



Mayflower Chapter Newsletter April 2014

“Susie Stephenson Primitives”

At its April meeting, The Mayflower Chapter enjoyed a delightful visit from Susie Stephenson, who is well known for her primitive rug hooking style. Susie told us she grew up in Nova Scotia as a child, learning to quilt, knit and embroider. Many years later, her mother suggested she try rug hooking, but with four children under the age of five, Susie didn't think she had the time. However, her mother kept after her and taught her how to hook, and her husband built her a frame. She found materials at the Goodwill and many people donated materials she was able to recycle.

Her rugs are unique to say the least, and they often incorporate drawings made by her children. Some of her rugs incorporate inspirational sayings. Susie described how she went through a mermaid phase, using this theme in many pieces. The mermaids are not your typical mermaids, as some represent people who have had an impact on her, some are pregnant, and others tell a story.

Susie told us that she never “hooked up” (so to speak) with a group, so she didn't know what the rules were in rug hooking or that she was breaking them.





prefers primitive linen and likes animals with character, as well as fall colors. She emphasized that her rugs “are meant to be walked on”.

Susie’s finished pieces range from rugs to jackets, vests, slippers, purses, and even a bikini. She showed us a jacket that was also finished on the inside with inspirational sayings and all the labels from the clothes she used to hook the jacket. It’s a wonderful piece, inside and out. One of her rugs is a horse rug, with the horse design taken from a family tavern sign. She incorporates a piece of her grandmother’s Pendleton suits into each of her rugs, which ties memories to her pieces. She has kept a scrapbook of her ideas and pictures of finished projects.

Susie Stephenson currently resides in Maine and has recently expanded her space to a renovated school house. She is the author of Designing and Hooking Primitive Rugs, and can be found on Facebook by looking for Stephenson Fiber Arts.



Susie, talking with Mayflower members

This background led her to trying adventurous techniques, such as including roving into her pieces. She uses unusual materials, such as tee shirts and mismatched socks. At home she has goats, sheep, cats and alpaca. Some of her animals provide raw materials which she spun to use in her rug hooking. Susie commented with humor, “I have a wool problem”. She

Show and Tell

Rug in process by Jane Sittnick



Rug by Gail Majaukas



Two rugs (same pattern) hooked by Betty Travers:



Upcoming Board Vacancies

We still need to find replacements for Dot Woodle, Hospitality and Sandra Porter, Programs, who have generously contributed their time over the past several years and would like to step down after this year. Please consider volunteering for one of these roles. If you are interested, please contact Dot Woodle, Sandra Porter, or Jenna Sleeper.

The 2014 Mayflower Challenge!

Don't forget this year's challenge is **NAME TAG**. We will be showing these off at the Sept 2014 meeting.

Guatemala Women Hookers

Jane Sittnick brought back a few handmade items from the Guatemala Women Hookers which were raffled off at the April meeting. Jane also showed us a piece she was making, using the same technique used by these women. In addition, the women gave our chapter a thank you note for the donations we made to them. See separate newsletter.

Mayflower Calendar

- **May 17th:**
 - Ravishing Red Hospitality Team (Leader; Jane Sittnick)
 - Lois Dugal, Embellishments
- **June: Strawberry Festival** – cancelled

Next Year's Programs:

September 20, 2014	Welcome Back w/Potluck; Name Tag Challenge
October 18, 2014	Gail Majaukas Workshop; Raffle Event
November 15, 2014	Bring your own work; Library Sale
December 20, 2014	Christmas Exchange; Potluck
January 17, 2015	Jon Cimewicz, Adding Dimension
February 21, 2015	Big Bee
March 21, 2015	Janet Conner, Proddy Flowers
April 18, 2015	Ginny Shannon, Medallion Workshop
May 16, 2015	Bring your own work
June TBD, 2015	Strawberry Festival

Upcoming External Events

- [Spring Art Exhibit & Sale](#)

Reading Art Association is hosting its Spring Art Exhibit & Sale on Friday May 2, 7:30-9:30 pm; Saturday May 3, 10-4 pm; and Sunday May 4, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the First Congregational Church on Sanborn Street, Reading, MA.
- [Pleasant Mountain Fiber Arts Classes](#)

June 20-22, Brownfield, Maine. Classes in felting, proddy, traditional rug hooking, wool appliqué, punch needle, knitting, spinning, weaving and more. Check this out at www.pleasantmtfiber.com.
- [Rug Registry Project & Hooked Rug Exhibit](#)

August 16 & 17 at Shelburne Falls, MA (see separate flyer)
- [A Day with Gene Shepherd](#)

Sunday, Sept 14th in Eliot, ME (see separate flyer)
- [Olde Cape Cod Rug School](#)

Nov 15, 16, 17 2014 (see separate flyer)
- [Art & Hooking Mediterranean Crusie](#)

Nov 12-22, 2014 (see separate flyer)

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