

# READS Roundtable – Crafting Programs

Friday, April 06, 2018

Windham, NH | Nesmith Library

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Note to attendees\* Forward any instructions (as a PDF) or contact information of guest crafters, to Maria so that she can compile a list and share them with the group. A list will be sent out with all email addresses so that we can continue the conversation, or ask more specific questions of each other.

## Karen's 6 rules of crafting

1. Remember: **adult** projects
  - a. No tissue paper, pipe cleaners, etc
  - b. These are things adults will want to do and should be targeted to them
2. Keep it simple
  - a. Some follow directions
  - b. Some may be really needy
  - c. Some want variations, some really don't
3. Limit your numbers
  - a. Karen limits to 15
  - b. Have a waiting list
    - i. Call attendees ahead of time, and then call waiting list to fill all the spots
4. Be willing to do the project
  - a. To help with the project
  - b. And willing to do it for them
5. Always have a sample on display
  - a. Always have some of the exact materials you used available
6. Make sure everyone goes home happy

## Things to keep in mind when planning

- Seasonal is big
  - Halloween
  - Christmas
  - Generic Winter
  - Easter
- Do something trendy
- Do something old fashioned – a craft that has been around for years
  - Example: potholders
    - Harrisville Design has good quality materials <https://harrisville.com/>
  - Use quality materials
    - The Wiggin library has 10-12 looms, and are willing to share through the ILL van

## Craft programmer contact information

- Stamping Up – Pam White
  - \$5 each patron who attends - \$15 per person library cost
  - Everyone makes 5 cards
  - She brings everything
  - [Clearlycreate4fun@gmail.com](mailto:Clearlycreate4fun@gmail.com)
- Ways of Color (glass mosaics) – Kitri (daughter) and Leslie (mom) Doherty
  - \$10 each for sun catcher
  - \$15 each for trivets
  - They supply everything
  - [leslie@waysofcolor.com](mailto:leslie@waysofcolor.com)
- Lilly D's Crafts – craft kits, supplies, tutorials
  - \$1 for pendant, clasp, and chain
  - To use for old book pages, or maps to make necklaces
  - <https://www.lillyds.com/>
- Christa Zuber
  - The Place, Concord, NH
  - Needle felting
  - <https://www.theplaceconcord.com/>
- Diane Cook Johnson
  - Soft Touch Farms
  - Sandwich, NH – may only do the lakes region
  - Brings all supplies
  - Needle felting
  - <http://www.softtouchfarm.com/>
- Ellen Olsen
  - Beyond the Shadow coloring
  - \$5 per person
  - Coloring pages colored using eyeshadow
  - Not super professional, but everyone had a good time
  - <https://www.facebook.com/Beyond-The-Shadow-Coloring-2184255058466163/>
- Elegant Ewe
  - Yarn & fiber studio
  - Concord, NH
  - <http://elegantewe.com>
- League of NH craftsman
  - Could be a good resource for instructors
  - <https://www.nhcrafts.org/>
- Carol Sanborn
  - Hampton Falls Library - 603-926-3682
  - Basket weaving for 5 people
  - Also does puppets

## Program Budgets

- Wiggin aims for about \$100 per craft
  - Some more, some less
  - 15 people limit, with a wait list
- Concord Public Library has to keep all supplies separate for grants and budget lines
  - Limits to about 20 people, 30 was too many

- Laconia shares supplies among different age groups, and repurposes supplies as much as possible
  - Aims for a maximum of 24 people, but average is 5-10 at each of 2 sessions 1 day a month (usually the third Tuesday)
  - Cost generally ranges from \$50-\$150 per monthly craft, but can be less if we already have all the supplies (it's usually in the lower end of the range)
- Charging a small fee motivates people to show
  - Collect at class start, but not be pushy about it
  - About \$5 per person
- Some library trustees do not want to charge anything
- Alternative to help with costs is to put out a donation jar
- Ask for donated materials if you know what you're looking for
- Also check with staff members to have them gather materials
- Friends of the library are another potential source of money or materials

## Storage

- Concord has asked for a metal craft cabinet
  - Has recurring programs so materials can be reused
- Wiggin tries to plan out materials so that everything is used up
- Laconia has a small closet for the 12+ crafts (teens and adults) sorted by material type
  - Most things are in labeled shoe boxes, or similar
  - One shelf is reserved for the "up next" craft so those supplies aren't taken
  - Anything else in the closet is fair game to use for either new projects or bored teens

## Craft program ideas

- Decorating Easter Eggs – *Karen at Wiggin Memorial*
  - Boil at home
  - Two options
    - Old fashioned way
    - Glazed using whip cream
- Wine Charms – *Karen at Wiggin Memorial*
- Mason Jar Santa Lamp – *Karen at Wiggin Memorial*
- Seasonal pins – glaze from craft store – *Karen at Wiggin Memorial*
- Map necklace – *Karen at Wiggin Memorial*
- Beading on pie server or fork with copper wire – *Karen at Wiggin Memorial*
- Fancy dishwashing gloves – *Karen at Wiggin Memorial*
- Antiqued frame – *Karen at Wiggin Memorial*
- Decoupage Paint can – *Karen at Wiggin Memorial*
- Something Pumpkin
  - Sometimes real pumpkins
  - Sometimes not
- Live wreath decorating
  - They bring their own wreath, library provides decoration materials
- Center pieces
  - Patron brings own waterproof container
  - Work with a local nursery
  - If you live in a wooded area, get them from outside
- Washi tape is popular!

- Put it on pencils, stationary, clipboards
  - Each patron gets to bring home their own bag of stuff
- Live Greens & old frames
  - Cover frame completely with frame, or leave spots
  - Garnish with bulbs, etc
- Mod podge for the outdoors exists!
- Glass beads hot glued to a jar or wine bottle with a battery tea light or string of LED lights inside
- Felting – *Carol from Concord Public*
  - Carol from Concord does these classes regularly
    - Set up: (because people learn in different ways)
    - Demo (explain materials and walk through the steps)
    - Pass out a how-to
    - Tell how to individually if needed
  - Walk around person to person during the class
  - Provide pictures and examples
  - Have two projects so new patrons can try an easy one, but patrons who regularly come are also challenged
- Coloring!
  - Can be a recurring program
  - Can also be a passive program, just provide the supplies in an accessible place, or have patrons know they can ask at the desk for them
    - Leave out gel pens and markers and pages in a holder
    - Bookmarks with current events (advertise with the people are looking!)
    - Crosswords?
    - Watercolor Coloring is good for those with arthritis
      - Use paintbrush with a water reservoir and watercolor crayons to paint on a coloring page
  - Cut up the coloring book and photocopy onto regular paper
    - Save the good pages to re-copy
- Other uses for coloring pages
  - Shrink and print out on card-sized cardstock to make cards
  - Shrink and print out on card stock to make gift tags
- Wire Crochet beaded necklace
- Watercolor Notecards
  - Cut up the watercolor paper and glue to notecard in case of mistakes
- Towel cake – demonstration
  - Have a tea party and demonstrate how to make a towel cake
  - Give away the made one as a raffle prize to attendees
- Cake decorating
  - Bring in a presenter for a demonstration, then everyone gets to eat the cake
- Cupcake decorating
  - Decorate 6 cupcakes
  - Bring home in a bakery box
  - Frosting bag with disposable tips
  - Or just cut the corner of a plastic bag
  - Use candies
  - Possibly use stations with different examples and types of decorating to try
- Flower arrangements while having a tea party
  - Market as tea with a guest speaker
  - Have a presenter make the flower arrangements
  - Whoever has the saucer with the stickers on the bottom gets to take one home
- Bullet Journaling is very popular – *Caitlin at Bedford Public*

- Stole NELA presentation → [HERE](#); (the whole list)
  - Dec for the new year, January, February
  - Can be a journal, scrapbook, planner
    - Uses notebooks, washi tape, pens, rulers, stickers
- Fiber Fashion Show – *Caitlin at Bedford Public*
  - Show off the things that people have made all winter
  - Encourage to model their own designs
  - Might promote a knitting group (or get one started)
- Drop-in Craft nights
  - Bring in things you've abandoned to work on
- Craft show and tell
  - Bring in things you've made to share with other people who make things
- Beaded snowflakes
  - Can purchase 6 spoke wireframes to put beads on
- Zentangle isn't as popular as it used to be, but could still be fun
- Book Page Wreaths
  - Require a lot of rolling
  - Try crumpling instead
  - The patron destroys the book themselves, too much work to prep ahead of time
  - Cut out a cardboard "wreath" shape (or hearts for valentine's day)
- Melted wax in clear glass Christmas bulbs
  - Bring their own hairdryer
    - Careful of old buildings and blown fuses!
- Old Sweater Mittens – *Katherine at Belmont Public and Salisbury Free*
  - 100% wool sweaters (from consignment shop)
  - Wash to tighten the fibers
  - Cut out the pattern and sew together
  - If you have a machine use a machine, but can be hand sewed too
  - Inside is fleece so very warm
  - 1 sweater per pair – but it really depends on the size of the mitten and the sweater
- Learn to sew
  - Create aprons
    - 2 week class
- Wet felting
  - Similar in theory to the sweater mittens
  - But you need access to water in the room
- Terrariums
- Etched glass
  - Candle holders from the dollar store
  - Etching cream
    - Can re-use if you scrape it off before washing
  - Use a Cricut or silhouette machine to cut out shapes in contact paper
  - Or, sponge paint over stencils
- Painted rock cactus – *Amanda at Laconia Public*
  - Ugly stones, or found river rocks
  - Paint them with foam brushes
  - Put in a small flower pot filled with newsprint or tiny rocks (like in an aquarium)
  - Can also paint the pot
- Button paintings – *Amanda at Laconia Public*
  - Hot glue buttons to a canvas board
  - Can bring out "bling" or rhinestones, whatever's around in the closet to add variety
- Nailpolish wire flowers

- Twist write into flower shapes, dip into wood glue, dry, and then paint with nail polish
- Anything painting is popular
  - My fail was with watercolor
    - Too many patrons wanted very one on one instruction so others became neglected
    - Too much prep work so it took hours to prepare
    - Too many attendees, the waiting list was just as long as the class list
      - And people are still asking for more classes
      - But it was exhausting
    - Didn't have instructions prepared in written form so people just got started, and didn't use water, then were dismayed when it wasn't looking like a watercolor
- Painted glassware
  - Sharpie paint pens (oil based)
  - Just draw on a wine or drinking glass then bake at home
- Homemade bath bombs
- Mason jar candles
  - Melt crayons into soy wax for color
  - Add a few drops of scent
  - And a wick
- Henna was a minor success
  - The few interested who showed up were pleased
  - Supplies were very hard to get ahold of
- Tissue paper canvas
  - Stretched canvas'
  - Cut out, or tear up tissue paper and mod podge into a design
  - Most made geometric shapes (one argyle came out really nice)
- Mandala stones
- "Putz" glitter houses
  - Using Putz houses (bought from a supplier on etsy)
  - Assemble (with hot glue) then paint the houses, and then sprinkle liberally with glitter
  - Add cotton fluff for snow
- Spa crafts
  - Bath bombs
  - Sugar scrub
  - Heat pack with scent
- Wine cork jewelry
- Shadow box
- Paper Mache
  - This was a 2 part class
  - First part was to create the santa head
  - Second part was to paint
- Mod Podge shoes
  - Bring an old pair of shoes and decorate
- Hummingbird feeder
  - Bring an interesting bottle
- Polymer clay pendants
  - A small toaster oven was purchased for the library
- Recycled book picture frames

## Where to get materials

- Ask your staff, you never know what people might have

- Consignment shops (sweaters for mittens)
- Use coupons from craft stores
- Christmas Tree Shoppe
- Garage sales
- \*This weekend, but something to watch for
  - Lowell has a de-stash sale on Western Ave <https://www.facebook.com/events/1929123024070220/>
  - <http://westernavenuestudios.com/>

## Where to get ideas

- Pinterest is a goldmine
- New books published will show what's trendy
- Craft stores
- Classes offered
- Poll the people who show up – what do they want to do?

## What didn't work?

- Origami
- Making gift bags with upcycled materials
  - Recycling by using old cards to make bags
- Too many hair dryers can blow a fuse in old buildings
- Popular programs, only stay popular for a few times
- Once a week is too much and participation dwindles
- Once a month seems to be a good fit for most libraries
- Quilling was deemed too hard

## What to do with problem patrons?

- If they are getting frustrated but don't want help?
  - Use a soft voice
  - Break things down into small steps
  - Show each step clearly
- Try to show that it's okay for it to not be perfect
- Try to show that it's okay to be different from the example
- Encourage creativity
- Walk around and take pictures with a camera during the class
  - At the end of the class take a group picture to show how proud you are of what you've made
- Tell the patron to look at it as though someone else has made it and judge it from that perspective instead of as their own creation (people are harsh on themselves)

## Other things to consider

- Timing
  - Afternoons and evenings seem most popular
  - But what about mornings? Maybe get some moms with preschoolers at that time?
- Age range

- Most craft program attendees might be in the 50-70 range and could have dexterity concerns
- Use Universal ideas – not too targeted (not everyone loves cats, for example)
- Simple projects that can be completed in the time window
- Most libraries seemed to find 1.5 – 2 hours a good block of time
- Prep work
  - Try not to have a lot of prep work
  - Try to make the projects to get an idea of the time it takes and skill involved
  - Be prepared
  - Plan ahead
  - Write out, or find, your instructions to prepare for those patrons who want to get started the instant they walk in the door and will mess it up/waste supplies before you can explain how things work
- If you use guest crafters, stagger them to give yourself a break
- Makerspace?
  - Crafty things left out for adults to make something?
- Puzzles
  - Use an acrylic sheet to cover when not being worked on to prevent small humans from tearing it apart
- Crafts that take place over multiple nights don't always work
  - You'll have people want to go to one and not the other
  - They'll forget
- Parent/child options
  - 12 and up can attend if parent is willing to work with the child on the whole project the whole time
  - Great bonding time
  - Might get more age ranges into programs
- Consider timing when scheduling
  - Is it dinnertime?
  - Will you finish before closing?