

Mayflower Chapter Newsletter Sept 2016



Greetings –

ATHA Mayflower was very fortunate to have Loretta Scena speak at its September meeting. Loretta is a certified McGown teacher and she told us that she loves color and likes to use her hands to make things. She likes sparkly things and jewelry, commenting that she must have been a crow in a past life. Even as a child, she chose to create jewelry on cardboard to sell, while her peers sold lemonade. Loretta describes herself as a crazy person, very fidgety. She likes creating ornaments, spirit dolls and bead embroidery. She does not like precision, and therefore likes crazy quilts and the opportunity to “play”. She calls herself the “queen of the unfinished”.

What led Loretta to rug hooking? She was interested in making medieval tapestry and around 1997 learned to hook over the phone with a friend’s mom. She started with a 3 cut because it allowed for greater detail. Her teacher was Helen Connolly. When Loretta finds herself stuck, her teacher seems to be there in spirit to help. Helen is her inspiration and what keeps her going.

Loretta shared with us some of her techniques and lessons learned. She first learned to hook on burlap and showed us how that early piece had deteriorated over just a few years. The pattern she used was called “Jennifer” (see picture) and she included a marbling technique using peaches and purples near the edges to add interest to the rug. Loretta has

incorporated crocheting, beading, ribbons, nylons, etc into her pieces.

In her “Southampton” shoreline piece, she used yarn with multiple strands, wool made to look like pebbles, felted wool shells and beads. The beach scene is absolutely wonderful and inspiring. She discussed the use of quilly (those little rolls) that can be stitched through and then stitched down into a piece. If you remove a couple of threads, it makes the quilly a bit fuzzy, like a flower would look. She has also experimented with using the reverse side of crocheted loops to give a rug a different look.

Loretta showed us a tree trunk scene she made, which she termed a triptych as the picture is divided into three sections, one of which includes a written saying called “A Little Nut”. The tree piece was part of a group project started by Lisanne Miller.

When hooking animals, she advised us that the wool needs to be hooked in the direction of the animal’s fur growth; this is called “directionality”. She will sometimes use multiple strands at a time. She noted that color doesn’t matter, but value does. Loretta also discussed some dye techniques, such as casserole dyeing.

One of her methods for working through problems is to hold the piece up to the mirror to find the problem. Doing this makes your brain see the piece differently. Loretta told us she constantly tweaks her rugs.

Thank you, Loretta! The Mayflower thoroughly enjoyed your visit! Visit her webpage at www.lorettascena.com. Below are some of her pieces.



Loretta's first piece on burlap, "Jennifer" pattern:



Rabbit Pillow:



Pillows and purses:



McGown Certification Pieces:



Leopard Eye:



Oriental Style Rug:



Show and Tell

"Quilt" Rug by Sharon Clarke:



Welcome Sign by Sandra Porter:



Heart Rug by Pat Iverson:



Flowers by Pat Iverson:



Peacock by Ildi Tary:



Partridge by Marcia Kent:



Mayflower Meetings for 2016-2017:

Sep 17, 2016

- Welcome Back; Guest Speaker: Loretta Scena
- Refreshments: Last Names with A - C

Oct 15, 2016

- Display of Challenge Rugs (Fish)
- Refreshments: Last Names with D - I

Nov 19, 2016

- Bring Your Own Work
- Refreshments: Last Names with J - R

Dec 3, 2016

- Christmas Celebration & Gift Exchange
- Refreshments: Last Names with S - Z

Jan 21, 2017

- Guest Speaker: Sandra Porter - Borders
- Refreshments: Last Names with A - C

Feb 18, 2017

- Bring Your Own Work
- Refreshments: Last Names with D - I

Mar 18, 2017

- Guest Speaker: Sarah Gulliani
- Refreshments: Last Names with J - R

Apr 22, 2017

- Big Bee & Auction
- Refreshments: All Members

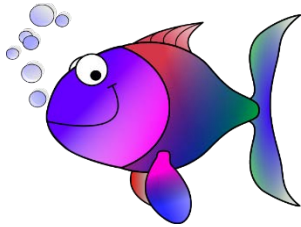
May 20, 2017

- Elections
- Dues are due - \$25 (give to Ildi)
- Refreshments: Last Names with S - Z

June TBD, 2017

- Strawberry Festival (Location TBD)
- Refreshments: All Members

This year's challenge: Fish



External Events:

Oct. 28-30 Franciscan House Hook-in
(contact Donna Allen for info)

Nov 11-13, 2016, Alfred, Maine Hook-in

Meeting Location:

*St. Agnes Church at 186 Woburn Street,
Reading, MA in the upper Parish Hall
behind the church.*

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