

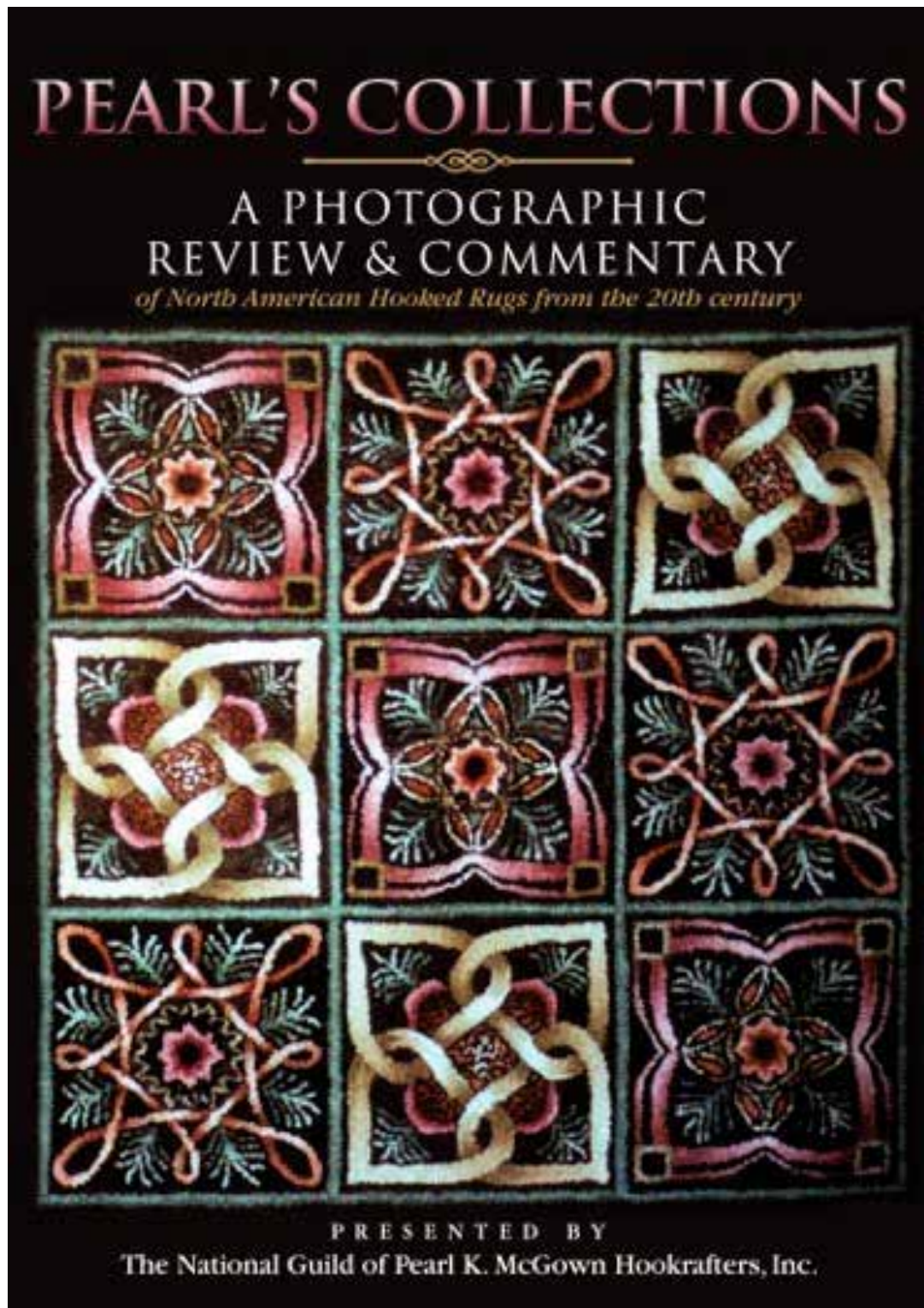


NEWSLETTER

National Guild of Pearl K. McGown

Rughookrafters, Incorporated

Volume 45, Number 1 (Feb. 2016)





Above and Below: Hooked pieces by Sandra Brown Article on page 18

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Kaleidoscope Art by Guild Chapter 1

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Newsletter (USPS 114-310)

THE NATIONAL GUILD OF PEARL K. MCGOWN RUG HOOKRAFTERS
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Letter from the President: Sue Minorini

Dear Friends,

I hope this winter has allowed you time to hook and to move along, if not complete, a couple of your projects. I'm going to have to live forever to complete all of my projects, hooking and otherwise. We're all fiber lovers, so rug hooking is probably only one of your passions. Rug hooking time competes with other fiber passion times, such as knitting, crocheting, spinning, etc. They're all fun and, according to research, help reduce the decline of brain function as we age.

The National McGown Guild has recently produced a DVD (set) of rugs that Pearl K. McGown used in her teaching. Along with the pictures, there are captions of Pearl's words to describe many of the rugs. What a treasure this is! The set sells for \$40.00 or ten sets for \$30.00 each (in one transaction). Perhaps ten of your guild members might like to buy a package of ten and save a little money. Please see the DVD announcement in this Newsletter for purchasing details. (See Page 20 for Ordering details.)

As a perk for our Guild members, the National Guild has set up PayPal on our Website for the purchase of the DVDs. Also, individuals will be able to renew her/his membership, which will be due by June 1, 2016 using PayPal or by sending a check to Pam Upton. Chapters will still pay by check sending it to Pam Upton.

Just a reminder, please submit articles to our Editor, Nan Bass. There are so many great rug hooking events, projects, and opportunities going on across the country that all McGown members want to hear about. As you know, we learn from each other.

Don't forget about Sauder Village's Rug Hooking week in August. In addition to a special exhibit of Pearl K. McGown's rugs and Jane McGown Flynn's rugs, there are many classes being offered along with great vendors. One of my favorite vendors is Honey Bee Hive, who will be at Sauder for the first time selling Jane McGown Flynn's patterns.

Sincerely,

Sue Minorini

Public Service Announcements

Upcoming Dates for McGown Teacher's Workshops:

2015 Workshops

Workshop	Location	Dates	Director
North Central	Newton, Iowa AmericInn Center	April 24 – 29, 2016	Karen Guffey
Western	Eugene, Oregon University of Oregon	June 18-24, 2016	Michele Wise
Northern	Dudley, MA	July 19 – 24, 2016	Lisa Chaloner
Southern	Ripley, West Virginia State Parkland	September 18-23, 2016	Linda Powell
South Central	Pottsboro, Texas Lake Texoma	November 6 – 11, 2016	Cheryl Bollenbach

National Guild Schools:

MARYLAND:

April 10 – 16, 2016 Maryland Shores Rug School, Ocean City, MD

Contact Pam Johnson at 410-251-2888 or lpt219@comcast.net for more information.
Held at Dunes Manor Hotel.

Public Service Announcements:

Florida - Spring Fiber Fling March 12, 2016 from 10am to 4pm

There will be vendors and demonstrations, rug & fiber exhibit, and a catered lunch.

It will be held at the Wildwood Community Center, 6500 County Road 139, Wildwood, Florida 34785.

For more information and sign up, go to - www.ShadyHillRugHooking.com/spring-fiber-fling/

Maryland – McGown Guild Meeting – On-going

4th Monday of the Month, McGown Guild 72 10 AM-2 PM (except June & July) Ark & Dove Presbyterian Church, Odenton, Md., Contact Pam Manders (410) 626-8706 for confirmation & directions.

Maryland – Podickery Rug Workshop - April 5th (Tuesday) thru 8th (Friday), 2016

Sponsored by McGown Guild Chapter 72, Podickery Rug Workshop, Annapolis, Md., Capri Boyle and Nancy Parcels are the instructors, contact Billie Cirrincione (410) 263-2204 or penwood3@yahoo.com

Michigan - Southeast Michigan Annual Hook-In - April 23, 2016

Washtenaw Community College, 4800 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Join us for a day of rug hooking! There will be vendors, door prizes and a rug show. Seating is limited.

For more information: GLRHGuild@gmail.com. Please type "Hook-in" in subject line.

A Quote from Pearl K. McGown:

"Rose Cottage is my gift to you, especially you who love to hook rugs. As the realization of my dream, it is a place where you may come to study hooked rugs and to gain inspiration for creative work. It is also my home, encompassing all that the word implies."

Pearl K. McGown
You...Can Hook Rugs (1951)
Page 11

Picture to Right: Pearl, with her sisters
May and Ruth, reviewing slides

Below: Gertie, Jane, Pearl, May and Ruth,
with Jimmy stretched out on the floor!

Both at Rose Cottage, West Boylston, MA



NEW MEMBERS:

The following new members have joined the National Guild of Pearl K. McGown Rug Hookrafters. Let us be the first to welcome you!

Chapter 2 –	Ellen Jaworski	Dexter, MI
Chapter 83 -	Caty Koehler Judy Tlumac	Pittsburgh, PA Acme, PA
Chapter 120 -	Carol Galvin Beatrice Newell Mia Wilkinson	The Villages, FL The Villages, FL The Villages, FL
Chapter 123 -	Diane Martin Nancy Myer Margaret Wenger	West Grove, PA Lancaster, PA Lancaster, PA
Chapter 128 -	Cindy Fridenberg	Buffalo, NY

A message from the Editor: Nancy Flynn Bass

*Next Newsletter: Spring 2016 – Articles can be submitted up until **April 20th**.*

I love hearing about all of the ways that people come together over rug hooking. Whether it is to honor our history, learn from one another, join together in a common challenge, or create bonds through sharing our talents with others.

In this world where people are ever more tied to their electronic gadgets, it is these personal connections that make a difference in people's lives. Friends won't forever remember the Facebook post about that embarrassing moment at the grocery store, but they will remember the times we came together to truly share with one another. To make a memory by our sharing and our common interests is quite a gift – that you give yourself and the people around you.

BRAVO for all the ways that rug hooking creates presence, and sometimes too – presents!

All my best,

Nan

P.S. I really do need your articles! Can't wait to share more. Send them in! Better Late than Never!

P.P.S. Coming in the next issue, how the DVD, PEARL'S COLLECTIONS came to be....

ANNOUNCING YOU CAN NOW PAY ANNUAL DUES ON-LINE

We now have some different ways of paying your Annual Dues to be a Member of the Pearl K McGown Hookrafters Guild. If you are a member of a Chapter you will still be able to pay \$25.00 a year to join your Chapter and that will automatically make you a member in good standing of the Guild for a year. If you are not a member of a Chapter, then you can write a check for \$25.00 and mail it to Pam Upton and you will be a Member At Large for a year. OR if you have a PayPal account, you can join through our website. The cost for joining online through PayPal is \$26.00 annually, the extra dollar is to help defray the cost to the Guild for this service.

HERE IS A SUMMARY OF HOW IT WORKS:

Members would normally be invoiced on an annual basis via US mail. To understand how this would work with PayPal's Subscriptions (*membership*) and Recurring Payments feature, consider the following process flow:

1. The member arrives at the McGown Guild Web site to sign up and, after entering and emailing the required profile information to Pam Upton, can immediately sign up for a paid membership by hitting the Subscribe (*membership*) button.
2. The Subscribe (*membership*) button is an entry point into the PayPal system. On clicking it, the member is redirected to the PayPal Web site, where they can either log in to an existing account or create a new one. This is because, to use PayPal to send or receive money, both parties in the transaction must have PayPal accounts; PayPal does not process payments between non-PayPal parties. Account signup is free.
3. The Subscribe (*membership*) button is preprogrammed with certain important information—the Guild's account details on PayPal, the billing cycle and amount, and the currency in which the payment is to be billed. This tells the PayPal system how much money is to be billed, how often, and where to send it.
4. Once the Member authorizes the PayPal payment, an e-mail containing details about the transaction is dispatched to the Guild (who also has a PayPal account). The Guild representative then logs in, checks that the payment has been received, and activates the membership status on the web site for the Member.
5. Because the first payment took place through PayPal's Subscriptions (*membership*) And Recurring Payments, PayPal automatically keeps track of the billing cycle stated at the time of first payment (1 year), and automatically signs the Member on an annual basis until the Member manually cancels their subscription. The service provider receives e-mail notification of payment from PayPal on an annual basis, and thus keeps the membership active until a cancellation notice arrives from PayPal. This recurring payment process is completely automatic, and requires no intervention from either the Member or the Guild.

Submitted by Liz Marino, Communications Chair and Mike O'Dell

NEW YORK STATE FAIR WINNERS – 2015

The Pearl McGown Rughookrafter's Guild of the Southern Tier, Chapter #1, is pleased that three of our members received awards at the New York State Fair held in Syracuse, NY, in late summer 2015.

All of the Guild's winning rugs were designs by Jane McGown Flynn. Karen Edwards, of Norwich, NY, was first place winner in the Traditional Rug Hooking category with her "Petit Bell Pull" pattern. Second place winner in the same category was Dorothy Argetsinger, of Endicott, NY with her "Rose Maling tote". And Dorothy also received third prize for her rendition of "Tiger Rag Cat".

Coincidentally, Lana Roske, of Vestal, NY, also submitted the "Tiger Rag Cat". She received second prize in the Primitive Rug Hooking category.

Submitted by:
Lana Roske
President

Pictures on page 27

A Different way to give back to Rug Hookers

By Deb Szwed

Every once in a while an opportunity comes along to do something extraordinary to make someone happy. That happened in October, 2015 when my rug hooking teacher, Janice Frank, held up a partially finished Pearl McGown Bell Pull and asked if anyone was interested in finishing it. It measured 51.5" x 6.5".

After thinking about it for a couple of weeks, I offered. It turns out that the bell pull was started in 1976. It was still in good condition and had all of the wool, nicely cut and in neat little packages, all in a #3 cut.

The rug was finished in November, 2015 and returned to the original owner, Inez Hice - now in her ninth decade - for her enjoyment. As you can see in the photo on the inside back cover, it turned out beautifully.

It was great fun trying to figure out what she might have had in mind for her color placement.

Happily hooked by Janet Burg, member of Michigan Rugg Artistes, McGown Guild #121 and photographed by Deb Szwed, also a member of Michigan Rugg Artistes.

Pictures on page 27

Kaleidoscope Art

Submitted by Susan Spencer-Kellman and Lana Roske

The Pearl McGown Rughookrafters Guild of the Southern Tier, Chapter #1 (NY and PA), is pleased to have several teachers as members. When workshops are offered by the Guild or by local teachers, they are well received.

As a summer 2015 workshop project, teacher/member Barbara Gott, designed a kaleidoscope pattern. Quite a few members of the McGown Guild took up the challenge, attended the workshop, and completed the 20 by 20-inch pattern.

Long before the Kaleidoscope pattern by Barb Gott was revealed, coincidentally, the Rug Guild had chosen "A Kaleidoscope of Color" as their theme for its Fall 2015 Biennial Rug Show. How perfectly that "twist" unfurled! The colorful show included many of the Kaleidoscope patterns. All marveled at how unique each one appeared in glorious color combinations-- rich, vibrant, and even subtle. But isn't that the fun and "wow!" of peering through a kaleidoscope held up to the light?

Pictures on page 28 (back cover.) Great pieces by Barb Gott (1,2), Barbara Reining (3), Barbara West (4), Cheryl Keeney (5), Eileen Danton (6), Jan Vining (7), Joanne Nichols (8), Lana Roske (9), Louise Koger (10), Marge Beard (11), Nancy MacLennan (12), Pat Cluck (13), Sue Spencer-Kellman (14), and Sue Zwart (15).

Do you have a submission for the Newsletter? Get it in! Here's how:

Email it to mcgownguildnewsletter@gmail.com or

Mail it to: Nancy Bass
9896 Manor View Drive NW
Concord, NC 28027

Make sure you note your name, the pattern name, size, designer, and a picture of your piece.
Don't forget to give photo credit when it is due!

- Flowers
- Geometrics
- Just finished
- Seasonal
- New uses for old pieces
- Gifts
- * Animals
- * Orientals
- * Lifetime achievement
- * Monochromatic
- * Personalization
- * Texture
- * Wide cut
- * Finishing
- * Scrolls
- * Guild News
- * Different materials
- * Show winners
- * Pictorial
- * Children's Rugs
- * Tips & Hints
- * Show your creativity!

Hooked Rug Festival at the Mill

Submitted by Cheryl Halliday

On October 3 & 4, 2015, four guilds from New Jersey and Pennsylvania came together to show how they are dedicated to the awareness, appreciation, and application of the art of rug hooking at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, New Jersey. The four guilds are Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild, The Alice Beatty ATHA Chapter, Lamb Yankees ATHA Chapter, and Wool Whisperers ATHA Chapter.

To help with some of the expenses, a generous grant from the National Guild of Pearl K. McGown Hookrafters was given to the Festival committee. This helped enormously to relieve some costs for the venue where the group teaches the public about rug hooking. This is done in many ways: by showcasing hooked rugs in many forms of what is possible with the art, teaching beginner classes, demonstrating rug hooking, selling beautiful examples (such as mats, pillows, chair seats and many more items) and offering space to vendors who supply much of the materials used for the art. The sponsoring guilds are very grateful for the grant that helped achieve the goal to educate the public.

The Hunterdon County Rug Artisans Guild annually offers a one-day beginner class to educate the public at their week long summer rug school in August. To carry on this tradition to educate those interested in learning the art of rug hooking, McGown Teachers Juliana Kapusta and Cheryl Halliday taught a beginner class each day. One class included a 12-year-old girl, who came with her mother. They enjoyed the art so much that when the class was over, they went immediately to see what else could be acquired from the vendors to continue learning rug hooking.

Each day, guild members demonstrated the art and allowed people to try rug hooking after watching how to do it. There was even a rug of original design in progress that was set up with information about the process and steps that were being taken in planning and completing the rug.

Many spectators came from all over the country. Groups from Guilds arrived on buses and others arrived in car pools. This was the second time that the Hooked Rug Festival was held with the first Festival being held in 2013. We are hopeful that another day of educating the public will take place 2 years from now in 2017. Until then, the education will continue with demonstrations at local fairs, fiber festivals and museums.

Make Christmas Gifts All Year

By Cinda Justice

I know, I should be thinking of St. Patty's Day or Easter but as I sit here among these boxes of Christmas decorations to pack... I had a thought! My husband says thoughts never stop popping into my head and it drives him nuts! He is correct but now I wait to see if they are good enough to keep reoccurring over and over with refinements. At which time I put the idea into practice. I am a visual, auditory learner. So changes are made as I talk about and see a better way. So here it is.

The question I asked myself was why do I always wait till 2 or 3 weeks before Christmas to start making ornaments for the neighbor children, friends and grandchildren. I have trouble finding the pictures I had saved for the activity. I can't remember where I put that special box with small pieces of wool, scrap yarn, and lace. My house is already torn up from putting up the tree, lights and collections. So for several nights I am falling asleep in my recliner with all the bits and pieces all over me.

So the answer to my dysfunctional behavior is the following: **Put this in order and visible to use all year. Stop packing it away with the Christmas things!** January has always been my SPPB month- short for Sort, Pack, Pitch and Burn. So I made this list of needed things for me to have available so I could do ornaments. (Add or subtract as you wish.)

1. A white, heavy duty, easy assemble bankers box that holds hanger files.
2. Gallon re-sealable clear plastic bags to separate materials.
3. Permanent magic marker (Your favorite color) for labelling and printing "Ornaments" on the box so it does not get mixed up with the other things in my stash.
4. Assorted primary shapes. They do not have to all be Christmas. Little houses are very popular. Decrease or Enlarge the size before you add them to your folder or envelope. Shapes from primary coloring books or from books found at a teachers store. Carson Dellosa made a great one several years ago. Then keeping your box in an accessible and visible location so you can add to the shapes during the year. And if time permits make an ornament and bag it.
5. A little bit of wool goes a long way so don't cram a half yard in the box. Anything you can hook can work. Fuzzy white yarn makes great snow and tops of roofs.
6. Two hooks – one fine- one medium and an old pair of scissors you won't need daily.

7. A very narrow ribbon can make a great loop for hanging. I like red, white and green.
8. An assortment of felt colors 8 x 10- they will be your backing.
9. White glue for attaching the hooked piece to the felt – your choice
10. Two yards of “sewer cloth”. This can be purchased at Manards or a like store for tracing onto the backing you are using. It is better than red dot.

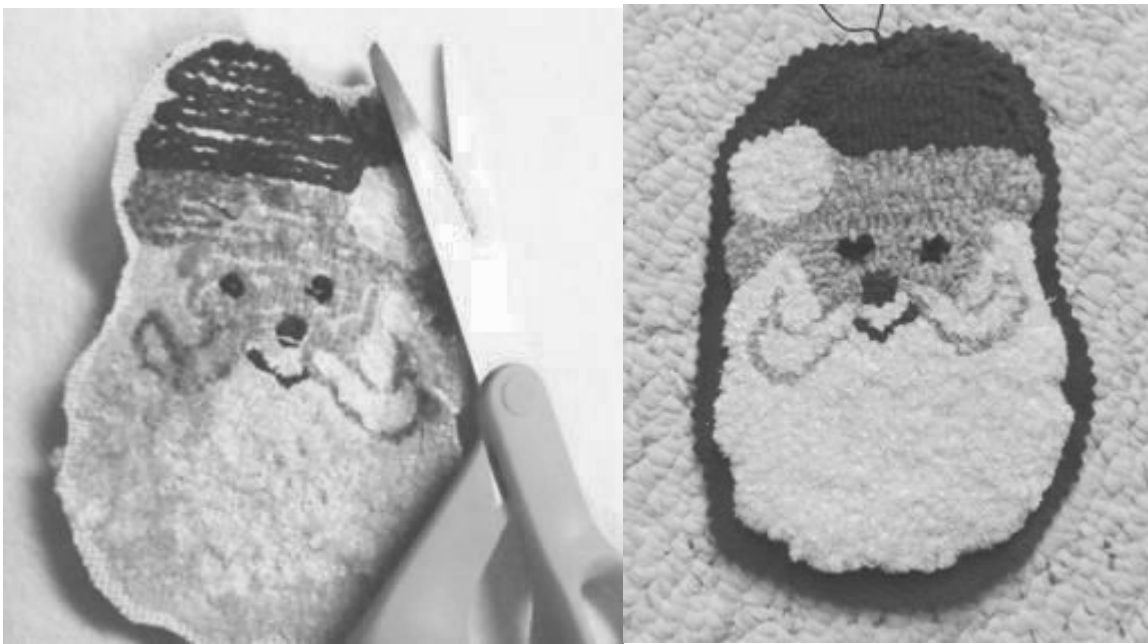
Place all ingredients in # 1 box and, label it and put it where it can be found. When your present project piece is hooked and backing is available trace something on it and enclose till you have an evening you can hook and ornament and drop it in a bag and in the box.

HELPS:

- Overlap the edge of the hooking and the foundation with glue and cut close before gluing all the back of the ornament and lay it on the felt while it is wet-laying something heavy on top to hold till dry
- Cut a quarter inch past the edge of your ornament after you have glued it to the felt.
- Elmer’s glue dries stiff and may curl the edges – make sure you steam press on the back of the hooking with a cloth before attaching to the felt.
- Tear Mender dries bendable and soft and extremely fast. If you use it **cap it** every time you set it down. And whatever it puts together will never separate. Once it dries it will rub off your hands but not your clothes.
- If you collect card boxes they make good gift boxes for your ornaments.
- If you want to make one that is less difficult to cut out, put it in a circle or square and hook in the background.
- Eyes and small places can be a loop on the top and the ends will be glued to the bottom and covered by the felt.

Here is Santa in different stages.

I have made somewhere around 35 of these and some I won’t part with. Ho Ho Ho!



Hook from the front, Glue from the back, Trim close from the front and trim from the back. Cover the back with glue and weigh it down to dry flat on the felt and trim ¼ inch so the backing will make a frame if you like.

Birds and Boots and Everything Else. It is really fun to have someone choose what they like, I am always surprised by the choices.



Pictures on page 2

HOOKED RUG MUSEUM ANNOUNCES:

The 125TH Anniversary of Pearl K McGown with A Hall of Fame Exhibit

Volunteers at the Museum are now hard at work, planning for a full slate of activities for the 2016 season. The Museum will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of Pearl McGown with a Hall of Fame exhibit.

The Museum is a registered not for profit organization that relies on a core of volunteers to deliver their programming. For more details about registration please visit the Hooked Rug Museum of North America's website www.hookedrugmuseumnovascotia.org or contact Sherry Chandler at hookedrugmuseum@gmail.com

The Greater Chicago Area McGown Teachers' Guild Chapter #15

Were you aware that there is a "McGown Teachers'" chapter? Not only is there a teachers' guild but it is one of the earliest established in 1977. It is officially Chapter #15. In the early years the guild met in the Chicago, Illinois area. In recent years Chapter #15 has been meeting at the Woodridge Lodge in Portage, Wisconsin for their annual meeting and workshop. We all volunteer to plan and prepare delicious and plentiful meals. Lots of rug hooking experiences, stories and laughs are shared along with tricks and new techniques to improve our hooking and teaching skills.

The guild has been fortunate to host many talented teachers over the years including Ingrid Hieronimus, Donna Hrkman, Capri Boyle Jones and Linda Pietz. The 2015 workshop sponsored Sandra Brown. Representing light (source, reflection, intensity, etc.) can be quite daunting. Sandra Brown is acclaimed for her success in interpreting light in her hooked pieces. She conducted a three-day session in November on the impact of light in our rugs. *Pictures on page 2*

Daily she presented informative slides and discussion on various aspects of light (pictorials, night skies, sunsets and reflections). Each student brought a different pattern (original designs, purchased patterns, adaptations from photos) with their own "light" challenges. Over the course of three days, participants applied light theory with exciting results.



Attendees at the 2015 Chapter #15 workshop include:

Front row left to right: Chris Savoy, Mary Jo Nafzger, Pam Schmelzle, Sandra Brown, Lori Rokusek, Patty Piek-Groth. Deck level left to right: Linda Gillen, Sue Minorini, Vicky Hanson, Marianne Storm, Terryl Ostmo, Maxine Bowers, Teresa Steele.

DYE Project: Guild 121, Michigan

Submitted by Pam Landon

The Michigan Rugg Aristes, McGown Guild 121, recently completed a dye project duplicating all 65 spots from Dotti Ebi's spots formula book.

Dotti Ebi was a McGown certified teacher who taught rug hooking locally and at many rug hooking schools. She was a master at dyeing and published Scraps or Spots in 1979, a compilation of the many formulas she created. Scraps or Spots contains 50 ways of dyeing swatches using recycled wool and 65 formulas for spot dyeing using new wool and Cushing dyes.

Many members of the Michigan Rugg Aristes, McGown Guild 121, were fortunate to know Dotti both as a teacher and a friend. And while we have many experienced dyers in our Guild we also have members who have little or no dyeing experience. After receiving permission from Cinda Justice to duplicate Dotti's spot dyes, we set about planning for a dye weekend. All twenty-eight Guild members helped with this project, either in the planning, dyeing or assembly phase.

Even though Dotti recommended color wool we used approximately 2 ½ bolts of Dorr white wool to duplicate the 65 spot formulas. We met at a local Hall for three days of dyeing. Each member took wool home at night, rinsed and dried it and brought it back the following day.

At our next monthly Guild meeting we labeled and assembled all 65 spots, plus three additional spots for 68 spots. Each Guild member was given a complete set of the samples and the Guild is selling the remaining sets at Teacher's Workshop and at local hooking events.



The National Guild of Pearl K. McGown Rug Hookrafters
is pleased to present:

PEARL'S COLLECTIONS:

A Photographic Review & Commentary of North American Hooked Rugs from the 20th Century

The National Guild has recently produced an amazing collection of photographs of rugs from the 20th century. These collections are now available as a 2 DVD set.

Pearl collected these photographs, organized them into 49 slide shows, and wrote scripts with her comments to accompany each box (carousel) of slides. She used these collections to lecture, teach, and provide reference for accredited McGown Teachers. They spent many years in the loanable collection of the PKM Guild. Several years ago the PKM Board decided to preserve these collections before they were lost.

The DVDs are for use with your personal computer – whether PC or MAC. They are not designed for TV. This method was chosen so that you can search the extensive files for specific rugs by titles.

Whether you are a teacher or just an individual with a passion for rug hooking, this is our history, recorded and documented for us.

How to Purchase Online using PayPal:

The DVD is now available for purchase through our website:
www.mcgownguild.com

How to purchase and pay with check (made out to National Guild of Pearl K. McGown Hookrafters Inc.):

Contact Pam Upton at mikepamupton@yahoo.com
Or Mail request to Pam Upton, P.O. Box 69, Lake Crystal, MN 56055
Be sure to include payment, mailing address and number of sets ordered.

Cost: Each 2 DVD set: \$40.00

If purchasing 10+ sets in one transaction: \$30 per set.

This special pricing requires you to:

- 1) Order through Pam Upton and
- 2) purchase 10+ sets in one transaction
- 3) ship to one shipping address.

Special Thanks to Cyndy Duade for her tireless efforts to see this project through to completion and to Melissa Pattacini for donating the cost of shipping!

**Pearl at Sauder Village
Special Exhibit
August, 2016**

Are you a proud owner of a hooked Pearl McGown design? Have you hooked a Pearl McGown design?

The Pearl K. McGown Hookrafters National Guild is in the planning stages of a Special Exhibit at Sauder Village (Ohio) in August, 2016 honoring Pearl and her contribution to the world of rug hooking.

Part of the special exhibit will feature hooked rugs of Pearl's designs.

If you have hooked a Pearl McGown design, and would like to have your rug be considered as part of the exhibit, please contact Sue Minorini (National Guild President) at s.minorini@comcast.net or at 847-234-9027.

More details will follow as we get closer to August.

A Special Note on Pearl's Autobiography:

As we approach some special celebrations of Pearl and her impact on the art of Rug Hooking, I thought it would be great to reprint her autobiography. In this world of cell phones, technology and way too much (in my opinion) disposable "stuff", looking back to where we've come from is very settling to me. It grounds us. And it gives us a great way to put things into perspective.

As you read it, in this, and successive Newsletters, I hope that you can see your part in the whole, and how you too can make a difference. This is the first two chapters, with twelve in total.

Enjoy, and let's all be happy that stockings are a thing of the past! (You'll need to read on to get the reference!)

Nan

An Autobiography: Pearl K. McGown

Chapter 1

I was born on Longfellow's birthday in 1892 in Clinton, Massachusetts-one of eleven children and one of seven girls. May, Sylvia and Kaddy played an important part in my life as a designer.

As a child I was painfully shy. At 14 I was a nursemaid to a druggist's wife, caring for her two very small children during the summer. I tell you this little story, for otherwise you couldn't believe I could be so shy and so dumb! We were preparing to go to Winthrop Beach for a month-a big event for me. I had never been away from home before, and Mother made me a black and white checked dress with a bright red collar and cuffs, and bought me a big navy blue straw hat that had ribbons down the back! We stayed at the hotel, and I immediately fell in love with the bell boy-he was the first boy I could remember wearing long pants, and I know I blushed every time I went by him. My big hat had been left on the beach and the tide rolled in over it. The next day he said to me, "I rescued your hat," and there it was on the wall, the worst sight you ever saw-out of shape and wrinkled streamers. "It isn't mine," I said, and hurried on and never did reclaim it.

When the husband went home after two weeks, I was supposed to get up in the morning and go down into the kitchen and get the baby's bottle, which I very gladly promised to do. But when I was suddenly awakened by the baby's cry and started to dress, I was told I could not stop to dress. In those days Mother bought six nightdresses at a time-two years apart in age-and they had high necks and long sleeves, and I said, "I can't go down like this." She said, "Put my dressing sack on," a dimity one with ribbon around the waist. But I had no slippers and after I pulled up my stockings I had nothing to attach them to so she said, "Take mine and tie around your knees to hold yours up and put my pumps on." That was the way I looked as I opened the door to the dining room, which I swear must have been three miles long, with college girls setting up the tables for breakfast. I had to walk the length of that room hearing the giggles and remarks as I passed by. When I opened the door to the kitchen, with chefs in their tall hats, a darling little lady gave me the bottle and I asked, "Is there any way to get back upstairs without going through that long dining room?" She said, "Yes," and opened a door and I was right outdoors. "Just go to the first door and it is at the bottom of the stairs." But when I turned the knob-it was locked! Without thinking, I rattled the knob and banged on the door. I heard footsteps coming and the door flew open and there stood the bellboy! The stockings which were holding up my stockings fell to the ground! When I arrived in the room, I said to her, "Please don't ask me to go down there again." I don't really remember who went for the milk after that.

Later she said, "Pearl, go down street and buy some lime water for the baby's milk and PLEASE don't break the bottle!" Break the bottle? Why should I break the bottle? I took the older boy with me in a go-cart - and the bottle was in the back corner - safe- at least for a time. But when I reached the beach on my return, my employer and the youngest were sitting on the beach, so I said to James, "Get out and walk down." Forgetting the planks were open to the rocks below, I came bump, bump, down those steps and the bottle smashed into smithereens right before her eyes. (Why didn't she send me home then and there?)

Another day she said, "Please go down and buy a dozen oranges." Now those fruit stands were a thing of beauty. I had never seen anything quite like them at home. And there were the most beautiful peaches I had ever seen. Perfectly luscious! So I bought the peaches!

The day came to go home and the children had soiled all their clothes except what they would wear on the train going home. After dressing the baby, she said, "Pearl, take him and entertain him while I dress James." So I looked around and there was a great big washbowl on the stand, and the baby had a new boat. So I filled the bowl with water and we sat on the floor sailing the boat until the baby got excited and leaned on the edge of the bowl and the flood drenched him. We went down to the kitchen to dry the dress and by train time my Madam was in shock! She gave me my ticket and said, "Amuse the children here - I am going up to the other end to rest, and DON'T LOSE YOUR TICKET!"

We had a good time playing and then I heard, "Tickets! Tickets!" and the hunt began. We had about six dress boxes filled with soiled clothes, and by the time we finally found the ticket between the cover and the bottom of one of those boxes, a month's laundry was all over the car!

Was I fired when I returned home? No, but I managed to keep her in hysterics the rest of the summer by what I didn't do right!

Now I was to enter high school and I was suffering agony-dreading having to meet so many girls and boys.

Chapter 2

That first period of my life sounds pretty silly, but I had a point I wanted to make later on. The changes that take place in anyone's life are like stepping stones that lead you into unexpected paths.

As I entered high school I was still extremely shy, but I had a goal in mind. My sister Sylvia was my idol. She was the only girl of mother's seven daughters who went beyond high school into a secretarial school and was offered a position in a local attorney's office before she graduated. If I could only be like her!

To my great disappointment, high school did not have shorthand until the second year and typing was only one period a week. After three months I persuaded my parents to allow me to switch to night school where I could have shorthand immediately and much more time for typing and bookkeeping. This permitted me to work in my father's office (he was a building contractor), answer his phone and keep his books, with time to study shorthand and practice typing. It was during this time that my father taught me to draw plans for houses he was building, for in those days he did not think an architect was necessary unless it was an expensive house.

The use of a ruler and a few fundamental rules would serve me in later years, although I did not know it then. I was fifteen and a half when my night school teacher in bookkeeping (he was an insurance agent in the law office where Sylvia worked) inquired, "How would you like to work for me?" (His secretary was getting married). "But," I said, "I can't yet take a letter in shorthand." He replied, "You will have to continue night school until you can."

I could type well and I would be writing up insurance policies and keeping records. He had a talk with Dad and I went to work at \$5.00 per week - \$.50 for my hair ribbons and the rest to my mother, and did I love it.

There were times when my work was caught up and since my employer was involved with politics, he gave me envelopes to address and I was paid a small sum per hundred. In time, I saw the possibilities of taking on a little public stenography with his permission, and it eventually carried over into the evenings. During political campaigns I had clothesbaskets full of addressed envelopes to swell my finances and often worked until 3 AM.

Sister Sylvia had an apartment in a building in the center of town and above her there was a men's club, a place to shoot pool and play cards. They seemed to have a pretty good time so I wondered why the stenographers (we didn't call them secretaries in those days) couldn't have a similar place to meet in the evenings. So we formed the Delta Club and hired a suite of three rooms below Sylvia. It was all very proper, for Sylvia's aunt lived with her and we made her our matron, so whenever we wanted to use the apartment auntie came down to be with us. No men were allowed. You should have seen what we used to furnish that apartment! An undertaker in the same building gave us a coffin box. We padded the top and pleated green burlap

around it and presto, we had a divan. Old chairs and rugs from attics and odd dishes from our homes made it possible to sit down and make curtains for our windows and have a snack in the evening. There were about 22 of us and we brought our sewing in for the evening or gathered there to attend a movie as a group, and we thought we were pretty important.

We had programs to improve our minds and our social affairs were Gentlemen's Night when each one could invite a boy, and a dance in the town hall which added a little money to our treasury.

In three years the novelty wore off and the girls began to marry. At 22 I followed the others and the club was disbanded. I suppose you might call that the liberated period in my life.

Since president for two or three years, I learned how to get along with girls having 22 different opinions on most subjects-and that was my next stepping stone which was to serve me well later in teacher workshops.

When I began to purchase items for my new home, I ordered a half barrel of flour. My mother had always had a barrel of flour in her house so I figured a half barrel would be enough for us. I can remember how my mother-in-law howled when she heard it. I asked Mother to teach me how to cook but with her large family she had no time for that. So I learned a great deal from my mother-in-law. She was economical and taught me how to make a beef stew and also to use the end of a pork roast for a pork stew with dumplings. So one day I thought, now I haven't made him a ham stew yet. So I cut up the ham and put it into hot water with onion and vegetables but was terribly disturbed when it didn't look just right. My husband said, "What's that?" "Ham stew, of course," I replied. He said he had never heard of it, and come to think of it, I hadn't either. But I learned more from my mistakes. And that was another stepping-stone.

Now I was born a Pisces (two fish swimming in opposite directions). Very soon the bank called-could I substitute for the summer? I hadn't realized how much I missed the office until then, but before the summer was over I was wishing I was occupied with my home. And so it was until my son was born and this opened up a whole new world to me.

But in a short time we were in World War I. There were many trials and tribulations during that period and when my son was seven it was necessary for me to rebuild my life in the business world. I became a legal secretary and followed it for the next 25 years.

My son and I made our home with my sister May, in Worcester, until she remarried. It was then that I moved to West Boylston, a quiet village where my son could play without fear of any traffic. I bought a house and spent every free moment scraping paper off the walls and painting woodwork. The house was large enough for two apartments and eventually May and her husband moved into the other apartment.

I used to read the travel section of the New York Times and wondered how people earned enough money to take those enchanting trips. It was about 1928 when I saw an ad in the TIME magazine (which was then just a few years old) offering a five week trip abroad with all expenses paid, except gratuities, for 100 subscriptions to their magazine. I had no time to solicit subscribers and at that time a magazine of current events costing \$5 a year was considered expensive by most women. In fact, I found that women were not interested, so I wrote a letter telling of my desires to win this trip and mailed it to every businessman I knew and some I didn't. One of the men I worked for wouldn't subscribe but when he heard I had the 100 subscriptions, he gave me \$25 toward my gratuities and this, with \$50 I had saved, was the only spending money I had for the trip. But I managed to bring a little gift for all the family although some of them cost only \$.25.

A friend had given me a book on the meaning of the lines in your hands and I was busy reading this on the deck of the ship. There were a great many schoolteachers going abroad for the summer. They noticed me reading this book and began begging me to read their palms. I tried to tell them that this was all new to me but they insisted and soon I had someone at my side most of the time. This taught me that when you gladly do something for someone else there is a great satisfaction within yourself, and this lesson was the basis on which my interest in hooked rugs later in life was of great value. Thus another stepping-stone.

(First two chapters of Pearl's twelve chapter autobiography.)



Above: Tiger Rag Cat

Far Right: Bell Pull

Near Right: Rose Maling tote

Below: Petit Bell Pull and Tiger Rag Cat

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