

KENTUCKY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS ASSOCIATION

CULTURAL ARTS and HERITAGE

Program Overview

The Cultural Arts and Heritage program area covers a wide and diverse subject that includes fine arts and crafts, heritage and history of both Kentucky and world cultures, literacy and reading and other areas that cover an appreciation of both the Kentucky and world culture. The following are ongoing activities of this program:

- Promote programs that broaden the understanding of our nation, state, and communities, citizenship, history, etc.
- Promote and develop cultural diversity programs.
- Revive traditional art forms and continue teaching the heritage skills such as: basketry, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, doll making, carving, painting, pottery, etc.
- Promote Extension Master Volunteer Programs to teach and preserve arts and heritage skills.
- Encourage self-expression through all forms of creative, visual, and performing arts.
- Conduct an awards program in arts and promote participation in the State Cultural Arts Exhibit.
- Promote the study of cultural heritage through literature and museums. Utilize libraries and encourage written and oral histories of families and communities. Promote genealogy programs.
- Promote reading, especially of Kentucky authors.
- Explore home-based business opportunities utilizing handmade arts and crafts.

KEHA Cultural Arts Chairman 2018 to 2021

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Cultural Arts and Heritage Program of Work 2019-2022

2019-2020

Focus: Swedish Weaving

Situation: Swedish weaving is embroidery of geometric motifs, using a simple darning or weaving stitch. It is a type of needle art that creates a surface design by weaving floss or yarn under raised floats on the fabric. The types of even weave fabrics are Monk's Cloth, Huck Toweling, Aida, and Stockholm. The yarn will not be visible on the backside of the fabric.

Swedish weaving became popular in America in the 1930's-1940 as we began to decorate or enhance white linens, particularly Huck Towels. Swedish weaving is a simple and straightforward form of needlework and can be mastered and enjoyed by all ages. Projects created with Swedish weaving could be baby blankets, throws, pillows, table runners, placemats, hand towels, ornaments, bread cloths, and etc.

Objectives:

1. Learn basic Swedish Weaving techniques as a foundation for more advanced work.
2. Encourage enjoyment of Swedish Weaving techniques to decorate both handmade and purchased items.
3. Promote programs for the conservation and preservation of Swedish Weaving items and other textile.

Activities:

1. Attend and participate in Homemaker club program focusing on Swedish Weaving.
2. Support local classes and programs where Swedish Weaving arts and heritage skills are taught.
3. Support local museums and historical sites with examples of Swedish Weaving.

2020-2021

Focus: Weaving: Traditional cloth, material

Situation: Weaving is a method of textile production in which two distinct sets of yarns or threads are interfaced at right angles to form a fabric or cloth. The lengthwise threads are called the warp and the crosswise threads are the weft or filling. Most common natural fibers used are cotton, linen, wool, for natural fibers ; man-made fibers are acrylic and nylon yarns. Once you understand the weaving process, it's easy to recognize the different types of weaving looms. Types of looms are Backstrap, Tapestry, Inkle, Rigid Heddle, Table, and Floor. The simplest loom is a rectangular wooden frame, like a picture frame.

Weaving is one of mankind's most ancient of crafts. Early weaving was usually done by women, therefore considered a women's craft. Weaving in Kentucky is a traditional form of old English and Scottish sources. Weaving centers led to the Appalachian craft revival to help family's financial situation. With the invention of the power looms, the Industrial Revolution lead young women to work the looms. Today's weaving is a popular handcraft and art.

Objectives:

1. Learn the basic weaving techniques as a foundation for more advanced weaving work.
2. Encourage weaving techniques to decorate both handmade and purchased clothing and household items.
3. Encourage Homemakers to read accurate history and techniques for weaving.
4. Promote programs for the conservation and preservation of antique woven items.

Activities:

1. Attend and participate in Homemaker club program focusing on Weaving.
2. Support local museums and historic sites with examples of antique Woven items.
3. Attend programs or learn on own the conservation and preservation of antique woven items, textiles.
4. Support local classes and programs where basic weaving arts and heritage skills are taught.

2021-2022

Focus: Pin Weaving

Situation: Pin weaving is completed on a “pin loom.” This type of loom enables the weaver to easily “warp the loom” and the weave without error. The loom is usually a flat 4” x 4” square that is inexpensive and portable. This weaving technique has been around since early 1930’s.

Pins are inserted all the way around the frame. Yarn is methodically wound around the pins on all four sides of the loom. With this technique, the remaining yarn is woven through fewer times than on a traditionally warped loom. This quickly produces a small square of cloth with a finished edge (selvage) on all four sides. Small squares may be sewn or crocheted together to make throws, placemats, scarves, and small cloth to add to projects.

Pin looms can be made with glass-head pins inserted in cardboard to secure the warp yarns. Intricate fabric can be woven from yarns, ribbons, and fabric strips. Stabilize your design with fusible interfacing (place a pressing cloth over interfacing). Once ironed and secured it may be added to any of your sewing projects. This is perfect for using up scraps.

Objectives:

1. Encourage Homemakers to learn more about Pin Weaving.
2. Promote programs for the conservation and preservation of pin weaving textiles.
3. Encourage Homemakers to read accurate history and techniques for pin weaving.
4. Encourage Homemakers to visit museums or historic sites in Kentucky and seek out exhibits of pin weaving and other textiles.

Activities:

1. Attend and participate in Homemaker club program focusing on pin weaving.
2. Attend programs or learn on your own the conservation and preservation of pin weaving, weaving and other textiles.
3. Support local classes and programs where pin weaving is taught along with other heritage skills.