

ATHA Mayflower Newsletter

August 2013

Mayflower Chapter Welcomes Margaret Arraj



On May 18, 2013, the Mayflower Chapter had the pleasure of hosting Margaret Arraj of Mill River Rugs, who spoke in depth about her love for traditional hooking with rug wool yarn. She began by telling us that her Lebanese name means “one who deviates” and that she is currently working on rug # 112.

Margaret began rug hooking at age 12 after she convinced her mother to buy some material and taught herself how to complete her first crude rug on burlap from Montgomery Ward and Aunt Lydia’s heavy rug yarn from the local Five and Dime.

However, it was another fifty years before Margaret truly began her rug hooking hobby. At that time, she and her husband took a rug hooking

course at an adult education program. She credits her McGown trained teacher who supported her desire to “deviate” from the norm by being the only one who used yarn. In using wool yarn, she describes yarn as being “round, twisted, rebellious, which won’t stand up the same way as strips which have an edge.” She says she is still learning how to hook with yarn. Her favorite tools and materials include Cushing’s fine linen (from Scotland, with square holes), medium weight 100% wool yarn, the puritan frame and a very fine Moshimer hook. She prefers very coarse rug wool, finding some of the best material from New Zealand.

As she described the many rugs she brought with her, Margaret’s enthusiasm comes across. She likes

to keep her hooking pure – no marketing, etc, to distract her from hooking. She showed our group examples of bed rugs and explained these were the predecessor to what she does now. She has been collecting and selling rug wool yarn for quite some time and she likes the tradition of using leftovers from carpet factories.

As for design, Margaret specializes in historic and ethnic designs and is drawn to two-dimensional art. She likes the look of flat colors and showed us a variety of rugs. Her goat rug was made using actual mohair. She is drawn to Art Nouveau designs, William Morris contemporaries, and Turkish, Asian and Persian designs.

The Mayflower Chapter thanks Margaret Arraj for her wonderful lecture and for letting us see many of her beautiful rugs. Her studio is located in Florence, MA and her website is www.millriverrugs.com.



Member Spotlight: Heidi Lee

Heidi Lee recently shared her rug journey with the Mayflower Chapter, which is summarized in her words below:

“A journey can begin anywhere, but my rug hooking journey began in 1999, when several friends encouraged me to join them in a class taught by Meredith LeBeau at the Beverly Senior Center. Meredith, a McGown certified teacher with an extensive history in the local hooking scene, helped me learn the techniques of hooking with a chair pad that required shading of strawberries, leaves and blossoms, and attention to finishing the edge. I was off and running!

Over the years, I have hooked patterns by others, and now I like to design my own patterns as well. Mostly, I hook pieces to decorate my home, but I am proud of my daughter’s wedding rug that I designed and hooked recently featuring a landscape. I like using size 3-6 wool strips, and I will add in yarns when appropriated. I am looking forward to my first “Hooking School” experience at the ATHA North school where I was fortunate to win a scholarship from Region 1 ATHA to attend.

For me, the relaxing art of rug hooking not only supports my need to create every day, but the nice folks I meet along the way are a large part of my social network.”

Thank you, Heidi, for sharing your journey with us.



The 2013 Mayflower Challenge!

At the May 2013 meeting, Mayflower Chapter members brought their challenge pieces for viewing. This year’s challenge was “SHAPES” – however you chose to define it.

Please note: All members are invited to bring their challenge pieces to the September meeting where each person will present their piece to the group (and maybe discuss what inspired the piece). We would like to take a picture of each piece as it is presented.

Even if you haven’t finished your piece, please bring it to share with us!

The 2014 Mayflower Challenge!

The vote has been tallied and the winning idea for 2014 is **NAME TAG**. We look forward to seeing the creative creations that our members will come up with regarding this new challenge.

Area Events

Shelburne Falls, MA – August 17-18, 2013

Rug Registry and Rug Exhibit

The first ever Rug Registry August 17-18 (Sat-Sun) will take place at the Shelburne Buckland Community Center at 53 Main Street, Shelburne Falls, 01370. The Rug Registry is a fairly new idea where rug hookers are encouraged to register information about their rugs for historical purposes. A similar project has been undertaken in the Quilting world and people can check that website at www.quiltindex.org to get a general idea of how this type of registry works. The Rug Registry is in its infancy and will require support in terms of software, but we think it will be an extremely valuable tool once it gets going. The cost to register a rug is \$10, and you will need to bring the form and the rug to the Shelburne Buckland Community Center August 17-18, 2013. Appointments to register a rug should be made ahead of time by contacting Diana O'Brien (see info below).

The Community Center will also be host to a hooked rug exhibit on August 17-18th and all ATHA chapter members are welcome to participate in the exhibit, or help out by demonstrating or helping with the Rug Registry. The exhibit is open to the public with a \$5.00 entrance fee, which is waived if you are registering a rug.

For additional information on the exhibit or Rug Registry, please contact Diana O'Brien at 413.625.9403 or via email at Diana@faxonsales.com.

Shelburne Falls is a small town with lots of little shops and points of interest, including a glass blowing center. Why not bring your family for the day?

Fall Hook In – October 26th, 2013

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

335 Smyth Rd, Manchester, NH

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Cost: \$12.00/\$10.00 with a donation to the Food Pantry

Lunch Available: \$8.00

Door Prizes; Vendors

Bring your finished rugs for display

Registration: Lynda Hadlock

603.785.3799

Email: lindawithay@aol.com

Sponsored by White Mountain Woolen Magic

Region 1 Hook In – Saturday, March 22, 2014

This annual event will take place in Westford, so don't forget to mark your calendars.

Mayflower Calendar

- **September 14th**
 - Bodacious Blue Hospitality Team (Leader: Maggie Cowell)
 - Potluck – everyone brings a favorite dish
 - Event: Presentations of Shape Challenge pieces
- **October 19th**
 - Yowza Yellow Hospitality Team (Leader: Jeanie Crockett)
 - Guest Speaker: Pam Bartlett, Copyright Laws
- **November 16th**
 - Gorgeous Green Hospitality Team (Leader: Happy DiFranza)
 - Event: Open Rug Hooking (bring something to work on)
 - Guest Speaker: Roseanne Hunter
- **December 14th**
 - Ravishing Red Hospitality Team (Leader: Jane Sittnick)
 - Event: Christmas Celebration
 - This year, instead of the Yankee Swap and Wool Exchange, we will be exchanging a wool piece (hooked, felted, etc), approximately 9 x 9” in size that you make. Please gift wrap your piece, and don’t forget to sign your name on the back. This will be a wonderful chance for everyone to share handmade pieces with each other.
 - We will also be engaging in a separate more traditional gift swap (value \$15-\$20).
 - Members are welcome to participate in either or both exchanges.
- **January 18th**
 - Board Members Hospitality Team
 - Event: Home Bee, downstairs at the church
- **February 15th**
 - Bodacious Blue Hospitality Team (Leader; Maggie Cowell)
 - Event: Big Bee
- **March 15th**
 - Yowza Yellow Hospitality Team (Leader: Jeanie Crockett)
 - Rug Journey – TBD
- **April 12th**
 - Gorgeous Green Hospitality Team (Leader: Happy DiFranza)
 - Guest Speaker: Susie Stephenson, Primitives
- **May 17th:**
 - Ravishing Red Hospitality Team (Leader; Jane Sittnick)
 - Lois Dugal, Embellishments
- **June:** Strawberry Festival, date & location TBD

Board Members as of Sept 2013:

President – Jenna Sleeper

Email: Jenna.Sleeper@comcast.net

Phone: 978.701.2870

Vice President – Carlene Iudiciani

Email: mrsscarlene@verizon.net

Phone: 978.687.0200

Programs – Sandra Porter

Membership – Robyn Hodges

Email: marylucydesigns@aol.com

Treasurer – Caren Cowie

Secretary – Heidi Lee

Hospitality – Dot Woodle

Librarian – Edythe Salzman

Editor's Notes:

Carlene and I are excited about the coming year and we look forward to your ideas – please keep them coming! The Mayflower Chapter has nearly 100 members, so our growth has been phenomenal. That means lots of ideas from each of you. We welcome ideas for potential programs, speakers, fundraising ideas, etc.

ATHA Mayflower gives a warm thank you to outgoing co-presidents Donna Allen and Marcia Kent for their dedicated work!

Sincerely,

Jenna and Carlene