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Notable Quotes

"Spring has returned. The Earth is like a child that knows poems."
- Rainer Maria Rilke

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April 24, 2010

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Marion Brown hasn't yet committed to creating a masterpiece for the Common House, but she's ready to put her team together!
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Please Join Us...

On Sunday, May 9, from 2-4 pm at the farmhouse at 45 Edgecomb Road in Belfast, we'll be hosting our 2nd Annual Maypole Dance. It's a delightful way to spend an afternoon - dancing through the new spring grass to the music of fiddles and guitars, weaving multi-colored ribbons around a 20' pole.

Chat with members of the community, walk the land, enjoy complimentary refreshments, and tour the nearly-finished prototype home on Crocker Road. Come find out what the buzz is all about!

[Click here for photos of last year's May Day festivities.](#)

**More Than The Sum Of Its Parts
- Edie Konesni**

We worked on an interesting group building exercise recently. It had to do with being connected. We stood in a



circle and each held part of a rope loop. We had to lean back trusting that the rope would hold our collective weight, sit from standing and then stand back up again. This involved different ages and sizes and physical abilities, from little folk to mature members. Some had a harder time at getting up from sitting and others had to stretch to reach up for the rope. The taller people had to bend over and the shorter had to stand on tip toes to reach the rope. The stronger pulled a little harder to help those with stiff knees get up from the ground. When one of us stood up it helped the others to stand. When one was unable to stand the others worked harder together to bring the entire group to standing. We each had to pull what we could to help the group as a whole sit without falling and stand without slipping. Each person had a small but significant part in the activity.



Simple, yes? But perhaps not. The success of this exercise was only achieved through a common purpose, working together, trust, and communication.

The word "community" comes from the Latin *communitas* - "cum" meaning with/together and "munus" meaning gift. Gifting together or giving together. It is about the gifts of preparing meals together, making music together, laughing together, crying together, and growing together.

The ultimate success of a community is when we gift each other enough to get to know each other at a level beyond that of borrowing a cup of flour.

The total of Community is more than the sum of its parts.



Member Profile - Maya French

I am seventeen years old and am currently attending Belfast Area High School as a junior. My mom, [Judy McMahan](#), is one of the founding members of the Belfast Cohousing project. I have grown up in a very musical family and playing the violin has become one of my greatest passions. After I graduate, among many other ventures I hope to attend a music conservatory and major in violin performance. Aside from my musical life I enjoy spending time with family and friends, sailing, swimming, running and traveling.

It has been amazing to watch the Cohousing project grow and develop from the very first meeting. Though I have not been very involved in the meetings or decision making, I have had the pleasure of hanging out with the Cohousing kids. It has been wonderful to connect with both the younger and older members of the community. I love the sense of unity that has developed within the group and how they welcome new members. I think the idea of new architecture and living styles to create a sustainable and eco-friendly community will add a lot to the vibrant

area of Belfast. The houses will most likely be finished after I graduate, so I will not be a permanent member, but I am anticipating coming home to a new and warm community.

Hooked On Rug Hooking - Marion Brown

It has been eight years since I moved to Maine. For me it was really about coming home, for my happiest childhood memories were certainly those spent each summer in Rockport, visiting assorted cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. When the weather was beautiful and sunny I could be found outdoors swimming, sailing or hiking. When the weather was wet, cool and foggy we kids found time to play card games, venture to the movies or read. My favorite activity was to head over to my grandmother's to visit and do needlework. Anything that involved fiber was fun and relaxing. My grandmother loved to needlepoint and was always very patient teaching me how to stitch. When I would drop by to visit my great grandmother, she was often hunched over her rug hooking frame working on a wonderful, whimsical hooked rug. Although I never had the opportunity to pull wool strips through one of her rugs, I always knew that rug making was somehow in my future. In 1991, while living in North Carolina, I happened upon a "Rug Camp" which offered rug hooking lessons from a local teacher. It was at that summer workshop that I became "hooked." I finally found a form of fiber art that lent itself to the untrained artist. No longer did I have to live in the shadow of my artistically talented sister and brother. Finally I had a way to express myself creatively.



Many people confuse rug hooking with latch hook rug making. Rug hooking is a craft where a rug is made by pulling loops of yarn or woolen fabric through a foundation of linen, cotton warp cloth or burlap. Often, used woolen clothing is recycled to be used in the rug either "as is" or dyed with acid fast fabric dye or natural dyes. There are many beautiful designs available to hook, or one can design their own.

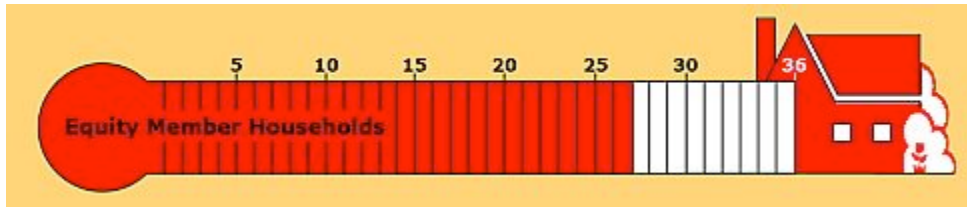
Since 1991 I have studied with many different teachers and have gone on to attend numerous Rug Camps and workshops. Although I knew that the art of rug hooking originated in New England and the Canadian Maritimes, I had no idea that Maine would be such an incredible mecca for rug hookers. I'm sure that Maine can boast having the most rug hooking shops and studios in the country, as well as activities and gatherings that involve this form of fiber art. Currently I am working towards my certification as a McGown trained rug hooking teacher, and have been teaching this craft for about four years.

I invite folks to take a visit to the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland in the coming months, as beginning on Saturday May 1, there will be a new exhibition entitled Rug Hooking in Maine and Beyond. Mildred Peladeau is the guest curator and

author of the recently published book "Rug Hooking in Maine 1838-1940." The display will be in the museum's Crosman Gallery through December 2010.

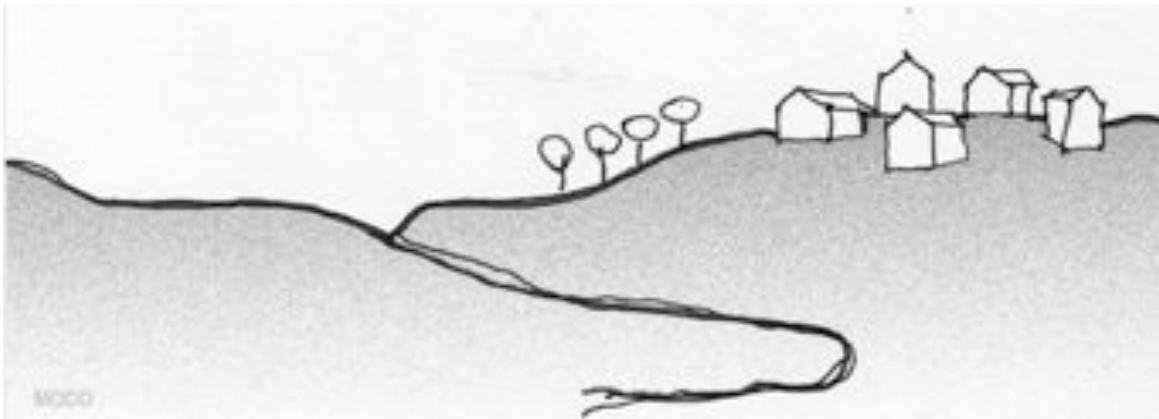
Membership Information

Equity Members are those households who have already committed to purchasing a home in the community. There are currently twenty-seven of a projected thirty-six Equity members. Exploring Members are those households who have an interest in becoming Equity Members, but are not yet ready to fully commit. Friends are those who are interested in our project, but are not members. See the [Membership](#) section of our website for further details.



Our Mission

To be a model environmentally sustainable, affordable, multi-generational cohousing community that is easily accessible to Belfast, includes land for agricultural use and open space, and is an innovative housing development option for rural Maine.



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