



*Submitted by Dr. Carol Ambrozy
ATHA President
Athol, MA*

Dear Fellow Rug Hookers:

The last time I wrote to you we were enjoying the fall season with wonderful New England color and crisp apples and pumpkins everywhere. In the blink of an eye, here we are in the throws of the holidays! I don't know about you, but the older I get, the faster time seems to fly. I do hope that you are taking time to enjoy this season and to spend some special time with friends and family.

Your ATHA Board has been extremely busy supporting both of our ATHA events, as well as the programs and exhibits of other rug hooking groups. I hope that many of you were able to get to Des Moines, Iowa to see the 2006 McGown Exhibit. Our ATHA Treasurer, Sibyl Osicka, worked hard as Chairperson of the rug show. At the same time, Marilyn Bottjer, ATHA Librarian, traveled to Wales in support of the TIGHR Conference. You will find that rug hookers, especially our ATHA members, have an insatiable appetite when it comes to our love and devotion of rug hooking.

I want to report to you that I, too, have been on the road. I traveled to the ATHA sponsored Rhapsody in Rugs juried show, which was held from September 16 through November 11, 2006 in New Albany, Indiana. It was especially gratifying for me to work with

Rita Doerner of the Buffalo Trace Rug Hookers Chapter to formally institute our ATHA Rug Registry program. All 50 juried pieces were registered. I thank members of the ATHA Buffalo Trace Rug Hookers Chapter, the Carnegie Center for Art and History (Sally Newkirk, Director, and Suellen Wilkinson, Assistant Director), and Jyl Clark and Mary Silva from Cat House Rugs, for their assistance in making this event perfect in every way!

There was \$1,100 in cash prizes awarded. A \$500 Best of Show award was presented from ATHA; \$200 Merit Award was presented from the Buffalo Trace Rug Hookers; \$200 Merit Award; and two \$100 Merit Awards were presented from the Carnegie Center for Art and History.

That is ALL that I will tell you about this wonderful event in THIS newsletter! I have asked our Editor, Judy Long, to feature the winning artists in our next issue of the newsletter, so please stay tuned! Suffice it to say that I am so pleased and proud to be an ATHA member and to see rug hooking elevated to this level of artistic representation.

I do want to say that my support of juried rug shows in no way diminishes our many local ATHA chapter(s) annual rug exhibits! I belong to two chapters here in Massachusetts. Our local chapter's annual rug exhibits are just as important in promoting the art of rug hooking! We solicit new members; demonstrate our art form; bring in vendors; and provide necessary supplies and equipment

for beginning and seasoned rug hookers. One particular group also hooks a 'community rug' and raffles it during the annual rug exhibit. The proceeds help us to provide exciting programs for the coming year.

No one event is more important than another. Getting out there, building membership and sharing fellowship is what ATHA is all about. We need to think about and promote rug hooking as an art form. What can we do now that will sustain our art into the future? I believe that our rug exhibits, juried rug shows, and our ATHA Rug Registry are all examples of how we can provide the history and provenance that will elevate each work of art to a new level.

If you are interested in registering rugs at your ATHA rug exhibit or if you wish to have an ATHA juried rug show, please contact me. I would be happy to work with you to register your group's "Heirlooms of the Future".

This exciting issue of the newsletter is replete with information on the 2007 ATHA Biennial. Our ATHA Biennial Committee has been hard at work. See pages 22-27 for the registration form, complete with teacher workshops, meal choices, etc. Remember to make your hotel room reservations independently of this registration form. Be aware of the registration date. We want you to get the class(es) of your choice, so sign up early!

If you have not yet obtained

one of our wonderful Mardi Gras Mask Challenge patterns, please let us hear from you soon. We want you to have ample time to create your own unique masterpiece. We will have a "popular choice" winner announced at the Saturday evening biennial banquet. See page 33 for order information.

We will be posting the 2007-2009 Slate of Officers in our

upcoming ATHA newsletters. If you are interested in running for an office, either on the ATHA Board, ATHA Council, or for a Regional Representative position for your region, please contact Jon Ciemiewicz. See page 30 of the Oct/Nov issue for details or contact Jon personally, see below.

All ATHA Board and Council positions can be held for two, two-

year terms only. You know your region best. We need your ideas to make your region more effective. Contact Diana O'Brien, Regional Coordinator, if you have ideas or suggestions concerning your ATHA region or geographic area.

Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season,

Carol

From the editor . . .

With the 2007 Biennial registration information and forms included in this issue, I hope many will register early and enjoy what ATHA and New Orleans has to offer. The parts of the city which are still being restored are those parts that you would not normally visit as a tourist. The downtown, convention and French Quarter areas are operating as usual. I cannot wait to eat at one of Emeril's restaurants!

All of us rug hookers seem to enjoy eating. In fact, as you get ready for meetings, the first question isn't about what everyone is hooking, it is what food is being

served. That is widespread with the rug hookers I know. New Orleans has such a wonderful cuisine that in itself is a good reason to attend the biennial and see the historical sights. So welcome to Louisiana's first biennial.

This issue contains many rugs and projects dealing with the holidays. Most everything I received after my request for submissions in the Aug/Sept issue. Thank you, membership, for being so prompt and giving of your time to send things.

I am proud to go to the mailbox and frequently find an event, article, cover submission

or chapter information. Please do not let your winter activities and spring camps and workshops stop the flow of hooking news. As an organization built on pride of our innovative artistic abilities and talents, sharing with one another is important. It makes for interesting reading and promotes new ideas and, hopefully, explains and shows new methods of hooking. Remember, there are lots of novice rug hookers who may need extra explanations of how you achieved your end result.

Again, good work. Keep it up.

2007 ATHA Biennial Join us in New Orleans September 12-16



Nominations Committee Requests Your Input

Jon Ciemiewicz, Committee Chairman for upcoming nominations for the 2007-09 elections requests your input.

If you wish to serve on the committee or run for a position, please contact Jon at 603-566-6291 or JCIEMO@yahoo.com