think everyone else already knows it (because we can be assured that not everyone knows it.). We will also discuss the possibility of starting a friendship sampler project.

**Show & Tell** – Bring your rugs started or completed since we last met in June. Share your rugs started at camp and the progress made since then.

**Hook-in** -- Bring your hooking equipment and use the time to work on a project. This year we want to encourage more members to bring a hooking project and spend time during the formal meeting and afterwards hooking or finishing a rug.

**Hospitality** – A big “Thank You!” goes to Ingrid Cosmen, Lynda Kling and Cindy Quinn for volunteering to bring the refreshments to the September meeting. Your treats add a special element to our gatherings.

**Membership** – We welcome Lisa Blanco, Jean Davis, Eleanor Dunker, Cheryl Halliday, Cathy Heilferty, Lee Hurford and Paula Patti as new Guild members. Their contact information is shown below. Jean, Cathy, Lee and Paula attended our camp this year. Roberta Smith has completed her relocation to Vermont.

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Kathy Donovan has a new email address – [freyja2@verizon.net](mailto:freyja2@verizon.net).

This is the time of the year to renew our membership. A renewal form is attached..

**Sunshine** – Our condolences are extended to Jo Knobloch who tragically lost her brother in a recent accident.

**August Birthdays** – Six members had birthdays last month – Adriane Collet (8/14), Lynda Kling (8/25), Brigitte Levine (8/2), LeeAnn Metropoulos (8/12), Marilyn Robinson (8/6) and Janet Williams (8/6). We hope you had a fun day.

**September Birthdays** – Birthday wishes go to those celebrating their special day this month – Barbara Calvo (9/16), Claudia Casebolt (9/14), Peggie Cunningham (9/4), Kathy Donovan (9/14),

Cathy Edwards (9/29), Lee Hurford (9/1), Cydni Lott (9/23), Helen Nitzsche (9/1), Gail Schmidt (9/25) and Roberta Smith (9/2). We hope you all have a marvelous day!

### **The Crowds Came And The Guild Was There -- Hunterdon County 4-H &**

**Agricultural Fair** -- Under Dee Rosebrock's direction, the Guild was well represented at the annual Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair that was held at the fairgrounds in Ringoes from August 19-23, 2009. This popular event attracts thousands of visitors each year. Area guilds proudly display the work of their members who compete for ribbons with the same excitement found in county fairs of years past. Each day one of the guilds is featured by demonstrating, selling and talking about their work. Thursday August 20 was our day to shine. It was an ideal opportunity to share our enthusiasm with the community.

We congratulate the ribbon winners:

#### Traditional/Fine Hooking

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Gisele Meader – “Payback”

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Dee Rosebrock – “Hare Today Gone Tomorrow”

#### Primitive

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Karl Gimber – “DeWitt's Crocodile Tavern”

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Jana Laidlaw – “Autumn Leaves”

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Agnes Wooden – “Tulip”

#### Mixed Media/Three Dimensional

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Ingrid Coleman – “Mona Lisa”

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Kathy Donovan – “Black Cat”

#### Miniature Punch Needle

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Cliff Ballard – “Harbor Scene”

Best of Show Overall – Gisele Meader – “Payback”

Viewers' Choice – Lydia Lewis – “Zoo Friends”

Rugs not picked up at the Fair will be returned at the September meeting. We thank Dee and Kay Weeks for setting up our exhibit and all members who worked with Dee on this successful event.

**Guild Members Receive National Recognition** -- It is easy for us to take for granted the considerable talent within our Guild. After all we see each other at meetings and know of the hooking being done. However, when national organizations recognize our members, it is a good reminder of how fortunate we are to be surrounded with artisans with considerable talent. In the past few months members Kathy Donovan, Gail Schmidt and Karen Worthington received special national recognition.

Do you remember the “Pot Luck” hooking project that Sharon Ballard organized for our 2007 Holiday Luncheon Meeting? Well, Kathy Donovan's “Pot Luck” piece was chosen by Rug Hooking Magazine for Celebrations XIX in the original design category. Kathy thanks Eileen Mahler who “was my very persistent ‘nudge’ finally convincing me to enter. She went as far as taking the rug and having it photographed for me when she took one of hers.” One of the judges

commented that her entry was “Absolutely charming. Wonderful attention to detail that makes this rug perfection”. Wow!

Gail Schmidt’s rug "Howdy" received Honorable Mention in the adaptation category of Celebrations XIX. The cowboy is adapted from a cowboy sign that is in Vegas where he is referred to as "Vegas Vic". The geometric background is done in colors that reflect the colors of the desert. Gail Dufresne helped design it and dyed all the wool for it. It was hooked for her house in Arizona and will hang in one of the guest rooms. Guild members will recall when Gail shared “Howdy” with us during the “Show & Tell” portion of a meeting earlier this year.

Karen Worthington was selected by Early American Life Magazine to be included in their annual Directory of Traditional American Crafts. The directory “salutes the best artisans working in period media and styles to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of fine craftsmanship”.

Congratulations Kathy, Gail and Karen! We are proud of you! **Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild Hook-in (October 24)** -- The Brandywine Rug Hooking Guild is holding its 5th Annual Hook-In, Saturday, October 24 at the Wagontown Fire Hall (near Coatesville, PA), 9 AM to 4 PM. There will be lots of great vendors, a special show "Men vs. Fiber" and a special door prize - Townsend cutter or Traveler frame (tickets \$5). A prepaid lunch is available. You can register online at <http://brandywinerughookingguild.weebly.com/> or contact Debbie Schmidt, 610-525-0691.

**Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild Book Available** – Hooked Rugs Today IV compiled by Amy Oxford and published by Schiffer Publishing features the 440 rugs exhibited at the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild’s November 2008 show. In 2006 more than twice as many rugs were submitted. The larger number undoubtedly was due to advance knowledge that a book was going to be published. Hookers like to have their rugs in books! The smaller number in 2008 allowed for a more manageable exhibit and did not overwhelm viewers according to the author.

The 176 page book opens with in depth displays of the dramatically different work of featured artists -- Rae Harrell and Diane Kelly. The work by these two gifted artisans illustrates the diverse creative expression within the rug hooking community today. Guild members will recall the creative workshop Rae conducted at our camp in 2007.

As we have come to expect from author Amy Oxford and Schiffer Publishing, the book is well organized with excellent graphics. The rugs are presented in nine categories – Animals, Geometrics, Abstracts, Penny Rugs, Miniatures, Children’s Rugs, Florals, Home Sweet Home and Pictorials. According to the author, “Penny rugs were officially welcomed into the show in 2008 by popular demand.” Interestingly, “Oriental Rugs” did not have a separate category as in the past. “Finely shaded realistic flowers were also not as well represented this year.” Three dimensional hooked pieces were pictured throughout the book in the most appropriate chapter.

The absence of technical information, such as the width of the cuts of wool used, made it difficult to study the rugs more closely. It was also difficult at times to determine if a punch needle (regular or miniature) or traditional hooking technique was used.

Our Guild was well represented in the book by rugs submitted by Gail Ferdinando, Weezie Huntington, Eileen Mahler, LeeAnn Metropoulos and Debbie Walsh. Eileen’s rug, “Antique Pineapple-Through My Eyes”, is one of the rugs on the cover.

Hooked Rugs Today IV presents a comprehensive display of the work being produced by contemporary rug hookers. It is a valuable library addition and is available from Schiffer Publishing for \$29.95 Visit Schiffer online at [www.schifferbooks.com](http://www.schifferbooks.com) or contact them at 610-593-1777.

The reviewer's copy of Hooked Rugs Today IV is being donated to the HCRAG Library.

**Adam & Eve in Fraktur and Folk Art Exhibit – July 15 - November 10, 2009**

The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center in Pennsburg, PA is featuring an exhibit of Pennsylvania German fraktur from their collection which have images of Adam & Eve. Accompanying the exhibit are contemporary hooked rugs, redware pottery, "scherenschnitte" and a quilt that has Adam & Eve images. Rugs by Susan Feller and Mary Jo and Karl Gimber are displayed. For more information contact the Heritage Center at 215-679-3103 or [www.schwenkfelder.com](http://www.schwenkfelder.com).

**Guild Participates in Artists in Residence Program** – On June 5, 2009, Irene Pasternak and Kay Weeks participated in the Artists in Residence Program sponsored by the Bloomsbury Elementary School Cultural Arts Committee. During the day, the various school classes rotated from one artisan to another who explained and demonstrated her work. Irene and Kay had the challenge of presenting rug hooking to different age groups in ways that maintained their interest. They received a \$100 honorarium that they donated to the Guild. Thank you Irene and Kay for all you do for HCRAG.

**HCRAG In the News** -- Our recent press relations efforts resulted in articles appearing in the local papers. Prior to camp, articles on our Beginners' Workshop were carried by several papers that produced 12 participants in the workshop and one for camp. Connie Coleman was our "official camp photographer" and her photos will accompany an article on camp that will be sent to those on our media list. The Princeton Packet and Lambertville Beacon sent their photographer to camp on the last day. His photos and our camp article should appear soon. During camp, Connie took a photo of Weezie and past presidents (Sharon Ballard, Helen Buchanan and Margaret Lutz) admiring our recently returned rug/banner. We learned that the photo will be on the cover of the September 5, 2009 issue of the Hunterdon Observer. The story of the return of our rug will be carried as well. Please clip out Guild articles that you see and save them for our historian, Marion Michel.

**Guild Volunteers Have Busy Summer** -- The Guild has been busy supporting local community events, educating the public about traditional rug hooking and spreading the word about HCRAG. During the summer, we demonstrated rug hooking at the Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair, The Plumsteadville Farmers' Market, the Mercer County 4-H Fair and the Sergeantsville Farmers' Market. In some cases the weather was beautiful (Sergeantsville Farmers' Market), in some it was hot (Hunterdon County 4-H & Agricultural Fair) and in another the rain washed out one day (Mercer County 4-H Fair). In all cases there was a lot of interest shown in rug hooking and much satisfaction gained by members sharing our story with the public.

We thank the following members who gave their time to support our Guild.

Margaret Brightbill  
Kathy Donovan  
Tracy Fetzer

Jana Laidlaw  
Barbara Lugg  
Gisele Meader

Cliff Ballard  
Sharon Ballard  
Jamie Mirabito

Karl Gimber  
Carol Kindt

Kitty Platt  
Dee Rosebrock

Agnes Wooden

**Annual Hooking Retreat Scheduled (January 8-10, 2010)** -- The Guild's popular rug hooking retreat is again scheduled to follow our monthly meeting in January. On Friday, January 8, 2009, we will gather at the Hampton Inn in Flemington to begin a weekend of hooking and relaxation. Carol Kindt is formalizing plans for this 4<sup>th</sup> annual retreat. More information will appear in future issues of The Loop, but it is not too early to put the date on your calendar.

**March Madness 2010** -- Planning for March Madness 2010 (formerly the Spring Fling) is underway. It is scheduled for March 19-21, 2010 at the Flemington Hampton Inn. Two workshops are currently being considered --

- 1) Lettering with Emmy Roberts, head of the Green Mountain Rug Hooking Guild
- 2) Hand-Hooked Hand Bags with Jennifer Manuell. Weezie met her at Shelburne last November and saw her "fabulous bags." To see her work, visit her website -- [www.fisheyerugs.blogspot.com](http://www.fisheyerugs.blogspot.com).

Both of these workshops will be offered at Shelburne in November. Please let Weezie know if you have something you would like to learn or have an instructor with whom you want to work or if you have other ideas.

**Demonstration Events in September** -- September is one of the busiest months for Guild demonstrators as you can see from the schedule shown below.

| <u>Date</u>     | <u>Event</u>   | <u>Coordinator</u> |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|
| September 12-13 | Sheep & Fiber Festival (Ringoos, NJ)                 | Weezie Huntington  |
| September 19    | Heritage Day (Trappe, PA)                            | Joanne McIlmurray  |
| September 19    | Colonial Market Day (Newtown, PA)                    | Karl Gimber        |
| September 19-20 | Holcombe-Jimison Farming Festival (Lambertville, NJ) | Gisele Meader      |
| September 26    | Historical Fall Festival (Hilltown, PA)              | Karl Gimber        |

Educating and informing the public about traditional rug hooking is a Guild objective. 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.

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.

**Call for Fraktur Design Rugs** -- The Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA is sponsoring an exhibit of hooked rugs inspired by Pennsylvania German fraktur. The exhibit will open on November 17, 2009 and close on April 10, 2010. Susan Feller is the Guest Curator for the exhibit. Anyone wishing to enter a rug in the exhibit should contact her at 304-496-8073 or [rugs2wv@yahoo.com](mailto:rugs2wv@yahoo.com). Rugs for the show need to be available by November 14, 2009.

Guild members will recall that the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center was the site for a HCRAG hooked rug exhibit and a hook-in a few years ago. It has an extensive collection of

fraktur and a magnificent collection of Pennsylvania German decorative arts . Visit its website (www.schwenkfelder.com) for more information on its programs and collections.

**2009 Rug Hooking Camp** -- The first heat wave of the summer moved into the area as those attending the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual HCRAAG Rug Hooking Camp moved into the air conditioned ESC School for a week of stimulating instruction and socializing with friends who share a similar passion.

Our instructors – Norma Batastini, Sandra Brown and Judy Quintman – did an admirable job of teaching, demonstrating and motivating us. Generous donations from Rug Hooking Magazine, our instructors and local “professionals” (Gail Dufresne, Kay Leisey, Margaret Lutz and Karen Worthington) provided raffle items that were admired by all. Lydia Brenner organized a successful rug show with the theme “You’ve Come a Long Way Babe”. The halls were lined with the very first and latest rugs hooked by our campers.

The potluck luncheon attracted several members and friends who we do not see as often as we would like to. June Bennett from Fogelsville, PA came with her daughter and former Guild member, Carol Orlove, who now lives in Tennessee. Both took advantage of the wonderful selection of wool available from our instructors. Guild Founder, Jo Knobloch, shared a few thoughts after lunch. It was nice to see Barbara Calvo and her daughter and former member, Yvette.

Kay Weeks and Connie Coleman conducted a successful Beginners’ Workshop with a full capacity class of 12. This workshop makes an important financial contribution to help offset camp expenses.

The camp evaluations reflected overwhelming satisfaction. At the end of the week, the general consensus was “Where did the time go?”

**From the Dye Pot** -- At camp, someone mentioned that their stash often has too many gray wools and they have difficulty using it. Norma Batastini shared that gray wool can easily be over dyed producing attractive colors. She had a booklet “Over Dye Gray – Colors From the Wool Garden” produced by Karen Schellinger (502-895-7815). The booklet contained formulas using Pro Chem dyes that were specifically designed for gray wool. Samples of dyed wool were included. Norma has had the booklet for 6 years or more and did not know if it was still available. It cost \$16 at that time.

**Tips From Heloise** -- Barbara Lugg, aka Heloise, announced her retirement after a long period of providing her insights and tips on rug hooking techniques. She is passing the baton to Lydia Lewis who has agreed to step into Barbara’s big shoes. We thank Barbara and welcome Lydia!

One of the side conversations or many mini lessons at camp dealt with different ways to approach the small white/light highlight recommended when hooking animal eyes. Norma Batastini shared a technique she learned “a long time ago from Patsy Becker.” Instead of using a very narrow cut of wool which will not hold up well to wear, Norma recommended using a thread from linen or monk’s cloth backing. Two tails are pulled to the surface, tied in a knot and cut off a little higher than the surrounding loops. The thread can be doubled to provide a stronger highlight. Barbie Beck-Wilczek suggested using a pin or needle to separate or shred the tails to soften the look.

**Meet Our Founder – Jo Knobloch** – This month we recognize and celebrate Jo Knobloch, who was responsible for establishing the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild in April 1977. This is her story in her words.

“It is amazing how events in our lives plot a course for us to journey through without a conscious plan on our part.

Having lived on a farm during the Depression, survival techniques were a way of life. My parents did everything by hand. Even though there was a dearth and sometimes no money, Mom never ceased to beautify our home with her creativity. The floors were always covered with rugs she had made, starting with the early shag kind that were sewn on by machine. Later she crocheted rag rugs and then got into hooking and designing her own pieces. Our parlor, sitting room and dining room were covered with her braided rugs.

It was not until we left home that we realized how fortunate we were to have been raised in this environment, especially during a depression. I am telling you this, because this is my background. I learned to do so many techniques from her.

Included in my background was also music. I played Bass Viol for six years in the concert band and orchestra and in a Jazz Combo and had an opportunity to play for dances at our school. I was always in the school chorus and took lessons in singing for several years. Dad paid for these lessons with apples, potatoes, etc. On occasion, I did solo work at various functions. My impossible dream was always to some day study voice professionally, but with not two pennies to rub together, this was just a hope to fantasize about.

At 17, I left home to enter St. Elizabeth’s Nursing School in Utica, NY. At that time, there were three careers open for females -- teaching, secretarial, or nursing. When I graduated as a Registered Nurse, our country was at war and I joined the Service as an Army Air Force Nurse and was stationed at the Mountain Home Army Air Force Base in Mountain Home, Idaho from 1943 to 1945. My Chief Nurse was 42 and I was 21. She was from Maine and was an avid knitter. She taught me to knit in the two years I was with her. While in the service I did some solo work for the church and sang for the troops on occasion with the Air Force Band.

My husband and I entered college at Syracuse University in 1946. He had been a pilot before the war, and during the war served in the Air Transport Command in the African and Indian Theatres for three years. When he returned from overseas, he had an airplane accident six months after we were married, while flying a P 38. It exploded on its final approach when landing at Love Field, Texas and he was severely enough injured for the physician in charge to tell me that he would not live the night out. I was given a leave to take care of him for three weeks, until he was well enough to be shipped home. He was in a cast for nine months and the end result was that his flying career was over and he would have to be trained for a new career. We now have been married 65 years.

We graduated in 1950, my husband with a Bachelors in Art Education and I with a Bachelors in Music, with a Major in Voice. My dream of studying voice professionally had materialized and I was now a Mezzo Soprano and was able to sing in four languages and do some operatic arias composed for Mezzo Sopranos. Salaries were still low, so I ended up working in a doctor’s office for eight years, before going back to college and getting my Masters and a CAS in Music Education. I taught music and was a choral conductor in the public schools of New York State, Maryland, and New Jersey for 12 years.

Making things with my hands has always interested me, so while teaching I took night courses through Hunterdon County Adult Education in weaving, basket making, and country tin painting. My daughter taught me to paint with acrylics. We started taking classes from every nationally known teacher we could find and afford. To date we have been painting together for nearly 29 years and formed a little business called “Jo and Karen”. This is our 25<sup>th</sup> year participating in shows together, as well as our own annual house shows.

When I retired from teaching in 1970, there was a notice in the Hunterdon Democrat that Adult Education and the Office On Aging had applied for a grant and needed a volunteer coordinator to put the grant into action. With my background, I thought this was something that I could handle, so I applied and was accepted. My job was to canvas the county and find out what art and craft courses Seniors would like to learn, find Master Teachers who could teach the desired classes and find locations within the County where the classes could be held.

The demand for classes was unbelievable. Where one class was scheduled, it was not unusual to add three or four to accommodate demand. Not only did I find teachers for requested arts and crafts, I found teachers for media that I thought would and should be of interest.

Rug hooking was a request and I was given a lead that there was a person named Penny Waring, who hooked rugs. She not only hooked rugs, but braided them also. She taught everywhere in the county, awakening an amazing interest through her teaching ability, her knowledge and her dedication to her craft.

Monies for free classes gave out in a year. It was obvious that many would be unable to continue. I presented a proposal to the Director of Adult Education to establish a Guild for the purpose of preserving the cultural heritage of traditional rug hooking. It would be self sustaining, requiring an annual payment of minimal dues, which would be used to pay for guest instructors. He agreed and the Guild was granted the use of the Meeting Room in the Hunterdon County Library on the second Friday of each month for its meetings. In turn the Guild would hold exhibits and demonstrations within the library.

In addition to the Rug Artisans Guild, a Patchwork and Quilting, Needlework, and Knitting Guild were formed in the same manner, holding their meetings on the other three Fridays of the month. Due to the success of this project, called “Project Arts and Crafts for Hunterdon Aging”, with the acronym “PACHA”, I was offered a full time position as Special Projects Coordinator for Adult Education and was employed by them for 10 years, after which I retired in 1983.

We were able to put on three “Festival of Guilds”, which were held in the gymnasium of the Junior High School at Hunterdon Central every other year from 1978 to 1982. The work of the members was on exhibition and vendors were available, along with guest instructors. Joan Moshimer was one of our guests.

When the various Guilds and other art and craft classes started producing their work, I approached the Director, telling him that I thought we had sufficient variety and quantity to start an Outlet Store. Once again, the Director supported the idea and was helpful in locating a building for this outlet and thus was born Golden Talents, which was located in Liberty Village for 19 years and nine years in Turntable Junction. After 28 years, it closed its doors in 2004.

Around 1983, the library changed personnel and the guilds were notified that they could no longer meet in its meeting room, so they were scattered about the county. In the mid 1980s a revamping of the State Adult Education Program resulted in Adult Education becoming a

component of a larger organization – Educational Services Commission (ESC). The guilds were granted use of the Commissions’ facilities and eventually able to procure facilities within the Flemington area for their meetings. I retired in 1983, but returned in 1993 as a volunteer helping the Guilds and Golden Talents.

For 10 years I hosted a weekly radio program, sponsored by the Office On Aging and aired out of the Communications Center at Hunterdon County Regional High School. My guests were always artists and artisans, who would explain and talk about their artistic involvement. When I came back as a volunteer, the Communications Center now had a TV Station and I was able to host a TV program, called “Artistic Talents of Hunterdon” for another 10 years. One of my programs was a two part presentation on the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild.

Six years ago, I retired for the third time. The guilds keep in touch and generously invite me to their functions and keep me abreast of their activities, which I appreciate immensely, as they are all my children. Each guild celebrated their 32<sup>nd</sup> year of existence this year. It is such a pleasure to see the level of sophistication that they have arrived at and to witness their continued enthusiasm for preserving the cultural heritage of their art form, not only by executing traditional patterns from the past, but by designing their own patterns. These pieces will become historic examples of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century’s contribution to traditional rug hooking for the future.

It has been such a joy to live in Hunterdon and to have been involved with all the artists and artisans over the past some 30 years and to have been able to utilize and share the artistic talents that I had been fortunate enough to have been exposed to throughout my life span. Working with all the talented people gave me an opportunity to continue to learn new techniques also and made it possible for me to make wonderful friendships that I will forever treasure. My cup runneth over.”

Visit the Guild’s website – [www.hcrag.com](http://www.hcrag.com) -- for photos that accompany this article.

**HCRAG Library** – If you want to borrow an item from our library, contact Guild Librarian, Kathy Donovan, 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](mailto:freyja2@verizon.net).

**HCRAG Website** – Visit the Guild’s website at [www.hcrag.com](http://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**

**Rugs by the Sea – September 13-25, 2009** -- The 22<sup>nd</sup> year of Rugs by the Sea will be held at the Chalfonte Hotel in Cape May, NJ for two weeks in September. The first week (September 13-18) will feature Bev Conway, Gail Dufresne, Lucille Festa, Cindi Gay and Charlotte Price. The instructors for the second week (September 20-25) will be Cherylyn Brubaker, Bev Conway, Nancy Miller Quigley, Judy Quintman and Abby Vakay. For more information, contact Norma Batastini by phone at 973-746-5361 or by email at [c\\_batastini@msn.com](mailto:c_batastini@msn.com).

**2009 TIGHR Triennial** – September 20-23, 2009 In Louisville, KY just before ATHA Biennial.

Make it a week in Louisville! Start with The International Guild of Handhooking Rugmakers (TIGHR) then attend the ATHA Conference. Visit [www.tighr.net](http://www.tighr.net) for membership and conference information.

2009 ATHA Biennial – September 23 – 27, 2009 in Louisville, KY. Select classes from 21 notable rug hooking instructors and shop with 17 nationally known vendors. There will be two hooked rug exhibits and a keynote speech by Frank Bielec, star of TLC’s “Trading Spaces “. Go to [www.atharugs.com/biennials.htm](http://www.atharugs.com/biennials.htm) for more information.

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Brandywine Guild Hook-in – Saturday, October 24, 2009 -- See article on page 4.

Grenfell Workshop – October 27 & 28, 2009 at Oakside in Bloomfield, NJ. The workshop begins with a lecture by Paula Laverty, the author of “Silk Stocking Mats”, on Dr. Winifred Grenfell and the mission he started in Labrador and Newfoundland. Following the lecture Norma Batastini and Linda Woodbury will lead two classes on the techniques needed to hook with stockings. For more information, contact Norma Batastini at 973-746-2936 or [g\\_batastini@msn.com](mailto:g_batastini@msn.com).

Tavern & Trade Sign Hooked Rugs and the Stories They Tell -- The Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA will be hosting presentations on November 11 & 15, 2009 by Mary Jo and Karl Gimber. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the presentation is part of the Center’s “Brown Bag” Luncheon series from 12 -1. Bring your lunch and enjoy the presentation. Beverages are provided. On Sunday, November, 15, the presentation runs from 2:00 -3:00. For more information contact Rebecca Lawrence at 215-679-3103 or [rebecca@schwenkfelder.com](mailto:rebecca@schwenkfelder.com).

Fraktur Hooked Rug Exhibit – November 11, 2009 to April 10, 2010 at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center, Pennsburg, PA. For more information contact Susan Feller, Guest Curator, at [rugs2wv@yahoo.com](mailto:rugs2wv@yahoo.com) with “Fraktur Rugs” in the Subject Line.

ATHA Woolwright Chapter Hook-in – March 20, 2010 at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center. The ATHA Woolwright Chapter is hosting a fund raising hook-in to support the 2011 ATHA Biennial Conference that will be held in Lancaster, PA. For more information, contact Mary Lynne Naples at [marylynnelan@aol.com](mailto: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](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.

### **HCRAG Calendar of Events**

**September 11, 2009** – Monthly Meeting – Welcome Back – Show & Tell. Introduction of Friendship Sampler\*

**October 9, 2009** – Monthly Meeting – Using Fuzzy Wools & Roving (Joyce Combs & Kay Weeks)\*

**November 13, 2009** Monthly Meeting – Houses: Not Just Four Walls (Deanna Kinney)\*

**December 11, 2009** Holiday Luncheon Meeting\*

**January 8, 2010** – Annual White Elephant Sale and Auction\*  
**January 8-10, 2010** – Rug Hooking Retreat – Flemington Hampton Inn  
**February 12, 2010** – Something to Warm the Heart – Pet Designs (Lydia Brenner & Cheryl Halliday) \*  
**March 12, 2010** Monthly Meeting – Round Robin Demo (Connie Coleman, 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** – HCRA Rug Hooking Camp – Educational Services Commission School  
**August 12, 2010** – HCRA 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.

**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** – Irene Pasternak – 908-735-2754 or irepastr@wmconnect.com  
**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 HCRA 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 (HCRA). It is published monthly (September through June). Articles, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Karl Gimber at P. O. Box 16, Carversville, PA 18913 or by email to [karlg@nni.com](mailto:karlg@nni.com). by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.