

## Lynda Faye



New Coop member Lynda Faye likes to tell people she's a hooker. She does most of her hooking in what she calls the "Coop Mahal" on the grounds of her Purple Gables bed and breakfast and residence in Amherst. This tiny studio building was destined to be a hen house at one time, but is now where Lynda enjoys hooking her wool rug projects. (The mixture of two high spirited Javanese dogs with chickens was probably going to be too difficult, she decided.)

These projects are primarily destined for friends and family and many of them are portraits rendered



from favorite photographs.

Due to the time involved in hooking rugs, Lynda doesn't feel there is any incentive to market them.

She was at the Bg E about 5 years ago looking at rug hooking and saw a demonstration of "twining." A twined rug uses strips of fabric that are wound around each warp thread, rather than weaving over and under the threads. "The end result is so beautiful, like an impressionist painting, and the process is so simple!" Lynda said. "The first one I made was a turquoise and orange striped one for my daughter, then I made a sunset for her sister, who took it in her RV up and down the east coast— it passed the durability test!"



It takes a whopping 14 yards of fabric for a bigger throw rug of 24 by 36 inches, and a week's time. Lynda loves how even the tackiest fabric can be transformed through this method. Cut into strips and twisted and twined, it is an abstract of the color and pattern and has a three dimensional, textural presence as part of the thick, fluffy, heavy rug. She thought she would try selling them at the Coop and has been a working member since last November. Her days are otherwise revolving around the dogs, her grandchildren and elderly mother, and the bed and breakfast that has been up and running for nine years.

She's been in the Valley since 1969. Prior to the move, she taught art in elementary schools in Connecticut and New York state. She had two boys, and the family moved to Leverett. During the 80s she had a yarn shop there and kept horses, giving riding instruction. "I sold imported wool from Africa and Bartlett Mills in Maine, just a lot of different yarns." She knitted baby sweaters and sold those there, too.



When the boys were older, she went back to school for a masters in art history, specializing in textiles. "That's when I discovered rug hooking! I went to the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford and saw a bed cover there that was the first example of hand hooking in the US. Most of those items weren't preserved, they were really used up and were made of worn out garments to begin with. So for my masters I researched the history of these objects, looking through probate records to find hooked rugs."

She has since worked in art education, preservation, and exhibitions at a variety of institutions, as well as serving as an administrative assistant to the Amherst zoning board, a position she only recently resigned.