

The Kentucky Weaver from

The **LITTLE
LOOMHOUSE**



L E A R N

EXPERIENCE

C R E A T E

P R E S E R V E



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and Education*

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SUMMER CAMPS IN THE WOODS

The Little Loomhouse will once again be offering three summer day camps this year for students ages 6 through 13. All camps require pre-registration, see page 2 for details.

Camps fill up quickly - don't delay!

Summer Drop-In Weavings

On Thursdays and Fridays throughout the summer, The Little Loomhouse will be offering Drop-In Weaving sessions. Drop-In Weavings are designed for the whole family or the individual person, age 6 up to adults. Participants create hand woven pieces to take home. Projects include purses, bags, small pillows, wall-hangings, cats on mats, mice in a bag and more. Drop-In Weavings typically last 2 hours and cost \$25 with all supplies included. Dates and times for these sessions are listed on our website.

**We ask that you please call 502-367-4792
in advance to reserve your spot.
littleloomhouse.org**



Catch us on the Move!

The Little Loomhouse will have fiber arts education booths at:

The Beechmont Festival of Flowers -

Woodlawn & Southern Parkway,
May 12th from 9am-3pm

The Buy Local Fair

at Iroquois Amphitheatre
July 28th from 2-6pm

Come check us out, learn about fiber arts process, and make a bracelet to take home.



LEARN

The Little Loomhouse at Americana Community Center Teen Fiber Program

The Little Loomhouse finished 6 weeks of instruction at the Americana Community Center for their Teen Fiber Program. Students participated after school every Tuesday from February 13th through March 20th in the program made possible by the Norton Foundation and Louisville Metro Government, in partnership with the Fund for the Arts. Thirteen students participated, creating hand-woven coil baskets, embroidery pieces, and indigo dye cotton muslin for use in a future fiber project with their Americana Art Teacher, Tara Stone.

The Little Loomhouse at Beechmont Community Center After School Program

The Little Loomhouse finished up 10 weeks of classes, from January 24th through April 18th, held every Wednesday after school in conjunction with the Dare to Care Kid's Café Free Meal Program at Beechmont Community Center. The Loomhouse had 26 students participate in these classes made possible by the Norton Foundation and Louisville Metro Government in partnership with the Fund for the Arts. Students created bracelets, mini Navajo rugs, quilt pattern banners, coil baskets, South American inspired embroidery pieces, and weaving in the round Dream Catchers. Our partnership with Beechmont Community Center continued through spring break to offer an after-program class for participants enrolled in their summer program through the Cultural Pass program.

CREATE

Summer Camps 2018

The Art of Trees and Weaving, Ages 6-13 years

06/04/2018 - 06/08/2018

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Campers will be designing and weaving on Little Looms, learning about natural dyes and color theory.

Bring a sack lunch and drink each day, snacks will be provided.

Full Day for Full Week: \$200, all supplies included (***[scholarships available](#)***)

Half Day for Full Week: \$125, all supplies included (***[scholarships available](#)***)

Fiber Fashion Design, Ages 6-13 years

06/25/2018 - 06/29/2018

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

For the young designer in your family. Campers will design and create handwoven pieces in the Top House Weaving Studio.

Bring a sack lunch and drink each day, snacks will be provided.

Full Day for Full Week: \$200, all supplies included (***[scholarships available](#)***)

Half Day for Full Week: \$125, all supplies included (***[scholarships available](#)***)

Weaving Your Story, Ages 6-13 years

07/30/2018 - 08/03/2018

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

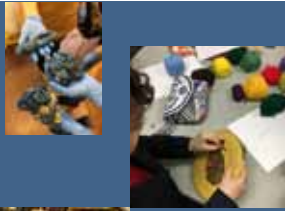
For the Poet, Artist, Storyteller, and Puppeteer! Campers explore using words in their work and giving a narrative to their pieces.

Bring a sack lunch and drink each day, snacks will be provided.

Full Day for Full Week: \$200, all supplies included (***[scholarships available](#)***)

Half Day for Full Week: \$125, all supplies included (***[scholarships available](#)***)

**Pre-registration is required. Please call to reserve your spot:
(502)-367-4792**



All photos from Beechmont
After School Program and
Americana Teen Program

Remembering Jean Randles (1935-2018)

Former Board Member and long-time Volunteer Jean Randles passed away this past February. Jean earned Education degrees from James Madison University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She was a devoted teacher, teaching art and primary school at the Kentucky School for the Blind for 27 years. She also taught Sunday school, vacation bible school, classes at the Edison House and the Little Loomhouse. Jean and her husband Raymond set up for The Little Loomhouse Volunteer Luncheon for many years and she gifted the Loomhouse with all of her fiber arts education equipment and resources before her death. We will miss her deeply. She and Raymond will be recognized with a Stair Rail Memorial Plaque this spring.

Poem by Raymond Randles, reprinted with permission from Raymond:

HANDS

Strong, gentle hands.
Supple, talented, creative hands.
Hands that spun wool into yarn,
wove yarn into mug rugs
and bookmarks,
painted scenes on canvas
and ceramics;
knitted, crocheted, embroidered,
made latch hook rugs,
mastered all manner of hand-crafts.

Hands that taught penmanship
to sighted children,
Braille to visually impaired children,
guided children in Sunday school
and vacation Bible school,
learned American Sign Language
to help the deaf grow spiritually.

Hands that wiped fevered brows,
aided the aged and infirm,
drove those needing transportation.

Hands that were skilled in planting
and nurturing all manner of
living things;
caressed a still-warm bird, stroking it
trying to restore life
to one God's tiny creatures

Hands that spent a lifetime of
creating and serving
bestowed God's love and her love
on all God's creatures great and small.

Jean's hands - my wife's hands.

L E A R N

Letter from the President

Since our last newsletter, The Little Loomhouse lost former board member and longtime volunteer Jean Randles. She represented all the characteristics that make the Loomhouse great. One of my first memories of Jean was helping her set up for the Volunteer Luncheon. She impressed me with her energy and great knowledge of the Loomhouse. We need more stewards of history like Jean, she carried the torch for all of us.

Spring is a time for rebirth and there are changes afoot at the Loomhouse. Classes are wrapping up at the Beechmont Community Center and Americana Community Center, but we are preparing to co-host the VSA Side-by-Side Art Show with the Kentucky School for the Blind this May. Former Mayor's Summer Works Intern Rebecca Hager is coming back as Senior Intern and Mentor. Sadly, we are losing Intern Thomas Rector to an internship at MSD. We wish Thomas well, he made a great contribution to the success of the Loomhouse over the last year.

Summer is around the corner, so our minds are turning to Summer Camps, Drop-in Weaving and Cultural Pass. For now, it's time to enjoy the Spring weather and all the activity at the Loomhouse. Don't miss out on the fun!

Melissa Amos-Jones
President of the Lou Tate Foundation

Past, present and future Foundation Board Presidents



Amelia Lillie & Damon Thompson's
Collaboration, *Silhouette*



Brock Fannin & Paul Robey's
Collaboration, *Face*



Trey Mosey & Tara Knorpp's
Collaboration, *Landscape*

The Lou Tate Gallery to again host Side by Side: An Exhibition of Artistic Collaborations

From May 2nd to May 19th the Lou Tate Gallery at The Little Loomhouse will host this exhibition made up of several groups of art - one made by the student artist, one made by the professional artist, and one collaborative piece. Each design represents a lively interaction between youthful spirit and the experience of professional working artists. Side by Side is an annual program offered by VSA Kentucky in partnership with The Kentucky School for the Blind and The Little Loomhouse. Before they partnered with a professional artist, the student artists took a series of art classes at the Kentucky School for the Blind, taught by a VSA KY Teaching Artist. Art classes are provided free of charge as is the mentoring session with the professional artist.

VSA KY Side by Side program was made possible by:



**Artist Reception is Thursday, May 10th at 6:30pm,
free and open to the public. We hope to see you there!**

Interview with Rasha Hassan, Fiber Works Coordinator, Loomhouse Contract Teacher and Iraqi Immigrant

From January through April, The Little Loomhouse has been a consistent presence at the Fiber Works Program at Americana Community Center, teaching classes every Wednesday thanks to an Imagine 2020 Grant, made possible by Louisville Metro Government in partnership with the Fund for the Arts. The Americana Fiber Works program promotes the positive integration of refugee and immigrant women into the Louisville community. Participants in the program have the opportunity to develop their fiber arts skills, practice English, build a new social support network, and create crafts, both for their families and for retail, to earn supplemental income. Loomhouse Director of Programming and Education, Michelle Amos, sat down with Rasha Hassan, Fiber Works Coordinator at Americana Community Center, to talk about herself and the impact that The Little Loomhouse program has had on the participating immigrant and refugee women.



Michelle: Can you tell me a little about yourself, when you came here, how long you've been at Americana?

Rasha: *I came to the United States from Iraq fourteen years ago. I participated in the Fiber Works program at Americana 10 years ago. About a year and half ago I saw an ad on the Americana website for the Fiber Works Coordinator, so I applied and have been working here since December of 2016. I love art and empowering women. I wanted to work at Americana to help women like myself.*

Michelle: I've met a couple of your children; how many do you have and how old are they?

Rasha: *I am the single parent and income provider to three children ages 14, 13, and 8. They attend Butler Traditional High School, Olmstead South Academy, and Coral Ridge Elementary.*

Michelle: From a previous conversation, I found out you would be graduating soon. You were telling me you'd have to find more work after graduation because your position at Americana is part-time. That is when I talked to you about sharing your talent and experience with us as a Contract Teacher. Can you tell me what degree you will earn and from where?

Rasha: *I already have a Bachelor in Science in Biology from Basrah University in Iraq. This May I will receive an Associate degree in Art from Jefferson Community and Technical College. When I was in Iraq I was young and not sure about my interests, after I moved here I became interested in Social Work/Justice and Art. I wanted to be active in the community helping people and empowering those most in need. I became involved with the non-profit, social justice organization Who is Hussain? They empower communities around the world to organize charitable events (www.whoishussain.org). I am the current President of the Louisville Chapter. We focus on blood drives, cleaning up the neighborhood, and helping the homeless. When I was growing up my mother was a wedding dress designer, that is where I get my passion for art.*

Michelle: Do you think it was more difficult for you to finish this degree compared to other students who were raised speaking English?

Rasha: *Oh Yes. It was difficult.*

Michelle: So, how do you think the Loomhouse classes at the Americana Fiber Works have impacted the immigrant and refugee women in the program?

Rasha: *The Loomhouse classes have been a great opportunity. You all have brought a lot of different art. The women have been able to learn new skills that empower them and help with building confidence. You have guided them toward understanding how to run small businesses. Your program has helped with attendance in the Fiber Works program because the women are interested in your classes and can tell you are interested in them and care about their ideas. You have also helped to build an outside support network for them. I have also learned a lot during this program.*



Note: Hassan began her work as a Contract Teacher helping us with off-site education on April 2nd.

P R E S E R V E

Summer Hours

June 1 - August 11:

Tue-Fri 10:00-3:00

Sat 11:00-4:00

Please Note:

Because we are operated by a volunteer staff, we ask that you contact us in advance to ensure that someone is here to greet you.

(502)-367-4792

Mayor's Summer Works Intern Interviews Underway

On Saturday, March 24th, Director of Programming and Education, Michelle Amos and Intern, Thomas Rector spent the day interviewing new candidates for the summer. We are happy to report that former intern Rebecca Hager will return as the Senior Mayor's Summer Works Intern, with several new candidates in the works. Our year-long intern, Thomas Rector, will be leaving us for MSD. We celebrate Thomas as he continues on his career path and hope to see him again soon at The Little Loomhouse.

Visit Our Gift Shop

Open during regular business hours and for special events, we have fiber-related items ranging from hand-made wearables, scarves, throws, towels and weaving supplies to hand-made jewelry, ceramics, assemblages and paintings.

Most artwork displayed during the Gallery Shows is also for sale. Join us for a unique shopping experience and support "Buy Local."

LLH Time Capsule: Luck in the Threads

Did you know that many years ago it was considered good luck to have friends and family weave a few threads of a wedding dress? Accomplished weaver Mabel Palmer did just that.

Lou Tate and Mabel Palmer Waitman shared a lifelong friendship. They trucked around the hills and hollers of Monroe, Cumberland, Metcalf, Barren, and Warren County, often on horseback, interviewing people, collecting and preserving old coverlets and coverlet drafts that The Little Loomhouse still houses in its archives.

In 1939, Mabel started designing both the fabric and details of her wedding dress. She wove the white linen fabric and then made the dress with a silk overshot. Of course, friends, family and fellow weavers wove a few threads of Mabel's dress for good luck.

On her wedding day, Mabel wore her dress and carried a silk fan that belonged to Lou Tate's family. The wedding dress and the fan have been used by generations of woman in Mabel's family. In fact, Mabel's granddaughter wore the dress and carried the same fan at The Little Loomhouse's 75th Anniversary Celebration in 2015.

Come this spring, guests will notice The Little Loomhouse lush with plants and flowers. Many of the flowers growing at The Little Loomhouse today came from Mabel Palmer's mother's garden in Glasgow, Kentucky.

Interested in carrying on the tradition of weaving some good luck? Visit The Little Loomhouse and our teachers can help you design a garment, coverlet or textile for a baby, child, teenager or adult.



Far Left: Mable Palmer Waitman in her wedding dress, which was woven at the Little Loomhouse. The fan was given to her by Lou Tate.

Left: Mable Palmer Waitman's granddaughter wearing her grandmother's dress at the Loomhouse's 75-year celebration.

Tapestry Love People's Choice Award

In February we hosted **Tapestry Love**, where we asked you to share your handwoven tapestries with us. During the month-long exhibition visitors were allowed to anonymously vote for their favorite tapestry and comment on why they loved that specific piece. For some in this show, it was their first weaving, for others it has been a part of their life's work.

Tapestry Love included the work of six artists: Ralph Calveard, Sally Moss, Naomi Penner, Michelle Amos, KiYatta Thomas and Chris Wilson. This demonstrated three generations passing down the tradition of weaving. Ralph Calveard and Sally Moss were students of Master Weaver, Lou Tate. Michelle Amos and Naomi Penner are students of Sally Moss, KiYatta Thomas and Chris Wilson are students of Michelle Amos. We are pleased to announce **Yellow House** by Naomi Penner won the People's Choice award. Some of the comments from voters included, "Great color choices!", "Very creative use of space and emotionally evocative", "beautiful colors."



Naomi Penner and her winning entry



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littleloomhouse.org 

*Become a LLH Member
and enjoy the benefits today!
Go to www.littleloomhouse.org
click on "Participate" then
"Become a Member"*



Cultural Pass 2018!

The 2018 Cultural Pass presented by Churchill Downs in partnership with Metro Louisville, Arts and Culture Alliance, Louisville Free Public Library and the Fund for the Arts. It happens on June 2 through August 11, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays 11am-3pm at The Little Loomhouse. Pass holders enjoy one free seek-n-find tour with an art experience and discounted weaving for \$7 (usually \$12), where participants weave their own souvenir to take home. The Cultural Pass program is open to anyone ages 0-21 years, who are eligible for a Louisville Free Public Library Card. Youth and parents can pick up a pass from any local Louisville Free Public Library branch or Metro Parks Community Center.

How do your donations help The Little Loomhouse?

\$35

Covers the cost
of supplies for
community events
and classes

\$100

Helps put an
artist in a school
or community
center

\$250

Pays for our
participation
in a community
event

\$1000

Helps pay an artist
residency in a
school/community
center for
1 semester