

AWARD-WINNING | ideas

Art Projects Connect Neighbors

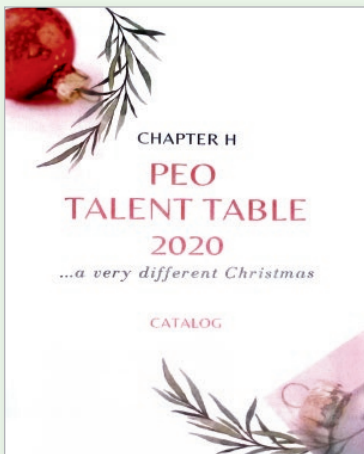


Peggy Halsey of **Chapter AF in Gainesville, Florida**, lives in a neighborhood full of young families. Each evening, many of them walk past her home. Since March, she has put an art project out at the end of her driveway every few weeks. Peggy enjoys sitting on her porch and chatting with them from a safe distance. She now knows many more families and children than she did in the previous 11 years. If Peggy goes too long without putting a new project out, children will knock on her door and ask for one!

There have been about 15 projects so far—from murals, Easter eggs and personal flags to Mother's Day cards for a nearby assisted living residence and small posters depicting what they are thankful for.



Virtual Talent Table Fundraiser



From the very beginning of the pandemic, the Ways and Means committee of **Chapter H, Ketchikan, Alaska**, had the foresight to begin planning an alternative way to hold their fundraising auction in case the virus remained a factor for an extended period. Chapter H's Talent Table Fundraiser, held annually in November, is a grand event where the chapter invites family and friends to an elegant luncheon, and they sell items donated by members, including handmade crafts, baked goods, artwork, gift baskets and unique items. It is both immensely popular and very successful, regularly raising thousands of dollars for P.E.O. projects.

The committee, through incredible innovation and creativity plus countless hours, came up with a way to hold the sale online using a free online software tool for event planning. Each member of Chapter H submitted a description and photo of their donated item(s), and a catalog of these items was compiled by the daughter of a member. A catalog or a PDF version was sent to all invited guests.

After collecting orders from guests, participants received detailed instructions on how the online sale would work. Members waited to receive the link by email; the email appeared and the sale began. Picture this: It is Black Friday; the doors are opened and the shoppers swarm into the store to grab the bargains. This was the virtual scene. The pace was fast and furious, everyone trying to snap up that one special item. Many items were sold out in the first two hours.

Producing the event online was a massive undertaking and successful beyond Chapter H's wildest imaginations.