



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

Greetings!

I do hope that you all are taking advantage of the peace and quiet of these shorter winter days to work on yet another great rug hooking project. Here in New England, when the snow flies and blankets everything in white, a wonderful stillness slows our hectic pace, providing a perfect time for reflection.

As I sit and hook and plan my ATHA President's Message, I think back on the many friends that I have made throughout our vast rug hooking world. I am so grateful for the rug schools and camps that I have attended. I think of the teachers who have shared so much of themselves and instilled such a love of this fantastic fiber art in me. What is it that makes these rug hooking vacations so special? For me, it is knowing that new friends and new knowledge await me. I don't have to wonder if I will enjoy myself. I know that I will, because the students and teachers who love what I love are waiting to share the experience with me.

This issue of our newsletter contains both reflections of recent ATHA happenings and a look into ATHA's future 2007 Biennial event.

Rhapsody in Rugs, ATHA's National Juried Show for 2006, concluded a two month showing at the Carnegie Center for Art and

President's Message

ATHA's Pride In Events Of Past and Future

History in New Albany, Indiana on November 11, 2006. Cash prizes of \$1,100 were awarded. Sarah Province and her 'Homecoming at Fairfield Church' captured ATHA's \$500 Best of Show award and is featured on the front cover of this issue of our magazine. Inside the front cover you will find 'Bill, circa 1931' by Lee Work, the ATHA Buffalo Trace Rug Hookers Chapter \$200 Merit Award. 'I Think I Remember You' by Lou Anne Sybenga received a \$200 Carnegie Center Merit Award. 'Clew Bay, County Clare Ireland' by Pam Bartlett, and 'Thorndike' by Lois Rausch, each received Carnegie Center Merit Awards of \$100. 'Thorndike' is featured on the back cover. Congratulations to our winners and to all participants! Your work was/is fantastic!

ATHA took this exciting opportunity to launch our ATHA Rug Registry Program. Special thanks to Rita Doerner for heading up this project for the Buffalo Trace Rug Hookers. The provenance of each of these special pieces of registered art is ensured!

The ATHA Board would be most pleased to work with ATHA Chapters to sponsor additional juried shows. Jyl Clark and Mary Silva at Cat House Rugs worked tirelessly with Sally Newkirk and Suellen Wilkinson of the Carnegie Center, Barbara Hunter, President, and the members of the Buffalo Trace Rug Hookers Chapter to meet the requirements of our ATHA Policies. Included is a picture of these ladies standing

before the ATHA Seal at the opening reception of the 2006 Rhapsody in Rugs Juried Show is on page 8. I believe that their hard work and dedication has helped to raise our rug hooking art to a new level.

Congratulations to Diana O'Brien, to our twelve US Regional Representatives, and to all US ATHA Chapters! All but one chapter are now fully certified as non-profit entities under ATHA's IRS Certificate. I think that you will all agree that Diana has been a tremendously efficient and effective ATHA Regional Coordinator in helping you and your chapter/region fulfill this task. Diana continues to welcome new ATHA Chapters (page 11).

Jon Ciemiewicz, Nominating Committee Chairperson, has been working hard to bring us an exciting slate of officers and regional representatives for the 2007/2009 term. Please see article on page 20 and nomination information on page 5. The ballot will be printed in the Apr/May issue of the newsletter. ATHA is the 'forward looking' organization that it is because of the hard work and dedication our members. ATHA is, and has always been, run by volunteers. Please consider running for regional representative for your region. We plan to reorganize the regions and need your input and expertise. This is an exciting time in the history of ATHA. Let Jon know that you are willing to work on behalf of the ATHA members in your region.

Biennial Plans continue. We have several articles by the 2007 Biennial Committee including the biennial registration form, class teachers/class descriptions, class schedule and choices, raffle information, address book and information. Be sure to check out all of the articles as listed in this newsletter index on page iii. Remember to register promptly to ensure your choice of teachers!

Also, don't forget to order your Mardi Gras Mask pattern. Mask Challenge information is printed in the Dec/Jan Issue of the newsletter on page 33. The ATHA Board will present a viewers choice award at the Saturday evening banquet and

a colored picture of the winner will be placed in the ATHA Newsletter.

I should mention that your ATHA Board will host several ATHA meetings in conjunction with the events planned by the biennial committee. Beginning on Wednesday afternoon, our ATHA Newsletter/Editorial Board will meet with representatives from your ATHA region/chapter who are in attendance. Wednesday evening will include our ATHA Board/Membership meeting and ATHA Board/Council Installation of Officers for the 2007-2009 term. The Thursday agenda will contain an ATHA Education Committee meeting. On Friday, Diana

O'Brien, Regional Coordinator, will welcome Presidents/Regional Representatives in attendance for an important local/regional meeting. Times and locations will be printed in an upcoming issue of the newsletter when the biennial committee schedule is finalized.

From Wednesday noon, September 12, 2007, through the Saturday evening banquet, the 2007 ATHA Biennial is jam/packed with excitement. Mark your calendar. New Orleans is a special place to *Let the Good Times Roll!*

Happy Valentine's Day!
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Carol