Desert Fiber Arts is blessed with an incredible, hardworking, giving membership. This spring DFA has been challenged by world issues beyond our control. DFA has met and taken on these enormous challenges and tasks. We are in the midst of our fundraising activities being canceled and/or rescheduled. Members are donating product, cash and time to meet DFA challenges. We have been gifted a beautiful Glimakra loom from Clifton Door. Clifton gives her loom to DFA to use as we see fit, either by using it in the studio or selling it to fund our guild. Thank you Clifton! Judy Rice received for a gift DFA of 7 Suri Fleeces from her Yoga instructor, the owner of King Farms. Nikki & Colin Griffin were instrumental in steering King Farms toward DFA. Leigh Williams is passing along DFA advertising to her contacts in Oregon. Thank you all for connecting DFA to gifts, people and sales! All fleeces have been sold! DFA made $215.00!

Members are meeting on-line via Zoom, learning from each other, sharing, laughing and connecting. Concern for our members, be they living alone or with loved ones who are Staying Home & Staying Safe are receiving phone calls, cards, exchanges of items and drive by visits are folded into our way of DFA Guild business. All so very important for our mental health. Thank you! Thank you! KEEP MAKING THOSE CONNECTIONS! Members are moving around schedules to meet via Zoom to work on Re-Opening the studio during our current COVID-19 world. The Re-Opening Team has spent hours researching, writing and adjusting to the moving target of regulations. The goal of the Board and Re-Opening Team is to have a plan in place so that we can get back to our HAPPY PLACE, the studio. DFA member’s health and safety is their paramount concern. Wow, have these folks put in the hours! More Thank you! Thank yous!

Our LOGO team has been working to refine the DFA LOGO, prepping the new LOGO to insure that DFA has all the correct formats for internet, graphic and a plethora of computer files that we may need in the future. Thanks to the work of Leslie Wiberg, Karen Lamar and team!

Shout out to all those who are working behind the scenes to keep DFA moving forward! Carol Kaminsky generously allows DFA members to drop off and pick up materials from her drop-off exchange on her front porch. The Kaminsky home workshop is a buzzing with DFA projects and repairs. Rebecca Harkins has taken the drum carder home and painstakingly straightened the teeth after something was accidently dropped on it. Mickie Chamness donning gloves and gel continues to monitor the health and maintenance of the studio. She and Nancy Klotz have suited up to inventory our cleaning supplies in anticipation and planning for re-opening procedures.

Research has begun on taking a look at putting the DFA Annual Fund-Raising Sale on line. Rebecca & Hope Harkins started the ball rolling, opening up an entire new venue to our membership. Cheryl Reed has picked up the ball and is putting together a team to research what it takes for a 501C3 to step into the world of on-line sales.

Then there is Bonnie, who graciously puts together our monthly communication! WOW!
Members continue to work to make DFA better and stronger! There are even rumblings of a YOUTUBE
channel in our future.
The list goes on and on. Thank you, members, for all you do to continue our love of fiber arts.
Marion

BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

Our next Zoom meeting will be July 21st from 6:00 to 6:55pm. I will send out the Zoom Invite about 1 week prior to the 21st - provided I can read a calendar accurately.

There were about 6 of us last month and we had a good time.
Nancy couldn’t be with us but she sent photos of her projects.
She is making a hat like this one for her daughter.

I have been working on what I call the Facebook Scarf. Needle 16mm
Yarn 5 skeins Lion Brand Wool-Ease Thick and Quick
CO 32
Rows 1 – 5 Knit
Row 6 K3, YO, SSK, repeat till last 3 sts, K3
Repeat Row 6 till you are sick of it, then repeat rows 1 – 5
Pocket – make 2
CO 26
Knit until you like the size. Sew Pocket onto scarf
Add Fringe if needed

Jennifer Chiaverini’s books—

RIGID HEDDLE STUDY GROUP

The RHSG met again on July 13th via Zoom, it was nice to see everyone and see what they have been working on!

I happen to pull out the March/April 2008 issue of Handwoven recently, Madelyn van der Hoogt was editor at the time and she writes about a book she came across in an airport titled The Knitting Circle, which is about a lady that joined a knitting group and how she found comfort meeting with like-minded people. She goes on to talk about weaving friends and how they share your passion that family and other friends do not; she talks about how their eyes glaze over if you talk about weaving too much. Does that sound familiar?

And she mentions how age is irrelevant in a weaving group. That is certainly true of the RHSG, our age span goes from 12 or 13 to 80 plus!! Madelyn goes on to say how knitters have an advantage over weavers -- knitting needles are easier to take to a meeting than weaving looms. This was BEFORE rigid heddle looms became popular again! And the big thing she says…. “We can find new ways to get together – some of us live too far away from the nearest guild or study group…. ”

Little did she know it would take a pandemic for our RHSG to find a new way to get together!
Our next Zoom meeting will be on July 13th at 1:00, the link will be sent out closer to that date.
Dear DFA Members,

First, I want to thank all of the members that have renewed Desert Fiber Arts membership for this fiscal year June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021. THANK YOU!

If you have not renewed we hope this is simply an oversight on your part, in which case we hope you will renew now.

We are looking forward to another year of interesting speakers, exciting workshops, and of course the camaraderie of fiber art friends. Our library continues to grow. There is new equipment to rent. There are plans in the works for new study groups and more workshops. All of this will happen as soon as we reach the appropriate phase for these activities to resume.

Because you have been a member, we want to remind you of the advantages you receive as a member, in case some of this has been forgotten (or maybe never known).

With a membership you can (in no particular order)
· Attend monthly meetings that have great programs (like anyone can, but you get to wear a name tag!)
· Get first chance at workshops, before we open them to non-members.
· Borrow books, magazines, DVDs from our huge library.
· Rent equipment or rent time on a prepared loom at the guild house.
· Receive our DFA directory to connect with new friends who share your interests.
· Run for elected office in DFA to keep our good times rolling.
· Volunteer for other responsibilities to keep our good times rolling.
· Sell your creations annually at our Fall Sale and every other year at Allied Arts.
· Receive our monthly newsletter with DFA news and information.
· Have access to the Membership portion of our website.
· Receive the code to our back door, so you can use the studio at your pleasure.
· Share your fiber passion with others through our motto Each One Teach One.

The 2020-21 DFA Directory is in the works and we would like to include you. Renewal is easy. You may renew on-line or by sending a check and renewal form to Desert Fiber Arts, P.O. Box 1004, Richland, WA 99352. Make checks payable to DFA. I have included the renewal form for your convenience. You will find more details on the membership page of our website: http://www.desertfiberarts.org/

Renew by July 31st to be included in the Directory.

Annual membership dues are $25 for each member plus $1 for each additional member living in the same household. We encourage you to renew your membership on-line, we accept PayPal, and Credit Card. Please contact one of the Co-Membership Chairs if you have any questions or concerns.

Sue Silliman, Membership Co-Chairperson lookin-up@mac.com (206) 369-0209
Carol Kaminsky, Membership Co-Chairperson carol.kaminsky67@gmail.com (509) 619-0233

STAFFORD WEAVING STUDY GROUP

Zoom Tuesday, July 21, 1-3pm
The video for Episode 6, “Color & Weave Meets Twill”, is released July 9. Jane describes it like this: “What would a year of weaving be without more Colour & Weave techniques? It doesn’t just belong to Plain Weave…we overlay it on twills with the addition of Basket Weave and it is just unbelievable!” We’ll discuss this gamp plus anything else you’re enjoying this summer. Everyone is welcome in the discussion. If you want more information about the teaching videos look here: https://janestaffordtextiles.com/online-guild/#season04 Questions: Cheryl Reed, cheryldavisreed@gmail.com.
LEARNING ABOUT BLENDING STRUCTURES.
I figured out that the checkerboard scarf challenge is a “block” issue. We need 2 different structures to weave simultaneously across the fabric. I was reading Madelyn van der Hoogt’s article “Understanding Blended Drafts” [Handwoven, May/June, 2020, pp. 18-19.] In contrast to checkerboard, she is describing how to thread your loom to be able to weave 2 different structures alternating in the length of the cloth. Each structure covers the entire width of the cloth. That’s blended drafts. See the same handwoven, pp. 34-36, the Hoosier Huck Towels.
Below is one way to draft the checkerboard scarf from June’s newsletter. Alternating point twill with plain weave. Can you see both structures in the tie-up? Plain weave on shafts 6-8 on the first 4 treadles, and plain weave on shafts 1-4 on the last 4 treadles?

DOCUMENT YOUR DESIGN POKER PROJECT
Mary Fraser did a good job of explaining her Design Poker Project at the Stafford Study Zoom last month. She had all the elements of the story behind her piece that we hope to collect from all our artists. Take some time to write and photograph your process. We can use your words and photos in the exhibit and in our advertising for our January exhibit at the Gallery at the Park. Suggestions for topics:

What are your design elements from your Poker hand?
Where did those terms take you in your designing?
What were some challenges you are facing as you create your piece?
How does this piece make you feel?
Does your process include the help or inspiration from other people?
Is there a history or story behind the materials you chose?
Time? Our audience always wants to know how long it took to make things.
Suggestions for photos:
Close ups of your raw materials.
The chaos of your work space during the process.
NOH COAT STUDY GROUP?
A couple of us are taking on the challenge of making the Noh Coat for next summer’s ANWG. Details here: https://anwgconference2021.com/noh-coat-challenge/ If you’d like to give it a try, and want some mutual support, contact Cheryl Reed, cheryldavisreed@gmail.com. It’s NOT a juried exhibit, so you can’t get this wrong. PLUS, it counts as wearable art for the DFA exhibit at the Gallery at the Park in January, 2021. Two birds, as they say!

ANWG CONFERENCE 2021:
Start NOW on your entry
Details on the conference in Salem, OR, are here: https://anwgconference2021.com/participate/

Fiber Connections

You can start already on entries for the Fashion Show, the Noh Coat Challenge, and the Conference Colors Exhibit. [The colors are in the Conference logo. The categories are weaving, spinning, felting, and other entries…so every technique DFA enjoys.] Sharon Ofsthun has started a blanket using the conference colors.

HOW ARE Y’ALL DOING?

Overheard at Zoom meetings: DFA members sharing with each other just how much we miss being together to play with our fiber projects. We miss that and more. I hear comments like, “It’s so good to see your faces!”, “I miss you guys!”, “I miss catching up on how (insert name) is doing these days”, “has anyone talked to (insert name) recently? How is he/she doing?” DFA members form a caring community of thoughtful and helpful people who - oh by the way -also share a love of fiber arts!

What are you doing to keep your sanity in this “new normal” COVID environment that keeps changing? Picture Charlie Brown when Lucy pulls the football away before he kicks it…AAAARRGH! These times feel sort of like that! How are you maintaining and nurturing your fiber arts relationships, your creative connections and your fiber arts passion? What do you do to keep your fiber flame burning bright? We would love to hear from you! Do you have a plush project (or 2 or 3) on a loom, some luscious roving you are skillfully spinning, a bright afghan under construction, fabulous fiber you are dying a kaleidoscope of color, a cute picture of a cavorting lamb or an adorable baby alpaca? Or perhaps a photo of the bodacious blooming flowers or Victory veggies in the gorgeous garden you’ve been tending?

We all love precocious pet pictures too! Side-splitting stories? A delicious recipe? Anyone else besides me coping with food? Please share via e-mail or text with a fellow-DFAer or pick up the phone and chat with someone! Perhaps some photos for the newsletter? We are all craving social interactions (less fattening than chocolate) and want to keep “weaving & spinning” our connections with our fiber arts friends. Well-woven relationships, like well-woven cloth, require(s) creativity, attention to detail, patience and caring. Are either of them perfect? Probably not. Are they beautiful? Absolutely! Are they fulfilling? You bet! Looking forward to seeing y’all on Zoom, reading about what you have in your “COVID survival kit” and hearing from you!

Written by Nancy Klotz, Wanna-be-weaver

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“PEARLS OF WISDOM”: DFA MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

On May 24th, the Re-Opening Team e-blasted the Desert Fiber Arts Member Survey of Need/Interest to Use the DFA Guild Studio during Coronavirus Pandemic to all members. Thirty-eight members responded to the survey. Nineteen of those also wrote comments. Thank you to all of the DFA Members who replied to the survey!

The survey listed areas of the studio/fiber activities and asked members which ones they would like to use and how soon they would like to use them. Time frames to choose from were: Now, 2-3 Months, or 4-6 Months. The survey also asked members if they had participated in a virtual Zoom meeting, and if not, would they like to do so?

Marilyn Lord, a new member and volunteer on the Re-Opening Team has extensive experience in working with survey information. She put together the following (in italics):

Member Survey Analysis/Results

Data Pearls…these are nuggets to consider from the data…

1. Not every member responded to every question, so the total number of responses for each element is different.
2. The top four questions with responses are — Fiber Activities; Meeting Rooms; Equipment Use; Library Use (these likely represent the elements that most members were/are concerned about).
3. 53.3% prefer to wait 4-6 months for Fiber Activities & use of the Front Loom Room
4. Creature comforts — 53% can wait to use kitchen till 4-6 months; 40% would like to use now; use of bathroom is cleanly split across time frames.
5. 69% of members prefer to use the Library by at least 2-3 months (38% would like it open now)
6. 48% of members prefer Equipment Use in Studio in 4-6 months; 51.6% prefer by at least 2-3 months (this includes the folks who want to use it now)
7. 52.5% of members prefer to use Meeting Rooms in 4-6 months; 47% prefer by at least 2-3 months (this includes the folks who want to use it now)
8. Equipment Storage Use responses are almost cleanly split across the time frames.

- Twenty-seven members said they have participated in a Zoom meeting. This number correlates well with our observations that members voice appreciation that DFA is using Zoom for virtual meetings, study groups and other small group gatherings, in light of the Phase 1 requirements that do not allow in-person group gatherings.
- Survey comments ranged from those that had more questions about the impact of the Phase requirements upon re-opening decisions, as well as the typical summer use of the studio. Several said they would use the studio “whenever/as soon as it is safe to do so”. Others clearly stated that they would “not be attending any kind of gathering or using the studio in the foreseeable future” due to coronavirus risk. Some felt that the studio “could be opened to members now for those that choose to use the space. As long as they wear masks or distance from other members”. The importance of masking and distancing were mentioned specifically in comments from 4 different people. Cleaning and sanitizing efforts were included in 4 other comments. Some very definitively stated that the studio should remain closed until Phase IV due to the difficulty of maintaining safety. Two people said that they believe members should be allowed to use the studio now, “at their own risk”. The Re-Opening Team is thoughtfully considering all of this information along with the Washington state and local health district Phase 1 requirements (and subsequent Phase 2-4 requirements) as they develop the COVID-19 Safety Plan for the Desert Fiber Arts Guild Studio. (See related article in this newsletter).

Thank you to all those who returned the survey for your feedback!

Nancy Klotz, Safety Plan Lead

Hope Harkins is the winner of the Early Bird Drawing. There were 76 names in the drawing, and you did not have to be present to win. I want to thank everyone that renewed their DFA Membership early and participating in this traditional drawing.
The DFA Guild Studio closed its’ doors in March in response to the Washington state “Stay Home, Stay Safe” orders requiring non-essential facilities to close due to COVID-19. In May, the DFA Board asked for volunteers to form a Re-Opening Team to plan for when the Studio would be allowed to re-open. The new Team held its’ first Zoom meeting on May 21st. Benton and Franklin counties were in Phase 1 of the “Safe Start” Washington state guidelines at that time.

Re-Opening Team members are: Marion Halupczok - Board President; Carol Kaminsky - Acting Equipment Manager, Co-Chair Membership, DFA e-mail Blaster; Gayle Kerr – Board Secretary; Pam Root – outgoing Co-Vice President; Kitty Bryan; Mickie Chamness – Facilities Manager; Mark Halupczok; Marilyn Lord; Sue Silliman – Co-Chair Membership; Vickie Hughes – newly elected Co-Vice President; Kathy Thorndike – newly elected Co-Vice President - Don Ashley and Nancy Klotz. We quickly learned the depth and breadth of experience and knowledge that these talented members brought to the team: 3 retired nurses (hospital infection control, public health and intensive care), 1 retired physician, health administration, operations and OSHA training, project planning, teaching and more.

The first order of business was - where to begin? We decided to ask DFA membership how and when they wanted to use the studio. A member survey was developed and distributed electronically, drawing responses from 38 members. (See article, “Pearls of Wisdom: DFA Member Survey Results”.) Next we searched for examples of other re-opening plans. We began by using the COVID-19 Safety Plan template on our local health district website. Following more Zoom meetings, hours of research of science-based information, review, discussion and revision, the COVID-19 Safety Plan for the Desert Fiber Arts Guild Studio evolved.

Seven board members met on June 15th via Zoom for a Working Board meeting to review and discuss the Safety Plan and studio re-opening plans. It was discussed that the Safety Plan is a work in progress and will be updated and revised as Benton county progresses through each Phase of the state COVID-19 Safe Start requirements. The board members expressed confidence that the Safety Plan seems to incorporate the legal requirements to protect the DFA Guild’s 501-C3 status as well as DFA’s insurance company’s requirements. Most importantly, board members emphasized that their top priority is member health and safety.

Next Steps: The Re-Opening Team will meet to develop written recommendations to the DFA Board. In the meantime, details are being worked out for re-opening procedures such as cleaning and disinfecting, curbside equipment rental, curbside library check-out, member training, studio scheduling, etc. The Board will review and vote on the Safety Plan and Re-Opening Team Recommendations at the July board meeting. When the Safety Plan is approved, members will be notified, it will be posted to the DFA website and training for members will be offered.

What does all this mean to members NOW? The DFA Studio remains closed. At the time this article is being written, Benton and Franklin counties are still in Phase 1. The local health and county officials have applied to move to Phase 2. The applications have been “placed on pause” until additional improvements are made, according to the Washington state Department of Health.

The Re-Opening Team will continue to plan and make preparations for safe studio re-opening. We will continue to communicate with members and the board on progress toward this goal. If you have questions about the Safety Plan and re-opening planning, please feel free to contact any member of the Re-Opening Team, a board member or me, Nancy Klotz, Safety Plan Lead.

Nancy Klotz, Safety Plan Lead
nancyklotz77@gmail.com cell 509-521-2587
You can be a part of the Desert Fiber Arts Guild. To join, send a $25 check along with your name, address and phone to Desert Fiber Arts, P O Box 1004, Richland WA 99352.

Desert Fiber Arts newsletter Advertisements:
Members - $1.00 per vertical inch, 8 inch width.
Non-Members - $2.00 per vertical inch, 8 inch width.

New address for Carol Hall
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