

## Chapter Visual Arts Display Program

“Keying in on the Arts” by Janie Wigley, WIA Committee member

Janie Wigley hosted the first annual visual arts display for her chapter. Her program planning steps follow. (Comments in parentheses are made by Shirl Hawes.)

**\*\*The key for having a chapter level Visual Arts Display is to give advance notice and not accept excuses from members that they have nothing to share! \*\*** (See sample newspaper article at the end of the plan for ideas on encouraging participation.)

**Two months in advance:** Publish information about the event. Our chapter called it “The 1st Annual Visual Arts Display”. The information was sent out in the chapter’s newsletter and information was also emailed to every member. (Choose one or more simple art/craft projects for the make and take portion of the program.)

**One month in advance:** Publish reminders in chapter newsletter or email information. Give examples of what can be displayed: craft items, knit or crocheted items, paintings, photography, any handmade items, collections of any kind. (Gather supplies for make and take projects.)

**One week in advance:** Send reminder that members are expected to participate! (They could even bring a photo of their work of art if it is too heavy or valuable.)

**Day of the Display:** We set up three long tables with small paper tents created for the name of the participate, date of project and what it was, if necessary. As members came in, they placed their items on the table and filled in the information. Members spent time looking at what had been brought by members. One member had made three baby quilts for another member’s new granddaughter. She presented the quilts to the member at the meeting.

(As part of the program, Janie also gave a brief talk about the Women in the Arts Committee. A paragraph describing WIA is at the end of this plan.)

In conjunction with the display, our chapter did a “make and take”. We had three simple projects that were completed by the end of the meeting. Our display was in December so we made small gift bags with a cute tag saying Merry Kiss-mas and a Chappy New Year; we made a paper handle that could be added to a small cellophane bag that a gift card would go in; and we made a Sticky Note holder that was a STAR project.

Members paid \$2.00 to cover the cost of the supplies, including the Chapstick and the sticky notes.

We completed our three “make and take” projects.

(Chapters can choose to do one simple project if time is a concern. The simple art project chosen could be used as a gift for early career educators or nursing home residents. Look on Pinterest for simple craft ideas. Chapters may also choose not to have any make and take crafts by deciding to focus on the displays and the stories told by members about their creations or their collections.)

**After the meeting:** Pictures were shared with members in the newsletter and on the chapter’s website. (See Gamma Eta chapter website on TSO website December 2, 2019 photos showing the make and take projects.)

**At the next chapter meeting after the Display:** Several of the members shared what they had done with the ideas from our make and take. One member said that her family made up one of the ideas and took them to a trauma center to be given out to patients.

**Planning for Next Year:** Our chapter members enjoyed sharing their crafts and projects. Already in the works...the 2nd Annual Visual Arts Display!

### **Examples of newsletter articles:**

*Gamma Eta’s Visual Arts Display* by Janie Wigley

So, you don’t believe that you are an artist or have any art item to display at our November 11th meeting. Well, I have an eye-opening concept for that person!! Recently I was at the State Fair of Texas and the Creative Arts Handbook is about 100 pages long. If you think you don’t have something that can be placed in our Visual Arts Display, then give me a call. I’ll check the Handbook. I will find something for you to display on November 11. It could be the beginning of an “artistic” adventure!!

Anything that is “art” whether it is a collection of some kind, decorations, photography, sewing project, canning or needle work. We won’t judge you if it is something that you made years ago! Dust it off and bring it! The evening will be a fun filled one with several “take home” activities.

### *Gamma Eta's 1st Annual Visual Arts Display* by Janie Wigley

No excuse...every member has something to display. Crafts of any kind, photography, sewing, crochet or knitted articles, collections of any kind can be displayed at our very own Visual Arts Display.

There will be plenty of time to look at the wonderful works of art. The program for the evening will include making three small takeaway items. The cost of the takeaways will be \$2.00 for all three. That price covers the cost of the supplies.

Don't miss a minute of our Visual Arts Display, business meeting and craft time. It is going to be an evening of food, fellowship and fun!

(Here is a small sample of the arts and crafts listed in the State Fair of Texas Creative Arts Handbook mentioned by Janie.)

#### **State Fair of Texas Creative Arts Handbook**

To download a copy for your chapter, visit the State Fair of Texas website on the creative arts page.

- Fine Arts: oil, acrylic, pastels, watercolor, ink, charcoal, printmaking
- Ceramics: hand-painted china, polymer jewelry or sculpture
- Designer craftsman: leathercraft, woodworking, metal art, jewelry, stained glass, painted rocks, origami, baskets, mosaic, collage, greeting cards, paper cutting
- Dolls (collections and handcrafted)
- Hobby: collections, such as buttons, spoons, salt& pepper shakers, thimbles
- Needle crafts: needlepoint, counted cross stitch, crochet, knitting, smocking
- Photography
- Scale models: Lego creations, dioramas, kits

#### **Women in the Arts Committee** (a great committee to start at the chapter level!)

The Women in the Arts Committee provides opportunities for members to participate in a variety of artistic endeavors, such as the Visual Arts Display at conventions or the annual Texas art retreat (STAR). The WIA also guides development of activities related to the arts, such as the convention Student Art Gallery, which features collaboration with TSO, the local school district, art teachers, students, and parents.

The Spectacular Texas Arts Retreat (STAR) takes place every MLK weekend at scenic Camp Allen in Navasota. Register now for a weekend of fun, food, and fellowship. Attendees do not need to be artistic; instructors ensure that the directions are easy so everyone can be successful. STAR features a variety of fine arts and craft projects, as well as singing, dancing, drama, and writing.

(Similar Ideas to consider:)

**In addition to a chapter wide visual arts display:** another way to honor the creativity of our members is to Spotlight an Artist in the chapter newsletter. Share a brief bio of the member and a photo showing a painting, a drama production, her decorated cookies, etc. Feature the art of one of your members at a chapter meeting. The member can share how she created her work and even do a short demonstration.

**Additional Visual Arts Displays:** members can also display their work at the Area Workshop or the member display at each TSO convention. Be sure to celebrate members whose art, poems, music, or photography have been accepted for the DKG Arts and Humanities Online Gallery.

The best part of a chapter visual arts display program is that all members are actively engaged in multiple ways: sharing stories, listening, learning, making a tiny work of art, and feeling the joy of being with friends.

If you have questions about having a chapter visual arts display, contact Janie Wigley at [jwigley69@gmail.com](mailto:jwigley69@gmail.com)