



**“Wool Whisperings”**  
**The Newsletter of the Wool Whisperers**  
**ATHA Guild 131**

January 2014

**From the Presidents and Vice Presidents**

Our December meeting was a walk down Memory Lane as we reminisced about prior get-togethers and meetings with Patty Mahaffey. The Friendship Sampler rug that Patty began in 2009 was finished and displayed in the center of the room. Thank you to everyone for sharing their love for such an enthusiastic fellow rug hooker.

As we look forward to the New Year, membership in our guild will be renewing in January. Please see the membership form attached to the newsletter and bring it to the meeting on January 26th or send to Betsy Warner or Deb Leshner with your payment of \$10.00 (cash or check payable to Wool Whisperers).

Best Wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year-

Cherry, Sue and Tonia



## Memories – Patty Mahaffey



"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." - Dr. Suess

- ✚ I did not have the privilege of knowing Patty for a long time like some of you. BUT, in that short time, I got to know a lovely lady who was soooo giving and talented! She was quick to give help, critique when asked for her opinion, and I admired her quest to learn everything she could possibly learn about rug hooking. I think she definitely accomplished THAT! Farewell friend. We will all miss you, Patty. - *Barbara Boyko*
- ✚ I will ALWAYS remember Patty's kind spirit and smile. She was so talented and truly committed to rug hooking. I like to imagine that she is hooking a bright and cheerful piece in heaven with many great rug hookers like Pearl McGown. - *Jen O'Malley*
- ✚ I am so sorry to hear that Patty has gone. She was so special and sweet. We will all miss her. I became very fond of both of you through our Workshop and HCRAG connections. My thoughts and prayers are with her family and with you - a most special friend. Stay in touch. - *Cyndy Duade*
- ✚ I am so deeply saddened by this news. I have been praying for Patty since learning of her illness. I will let the workshop members know. Please accept my condolences. - *Lisa Chaloner*
- ✚ Dear Northern Members,  
I am very saddened to inform you that Patty Mahaffey passed away this morning. Patty will be deeply missed at Northern Workshop. The loss of her bubbly personality, artistic skill, and kind heart leaves a huge hole in the fabric of our membership. My prayers are with her family at this terrible time.  
  
Services for Patty will be private, for immediate family only. I will let you know where to send condolences as soon as I have that information.  
Sincerely,  
Lisa Chaloner  
Director  
Northern McGown Teachers' Workshop
- ✚ Oh Cheryl. I can't believe it. This is so sad. She will be missed. - *Judy Carter*
- ✚ I had heard that Patty was in the final stages. I am so sorry that we lost her. I am so glad that she got

her accreditation at Northern. I always felt she would be a great teacher with her winning personality.  
- *Norma Batastini*

✚ My most vivid memory of Patty is the last day I saw her in September. It was the only time she wasn't laughing and smiling. We met for Patty to give me wool strips she had cut for the beginner class kits used at the Rug Festival in Stockton. I hugged her and she said she was going home to take a nap. As she drove away I prayed that I would see her again. There is an empty place in my heart but her smile comes to me when I sit and hook. - *Cheryl Halliday*

✚ It was Patty's infectious smile that seemed to just brighten everything, and made you realize she truly enjoyed life, that it was just plain fun. And it was her gentle kindnesses that quietly warmed my heart, more than once. - *Tonia Uffner*

✚ I knew of Patty for many years by being around rug hookers since my wife Jan is a rug hooker. It wasn't until I started doing applique and hooking and began attending the same gatherings that I got to know Patty and her passion for whatever she did. I will never forget her friendly spirit and huge smile. She will be missed. - *Fred Cole*

✚ I first met Patty at Vicki Calu's in 2003. We always joked about being at opposite ends of the color spectrum – Patty – bright / me – “dull”! She not only always had a smile on her face, but also had kind words to say. I will miss her intense enthusiasm for rug hooking which was present wherever Patty was and her gentle kindness and big smile! *Jan Cole*

✚ Thank you for sending this so very sad news. We will all miss her so. Her poor family must be devastated. My brother died unexpectedly last week and I don't think I'll be coming Sunday but will be thinking of you and all of Patty's friends. – *Anndee Byers*

✚ I was blessed to be suite mates at Northern this year. Her kind spirit will stay with all she met. - *Melissa Patacini*

✚ **Featured Member – Patty Mahaffey** (Reprint from the May 2010 issue of the Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild newsletter “the Loop”)

In 2003 Patty was watching a show on the Home & Garden TV channel when a segment on rug hooking caught her attention. She was intrigued and went on line to learn more. It was there that she first learned about Vicki Calu, the well-known and admired rug-hooking instructor from Bucks County.



Patty lived only 15 minutes from Vicki and started attending her Saturday classes. At the time, Vicki was also the director of the Highlands Rug Hooking School; so attending Highlands's workshops came next. It was there that Patty met Gail Dufresne. She liked Gail's wool and creative rug hooking technique. Patty has attended Gail's open studio sessions on Saturdays for the last six years.

Geometric and pictorial patterns using bright colors are what Patty tends to hook. She likes to mix cuts depending on the rug. Most of her latest projects have been done in a #6 cut although Patty is comfortable hooking in anything from a #3 to #8 cut. She will buy a commercial pattern if it is something that she likes, but enjoys designing her own rugs.

Right from the beginning Patty was committed to learning as much as she could. She is serious about improving her technique and knowledge about all aspects of rug hooking. Patty finds that the



workshops sponsored by local instructors such as Norma Batastini and Gail Dufresne to be invaluable in her development as a rug hooking artisan. Local classes are augmented by regular attendance at Rugs by the Sea in Cape May where she has gone for the last five years and the HCRAAG camp, which she attended last year for the first time. She was also "a regular" at the

Highlands. Norma Batastini sponsored Patty's participation in the McGown Certification Program where she has completed the first segment. The list of instructors with whom Patty has worked resembles the "Who's Who" of the rug hooking world. The list currently includes 21 names! Patty states that she "has gained from every teacher and has learned from them all". Since Patty has attended Gail Dufresne's classes for so long, she credits Gail with being the most influential on her development and style.

Patty tries to hook after dinner every day, but when her schedule gets busy days or even a week can go by before she can sit down at her hooking frame. Weekends are the time when she can count on getting some serious hooking done. It is typical for Patty to have a couple of rugs that she alternates working on. She has about eight unfinished rugs, which is not that many considering the number of workshops she attends. Interestingly all of Patty's completed pieces are wall hangings. None are done for the floor.

When it comes to wool, Patty takes advantage of the wool she finds at her classes and from local vendors. "There is so much beautiful wool available" says Patty "that I prefer to work with it rather than recycled wool. It can be as is or over dyed." Finding time to do more dyeing is something she wants to do.

Patty was first introduced to our Guild when she participated in the hook-in held at the Schwenkfelder Library & Heritage Center in conjunction with our rug exhibit in 2006. She met several members at the Highlands. Patty is also active with the Goat Hill ATHA Chapter where she serves as secretary. She says I enjoy coming to the meetings for both guilds because it's an opportunity to see people who I may not have a chance to see on a regular basis plus, it's always fun to see what everyone is hooking and catch up on anything new that is going on in the world of rug hooking."



In addition to rug hooking, Patty is an avid reader and enjoys knitting. She is also proficient in miniature punch needle. Patty lives in Perkasio, PA with her husband Dave, who is a police officer in Hilltown Township (PA) along with their 14 year-old Bichon Frise named Muffin. They have two children, Matthew and Colleen. Matthew, age 24, followed his father into law enforcement and is a police officer in Towamencin Township (PA). Colleen, age 21, is a student at Millersville

University. Patty is an administrative assistant and has worked for an electronics company in Lansdale, PA for the past 25 years.

Patty Mahaffey was clearly “hooked” when she first learned about rug hooking. When asked what it was that grabbed her, she said: “I love the fact that rug hooking can be tailored to whatever style you want whether it is primitive, traditional, whimsical, large, small, etc. and that you can either design your own rug or choose from the hundreds of patterns that are available. You can choose not only the beautiful colors and textures of wool, but also any kind of embellishment (i.e., felting, yarn, buttons, etc.) to make the rug your own. I remember being so amazed when I first started rug hooking by the whole network of teachers, workshops, and classes that are out there and, especially, the fellow rug hookers with whom I have become friends. I find it so inspiring to see other people's work and I have met so many interesting people whom I never would have met if it wasn't for rug hooking.”

## **December 2013 Meeting Minutes**

\*President Cheryl Halliday called the meeting to order and made the following announcements.

\*If you are going on the retreat in February you need to have the forms in by Jan 24<sup>th</sup>.

\*The guild approached the Mennonite Heritage Center with the concerns that were discussed in the November meeting. The center would not meet our concerns and so as we discussed, we will not be able to have the hook in at the Mennonite Heritage Center.

\*It was noted that several birthdays are coming up in January and birthday wishes were extended.

\*The Mennonite Heritage Center Folk Art Sale is going on until the end of the month. Our own Joan Strausbaugh is a featured artist.

\*Jan and Fred Cole brought wool for door prizes and several people drew names for the lovely colors. Thank you Jan and Fred. They were beautiful and it was very generous of you both.

\*We swapped wool and traded for some beautiful colors. Our swap for next month is to bring a color that reminds you of Patty.

\*Our meeting ended by discussing our fond memories of Patty Mahaffey. She will be sorely missed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Juliana Kapusta  
Secretary

### **Treasurer's report:**

Balance as of 12/11/2013:

Dues and contributions - \$2,014.72

Scholarship fund - \$96

Retreat payments - \$540

Dues Reminder:

The dues of \$10 for 2014 should be paid at the January meeting or sent to Betsy Warner (Renewal form attached). She has records of dues received from Hannah, Joan, Annie Lee and Deborah at the December meeting. Did someone else pay and not complete a form?

900 Valley Road, Apt. D401  
Melrose Park, PA  
19027

Respectfully Submitted,  
Betsy Warner  
Treasurer

**Next Meeting** – Sunday, January 26, 2014 in Jenkins Parlor at Foulkeways.

## **Member News**

**February Retreat:** We still have openings for the retreat and the afternoon with Norma. The afternoon is not limited to doing a Porter design. For the afternoon, Norma will work with the participants on designing a Porter pattern and also will consult on projects other than the Porter design if you wish. Please let Betsy Warner know if this changes your interest in doing the afternoon consultation and whether you will be doing the Porter design or another project so that Norma can prepare. The deadline has been extended to our meeting on January 26. If you are planning on staying at the hotel, the hotel reservation desk has our info as WWG when you call to make a reservation. (I've attached the retreat info again)

## **Whisperings in the Meadow**

Our sympathies go to Anndee Byers on the loss of her brother. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

## **December Birthdays**

Birthday wishes go to members celebrating their special day this month:

Annie Lee (1/15); Jen O'Malley (1/23); Anndee Byers (1/27)

## **January Wool Swap**

Our wool swap color of the month has been chosen to remember Patty Mahaffey and her wonderful color palette! Patty was a prolific dyer and many evenings we would text each other about what was cooking on our stovetop ~ it wasn't dinner! If she discovered there was a dye formula book published which was not on her shelf, the hunt was on to procure it! And because she was such a wonderfully generous friend, she would buy 2 copies, so I would not be deprived! Patty also loved to experiment with dye colors. She would add a bit of this and a bit of that and always cook up a piece of wool that was gorgeous ~ bright colors, rich jewel tones, and beautiful spots.

Gleaning bits of dye tips from teachers we spent time with, such as Nancy Jewett, Michele Micarelli & Cyndy Duade, were quickly jotted into her composition book, which traveled everywhere with her. We

would ponder over what 1/64<sup>th</sup> of a measurement did to a dye recipe, what temperature the pot water should be before wool was added or why did red dye powder always curdle in the boiling water ~ truly important questions of life!! Patty liked to dye outside on her deck, using electric burners or skillets ~ even on the chilliest of days. The day she purchased her final jar of ProChem dye powder to complete the entire set of 104, was truly celebratory! To house this wonderful collection, a cute cart with drawers to separate each color family was purchased. It didn't take long for the cart to get full when the long held decision to use only ProChem met its demise last December. A trip to Joan Strasbaugh's home garnered a few new formula books based on Cushing Dyes ~ more colors to collect!

Patty also loved her "tools", as we all know! All hooking implements were labeled as tools, so the purchase could always be justified ~ a man has his tools and so does a hooking woman! A discovery of new dyeing tools was the best! An adorable tiny bar whisk used by Nancy Jewett at the Shelburne Dyeing class created an internet hunt back at the hotel that night ~ success! Metal chopsticks were found to be perfect for moving wool in a pot. And... a pretty oil cruet made the best Synthrapol dispenser! These are some of my wonderful memories of Patty, which I wanted to share with you. I hope you will join our ¼ yard wool swap this month and dye or bring an "as is" piece of "Beautiful-Colored Patty wool". Please include the recipe, if you add a bit of this and a bit of that to create an original formula. Happy January!

Sue Schulz  
Dragonfly7136@icloud.com

## Membership

Please send additions or corrections relating to Membership to Juliana Kapusta at [juliana\\_kapusta@hotmail.com](mailto:juliana_kapusta@hotmail.com) or 215-721-4327.

## Reminders

Don't forget to BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch) to each meeting. You can also bring something yummy to share. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Visitors are welcome up to two times a year. If you visit the Guild and would like to be added to the waiting list please contact Cherry or Patty.

## Events and Workshops

➤ February 21-23, 2014 – **Wool Whisperers Winter Retreat** – Please see the attached PDF for information and registration form. Registration deadline is January 24, 2014.

March 15, 2014 - **Woolwrights 4th Annual Spring Hook-in**. 1383 Arcadia Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601. Contact : [www.woolwrights.com](http://www.woolwrights.com) or Deb Burcin 717-464-5271

April 6-11, 2014 - **Maryland Shores Rug Hooking School**. Ocean Front Dunes Manor Hotel, Contact: Pam Johnson 410-251-2888 [lpt219@comcast.net](mailto:lpt219@comcast.net)

April 27-May1 - **Wooley Fox Rug Camp**. Ligonier , PA Contact: [www.wooleyfox.com](http://www.wooleyfox.com) or 724-238-3004

May 7-May 10, 2014 - **Region 1 Rug Hooking School**. Wisdom House, Litchfield, CT Contact: Sarah Guiliani, Director, 447 Ocean ST. South Portland, ME 04106 207-233-1953 or [uhookrugs@yahoo.com](mailto:uhookrugs@yahoo.com)

June 4-13, 2014 ( 2 Sessions ) - **Green Mountain Rug School**. Vermont Technical Center, Randolph Center, VT. Contact: [greenmountainhookedrugs.com](http://greenmountainhookedrugs.com) or Stephanie Allen-Krauss 802-223-1333

August 11-16, 2014 - **Sauder Village Rug Hooking Week**. 22611 St. Rt. 2, Archbold, OH 43502. Contact: [www.SauderVillage.org](http://www.SauderVillage.org) or 800-590-9755

October 15-19, 2014 - **Hooked in the Mountains XVII**. Champlain Valley Exposition (new venue), Essex Junction, VT. Contact: [www.gmrhg.org](http://www.gmrhg.org)

October 21-24, 2014 - **Region 1 Rug Hooking School**. Inn & Spa at Church Landing, Meredith, NH. Contact: Nancy Blood, Director, 60 McMaster St., Owego, NY 13827 Contact: 607-687-0142 or [nanset@stny.rr.com](mailto:nanset@stny.rr.com)

**Rug Hooking Magazine Introduces Book Club** -- Rug Hooking Magazine recently introduced a rug hooking book club. Details can be found on the RHM website [www.rughookingmagazine.com](http://www.rughookingmagazine.com) or by calling 877-462-2604 toll free.

The Events and Workshops list will be supplemented as we receive notices of workshops. Please send any additions or corrections to this list to Betsy Nutt at [betsynutt@aol.com](mailto:betsynutt@aol.com). (With thanks to *HCRAG Newsletter* for some of the above information.)

## **Wool Whisperer's Calendar**

(All Monthly meetings are at Jenkins Parlor at Foulkeways, 1120 Meetinghouse Road, Gwynedd, PA 19436 from 10am to 4pm unless otherwise noted.)

**January 26, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**February 21-23, 2014** – Weekend Hook-in

**March 23, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**April 27, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**May 18, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**June 22, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**July 27, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**August 24, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**September 28, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**October 19, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**November 16, 2014** – Monthly meeting

**December 14, 2014** – Monthly meeting

## **Guild Officers**

### **Co-Presidents:**

Cherry Halliday – 215-672-2629 or [havewenewool@yahoo.com](mailto:havewenewool@yahoo.com)  
TBD

### **Co-Vice Presidents:**

Sue Schulz – 215-760-0911 or [dragonfly7136@icloud.com](mailto:dragonfly7136@icloud.com)  
Tonia Uffner – 215-886-5566 or [tonia.uffner@gmail.com](mailto:tonia.uffner@gmail.com)

### **Co-Secretaries:**

Julianna Kapusta – 215-721-4327 or [juliana\\_kapusta@hotmail.com](mailto:juliana_kapusta@hotmail.com)  
Betsy Nutt – 610-220-6938 or [betsynutt@aol.com](mailto:betsynutt@aol.com)

### **Co-Treasurers:**

Deb Leshner – 610-987-6260 or [deb.lesher@gmail.com](mailto:deb.lesher@gmail.com)  
Betsy Warner – 215-782-8436 or [elizabethwarner@aol.com](mailto:elizabethwarner@aol.com)

## **Guild's Email List Policy**

The Wool Whisperers 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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Please submit articles or suggestions for the **February 2014** Newsletter to Fred at [jantique@ptd.net](mailto:jantique@ptd.net) by **Monday, February 3, 2014**.

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