

Oxford library classes create beauty out of rubbish

Amber Ladley from Happily Upcycled teaches class how to fold flower petals from paper. Kim Maschi photos

Upcycled flower made from old paper



Upcycled Mask made from junk-mail

KIMBERLY MASCHI
TIMES CORRESPONDENT

In the lower level of the Oxford Public Library the crafters are getting creative with rubbish. That's right, in this free workshop, students are utilizing what people would normally throw away and instead are creating beautifully unique art.

The participants of the class are learning the art of Kusudama, which is an ancient form of Japanese art that involves paper folding. The students fold a variety of paper mediums to sculpt and produce stunning paper flowers.

"This is an upcycling workshop, we take discarded books and paper and create flowers," explains Amber Ladley, operator and designer.

It is amazing what is thrown away every day, when it can be turned into something either useful or fascinating.

Amber shows a variety of uses that discarded paper can have, and from various sources such as mail, books, maps and more. Many items can be created with this form of art, such as wreaths, picture frames, centerpieces and masks. The participants in class all found the sculpting easy to learn and to do.

"I do a ton of crafts! I can't wait to go home and make a forever bouquet," says Priscilla Curving with her daughter Crystal Curving.

Amber stands to direct the class and explains each step thoroughly. She visits each person to ensure that every participant feels comfortable and happy with their design. Excited chit-chat fills the room with all the different ways to use old paper instead of disposing of items in the trash.

"I want to make a wreath now when I get home," says Denise Hoyt who folds her flower delicately and with precision.

When asked why she creates items out of rubbish Amber replies, "We have too much waste."

The crafters agree it is better to use what you have and avoid throwing things unnecessarily away. The students are focused and engaged as they continue to fold and create old papers. Each participant is making their own design, some are making small petite flowers while others larger. Some took pictures from discarded books and others use old maps and comic books. Each design is unique and special.

"It is really special to be here, making these flowers with all of you," says Amber.

Amber travels all over for "Happily Upcycled," a private business where she shows others how to create items such as; junk-mail masquerade masks and wallpaper beads. Amber's art is both exceptional and essential in a world where others waste rather than create. The excitement over discovering a new avenue of creativity has all the students eager. Many line up to cut more paper and begin their next designs. Craft Curving uses old musical paper to make her flower while others use fairy tale novels and coloring books. All these mediums were meant for the garbage can or recycling bin but now they are a part of this new adventure and crafty outlet. This class filled up quickly with a waiting list of more than 10 people. The Library hosts a variety of events and classes and this flower folding class was a great way to start off spring time in Oxford.

"I like thinking outside of the dumpster," says Amber.

So next time you find yourself tossing out an old book or recycling this newspaper, why not make something out of it instead! Get crafty like Amber and her students. Create charm from scraps. Turn litter into something lovely and make waste a wonder!

TIME CAPSULES

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gift basket raffle. Enjoy the experience of an English High Tea in an English garden ambience which will include scones, delicious tea sandwiches and an assortment of mouthwatering desserts.

TOOTH FAIRY COMETH

Kids Zone Dental presents: The Tooth Fairy at the Webster Public Library! Children ages 3 to 6 will learn about dental care as the Tooth Fairy reads picture books and practices brushing and flossing with the help of her puppet friends. Kids can take home pictures, activity sheets, and maybe even prizes! Come join us Friday, April 20 from 3:00 to 4:00 at the Webster Public Library, 350 Main Street. This program is 100% free, and is an educational community outreach program sponsored by Kids Zone Dental.

HONORING THE FRENCH

The French River Connection is pleased to invite the public to a presentation by Larry Spotted Crow Mann, award winning writer-poet-native American cultural educator-traditional story teller speaking on Honoring the Mannexit(French)

River" Mr. Mann's most recent book is Drumming & Dreaming, and presents tales of the Algonquin Tribes, primarily the Nipmuc. The event will be on Wednesday, April 11 at 7 p.m., at the Wintergarten, the easily accessible historic meeting hall above Kretchman's Brewery, located along the French River at 9 Frederick St. in Webster. The street is between the Post Office and the Police Station. The Brewery will be open and available to patrons.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

AMHERST: The following local students who were named to the deans list at the University of Massachusetts Amherst for the 2017 fall semester. In order to qualify, an undergraduate student must receive a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a four-point scale. OXFORD: Colleen Marie Castellani, Lauren Marie Celona, Bridget Marie Johnson, Jessica Ann Landry, Adam Scott Rivelli, Victoria Evelyn Rulnick, and Lam Vinh Tran. WEBSTER:

Martin Boersma, Tia Erlich, Jeremy Leo Guyette, Lyndsay Michelle Makie, Dominic

Francis Manzi Krych, Anne Marie Rose Markiewicz, Pravini Tharindu Silva, James Trottier, and Xinyue Zhang.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 273 ANNUAL YARD SALE

We are starting to gather items for our annual yard sale on May 26 We are planning to start pickups on April 19. The drop off dates will be April 21 and 28, May 3, 12 and 19 from 9 am to 12 pm at Universal Tag, 36 Hall Rd, Dudley. If you need a pick-up or have questions about the drop off, please contact Diane Anderson 508 943-8063 or Linda Sullivan 508-943-1001

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