

# EXPO TIME

## ***Get holiday solutions for home, beauty at Busy Women's show***

By Barbara Bradley—bradley@commercialappeal.com

A few Kroger roses, some fresh pickings from Easy Way, and you've got the makings of a fine table centerpiece.

Quick-fix holiday decor is among the offerings at the first Busy Women's Expo, happening November 12-14 at Agricenter International. The shopping, seminars and events are aimed at women who don't have time for expos, said Kristi Rowan, owner of MidSouth Media Group, the organizer.

Women will learn to shop faster for clothes they'll really wear, beauty treatments that last a while, the latest in exercise and even how to work spirituality into their routines.

They can taste samples from caterers and shop for unusual Christmas gifts. Beauty queens, including Jennifer McCullough, Miss Nashville, will help host a Friday night "tinsel and tiaras" cocktail party.

Create quick and inexpensive holiday decor by combining flowers and fruit with things you already have, said Ami Austin of Ami Austin Interiors, such as crystal, silver or porcelain bowls; baskets; and greenery from the garden.

To create a Thanksgiving centerpiece, Austin put a turkey-shaped basket on a riser (it can be an ornamental stand, a low, sturdy cardboard box or a book covered with a pretty cloth) and stuffed the basket with cabbage leaves rolled into rosettes, colorful gourds and bell peppers, leaves and flowers. She hollowed out bell peppers and placed them around the arrangement as candle and flower holders.



For Christmas, she added Christmas-themed dessert plates and created a centerpiece with two silver bowls filled with red Christmas balls. Between them she placed three crystal vases filled with supermarket rosettes.

Forget ironing tablecloths. Use gold plastic chargers, which look lovely and are so much easier, she said.

For around the house, hang a wreath on an armoire. Place pine cones or magnolia leaves in a silver bowl, but don't spray them gold. Leave them natural, and add color with red berries and green pine branches snipped from the yard. Place candles randomly about.

"Decorations should look thoughtful but effortless," she said. And if you have old holiday figurines you love, go ahead and put them out. "I think holidays are about tradition," she said.

While you spiff up your house, you may want to dust yourself off as well. All weekend, Fashion Academy owner Carolyn Bendall and stylist Becky Stephens Morris of J. Maxwell Salon & Day Spa will select two women from the crowd for an instant makeover with haircut and makeup. Women will learn how to shop for flattering clothes and receive discounts on color analysis palettes.

"Not all clothes are made for the same body type," said Bendall, "but they don't tell you that in the stores."

Stylists from Daniel Shay's Hair Studio will choose women from the crowd to demonstrate the salon's dry-cut technique. Some will get free eyelash extensions. Others can get discounts for extensions and teeth whitening.