Desert Fiber Arts

NewsLetter of
Handweavers, Spinners and Fiber Artists

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July 10th and 24th Rigid Heddle 1-5 at the Guild House
July 18th By the Book Knitters 6pm Richland Public Library
Tuesdays 6:30pm Great Wheels at Richland Public Library and the Guild House
July 22nd Dye in the Park - save the date
August 1st Deadline for Fair entries

Dye in the Park

For anyone interested - Dye in the Park will be Saturday July 22nd
8:00am – 2:00pm at the Flat Top Park Gazebo in West Richland.
The theme this year will be dyeing gradient yarn or roving

Take a look at https://thebluebrick.ca/ for inspiration, she has a great
tutorial. I’ll bring a handout on the 22nd.

Think about bringing:
Water (it is July this is not optional)
Hat (see above)
Chair
Lunch
One disposable cup and one zip-lock bag for each color you are going to dye
A large plastic bag to carry everything home
Plastic Wrap
Don’t forget your fiber and to wear old clothes

If you have a dye pot, hot plate or other dye accessories please bring them. I only have 2 hot plates and we
could use more.

Desert Fiber Arts received dye donations from 2 wonderful members.
There is enough dye for 150 to 200 POUNDS of fiber. Bring it on.

KIDS PROJECT
Bring a clean white or light colored t-shirt. Desert Fiber Arts will provide
Sharpie Pens for drawing, then we will spray the designs with rubbing
alcohol for glorious shirts.
RIGID HEDDLE STUDY GROUP
RHSG continues on through the summer months, 2nd and 4th Mondays, 1-5 p.m. at the DFA studio. It’s the place to stretch out the tables for direct warping, solve problems, knit, chat about fiber, browse the library, share what you have been making, what’s on your loom for the Fall Fiber Sale, exhibits at the fair, experimental warps of “what-if” and all around fiber fun. Last meeting saw 16 fiber folks buzzing around the studio, all in create mode. In other words, come on in and join the creativity and fiber atmosphere.

BY THE BOOK KNITTERS JULY 2017
Our next meeting will be July 18 from 6:00 – 8:00pm in Conference Room A at the Richland Library. The Seattle Mariners Afghan will be finished. This month Knitters brought in 22 squares, big thanks to Lindsey who volunteered to knit the last 2 squares making it a 4 x 6 afghan. Many of the knitters brought in show & tell. Spiderman and doilies, cupcake hats and woven potholders. We all made a promise to Gail to wear sunscreen.
We discussed how to skein up yarn for Dye in the Park. The handouts will be on the Desert Fiber Arts website.

Books we read
A Game of Thrones by George R. R. Martin
A Gentleman in Moscow and Rules of Civility by Amor Towles
Astoria by Peter Stark
Candide by Voltaire
Color of Fire by Ann Rinaldi
Deception Point by Dan Brown
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J. K. Rowling
He Said/She Said by Erin Kelly
House of Robots series by James Patterson
Les Misérables by Victor Hugo
Maisie Dobb by Jacqueline Winspear
Middle School series by James Patterson
The Girl Who Wrote in Silk by Kelli Estes
The Girl with All the Gifts and The Boy on the Bridge by Mike Carey
The Kingdom by the Sea by Paul Theroux
The Pillars of the Earth and World Without End by Ken Follett
The Road to Little Dribbling by Bill Bryson
Treasure Hunters series by James Patterson
Two Days Gone by Randall Silvis
Women's Murder Club series by James Patterson

Ever wonder how we find such good books to read? Sue S gave us her list of book related podcasts. She listens to one podcast a day.

Book Podcasts
All the Books
Books on the Nightstand
Books on the Nightstand
Close Reads
From the Front Porch
Get Booked
Modern Mrs Darcy
Read or Dead
What Should I Read Next
TAPESTRY
The Tapestry Group will meet in September, the summer will be for new design inspirations, technique fine tuning and finishing projects.

To describe the frustration to secure 3 spots in Rebecca Mezoff's pre ANWG Victoria Conference would be reliving that experience...... I'd rather sip some local wines while I tapestry weave and urban sketch in the Mid Columbia.

Recently, I took a three day, Elizabeth Buckley tapestry workshop. The challenge was to create an abstract design by tearing shapes of any dimension from 5 shades of grey 8" x 10" card stock paper then taping them onto a background shade. I chose a medium grey background and began weaving with colorful mixed wools wound round my bobbins.

To wonderful summertime tapestry weaving! Patti Kirch

DRAW LOOM STUDY GROUP
The newest study group has just removed their first damask projects off the loom. We are already winding the warp, 30 yards, for the next set of projects. Weavers were so enthusiastic that we had three weavers who didn’t get to weave because the 7 yard warp was not enough. Robin Phillips is cutting her beautiful project apart in this photo. If you are interested in taking part or learning more about weaving on a drawloom contact Susan Schmieman

GUILD SALE
Synonyms for the word artist are expert, master, designer, and creator. We, at DFA, are artists. We are masters of our crafts. The expertise gathered together in this Guild is amazing. We are all masters, designers and creators of exemplary artistic fiber works. The highest quality items that we produce will represent our guild at this year’s sale. Let’s hold the bar high and keep our items exquisite.

Accessories of top-notch caliber can be made with a wide variety of materials; polymer clay, shells, wood, antler, felted soap, zippers, ribbons, paper, metal etc. Shawl pins, buttons, earrings, necklaces, cup holders, lapel pins, home décor. Please avoid items meant as college team memorabilia and items commonly found at bazaars. The goal is to create luxury items to go with our opulent wearables and home décor.

Wearables and home décor should be fashioned using at least 70% natural fibers such as but not limited to, wool, alpaca, rabbit, qiviut, bamboo, exotic fibers, silk, rayon, cotton or any combination of these. 30% may be synthetic fibers like nylon, bling, or polyester mixed in with the natural fibers. Our customers come to our sale for extraordinary gift items lets continue to wow them.

The sale will be October 27-28 and November 3-4, 2017, 10:00-4:00. Rosters for take-in, set up, docents, people for the money table, wrappers and take down and pick up will be posted in September. Watch for posters that need to be passed out in August. Connie Schlosser
HELLO DFA FIBER FRIENDS,

This past winter I decided it had come the time that I should see how I could find a good place for my mother's loom. I thought about this when my mother passed away in 2003 in Michigan. However I moved the loom to Richland and kept it for awhile and put on one of my mother's warps which I found in her stash. It took me 10 years to weave it off - her warps are loooonnng!! like 30 feet or so. One rug I wove was in DFA's January show - the 11 foot green corduroy rug!

The family loom was built in the winter of 1945-46 by my Finnish grandfather on the farm in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for my grandmother. She wove on it for a few years. Then my mother wove on it for 50 years, sold rag rugs making enough profit to support 3 trips to Finland. She is one of the 8 weavers featured in the Michigan State Univ's book: Finnish American Rag Rugs, published in 2010.

This winter I contacted some museums and limited storage was the main factor in being turned down. However, in my searches I discovered the Antique Gas and Engine Museum in Vista, California which has a loom barn! They have 50 looms, all out on display and in working order!!! The oldest is a 1840's barn loom from West Virginia. Included on the floor are unique looms which were built by California loom makers and other looms with familiar brand names. The Palomar Handweavers' Guild meets there regularly for their meetings, workshops and study groups. They also weave on the looms and maintain them. Almost all the looms had projects on them when we delivered my loom this month.

So I'm just very pleased about my mother's loom being in the museum and am including two photos. Karen Greeley, the main loom maintenance person, is standing in the back. Robyn is in the front and was instrumental in lobbying to saying yes to my request. Robyn is originally from Michigan and is half Finnish. She already owned the book when my loom donation offer was received this winter. She is excited to be weaving on my mother's loom. I also donated a black and red cotton warp (probably 30 feet) that was in my mother's stash which Robyn plans to put on the loom.

The Engine museum began many years ago. Then the loom barn was built. It wasn't intended for looms but a loom was donated, and then another and then another. And weavers became interested. Quickly the barn has become full. I was really lucky that they were interested and made room for one more. My mother's poem, about what would happen to her loom, is in the book section that talks about my mother. She never could have imagined that her loom would be happily standing with other looms being used.

Both my parents would be pleased. All the tractors and engines on the acreage would please my father. I feel this is a good fit. I hope that DFA members traveling in the area stop in someday. It is north of San Diego and well below Los Angeles. Chris Simonen
HELLO FIBER FANATICS! COLUMBIA GORGE FIBER FRIENDS

We are so excited to announce that registration for the 2017 CGFF Workshops opens exactly one month from today! The CGFF will return to the Fort Dalles Readiness Center October 27-29, 2017. Go to our website to check out the list of great classes from our star-studded instructor lineup. You can also read our Registration FAQs page to get the low-down on how workshops go at the CGFF. We can't wait to see you all in October!

©2017 CGFF | venue address: 402 E. Scenic Dr, The Dalles, OR 97058 || mailing address: 11 3rd St #103, Hood River, OR 97031

For Sale
Floor Inkle Loom $75
Will accommodate 6+ yards
On display at DFA Studio

Contact Carol Mitz at her new number and address:
(509) 308-5155
2802 West 35the Ave. Apt 315
Kennewick, WA 99337

Fiber Garage Sale—Drawloom Fundraiser
July 11, 9-1
337 Westmoreland Drive

Carol Mitz has recently moved to an apartment and has downsized her weaving. She has graciously donated her lovely yarns and weaving resources to the guild to add to the drawloom account. We are grateful for this opportunity. If you have yarn, accessories or anything fiber related that you would like to add to the sale for the drawloom fund, we would be happy to have it. Contact Susan at 528-3782.

For Sale Looms, Spinning Wheel and More
Hello! I'm Jan Nilsson. From about 1976 to 1986 I operated Woolworks, a weaving business by Jan Witcraft After I became an art specialist in Prosser in '87 I wove during the summers until I sold the studio in '97. The looms and equipment have been in dry, clean storage since then. Contact me for an appointment to come out to West Richland to view items. 509-999-2118
60" Glimakra countermarch with bench and accessories including texsolve. $2400
60" Tapestry loom, made by Bellingham woodworker, maple, with reed. $1000
9" Pioneer sample loom, open heddles and reed. $250
20" Schacht A frame loom, new. $85
Rick Reeves 30" spinning wheel, model # 1840, 4 bobbins, distaff, and niddy-noddy m. $375
Carding machine, needs drive band $45.
Wool cards $45 each

Plus electric bobbin winder, shuttles, balance scale and more.
Email for photos jannilsson13@hotmail.com
Hello, Weavers,

I just want to recap what went on at our meeting yesterday.

Before we cut the projects from the loom we looked at ways to adjust the loom when the shed is not clean while weaving. This is important and it is really an exercise in problem solving. If you are not able to get the loom working well, call someone who can help.

We also collected a $10 donation for the warp and drawloom fund. The next warp was decided upon and we are suggesting a $20 donation. Since Dorothy is winding warp, the group decided she should not have to pay. Good choice, it is not easy getting good help. We love you Dorothy!

Next warp has already been started in 16/2 cotton which is finer and in off white.

The warp will be 30 yards long and 23” wide.

We will be threading in a point twill as before with 5 images across the warp, a 6 thread unit and 6 shaft satin for the background.

In selecting patterns, this time use a total of 35 squares for a full image. If you don't want the images to touch each other, use 33 graph squares

The border will use two shafts so you can make a more decorative border

We will also be using an 'x' shaft which means the 6 threads (one unit) at the selvedges will never be woven in pattern. This also will be true for the 6 threads (one unit) at the inner edge of the border which will be about 3/4" wide. So there is a solid space at the selvedge and between the border and the group of images.

Most of the weavers thought they would like to weave 2 yards perhaps into a table runner. Since we ran out of warp last time, Karen Lamar, Julie Davis, and Lisa Saget will have first opportunity to weave.

There will be a Drawloom Fundraiser Garage Sale July 11, 9-1, at Susan Schmieman's garage. Most of this is from Carol Mitz's stash, as you probably know she has been downsizing. We are grateful to her for her generosity. If you have stash that you would like to contribute, it is more than welcome.

And lastly, Carol Berry is coming back and would like to weave on the drawloom. We are hoping she will agree to having a Saturday afternoon event (August 5) to share with us all that she has been doing with 20 shafts.

Susan
To all DFA members...

You are cordially invited to "come spin awhile" (or weave or knit or...) at Sage Bluff Alpacas 7th annual Summer Spin-In, Saturday July 15th from 11am to 4pm. As always, come when you can, leave when you must. You are welcome to bring your gorgeous creations to sell. And John will prepare his famous hearty lunch. (Please RSVP for lunch preparations, thank you.)

Our farm visitors love seeing your "fiber to fashion" demonstrations! And you'll connect with other lovely friends from "up the valley." If you can join us, wonderful, thank you! If not this time, save the date for our next open house September 23-24th.

See you here!

Jennifer Ely
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