Desert Fiber Arts

Dear Fiber Friends,

The DFA Studio will be closed until December 14th as well as curbside service to insure the health and safety of our membership and curbside team.
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at marionmade55@gmail.com
Thank you for your understanding, Marion

DFA Christmas General Meeting
2pm
December 17th
Please contact
Kathy Thorndike (kthorndike@msn.com) or Vicki Hughes (tr3apasco@gmail.com)
to help make our DFA December General Shine!

BY THE BOOK KNITTERS
Our next Zoom meeting will be December 15th from 6:00pm to 6:55-ish. It will be the Knitters Annual Christmas Party with cookies and tea or cocoa. You will need to bring your own cookies and tea. Don’t forget to bring/use your favorite Christmas mug. I look forward to seeing all you at the party.
Books we read
American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins
He Started It by Samantha Downing
More books by Molly Harper
Prince of Fools by Mark Lawrence
Reverie by Ryan La Sala
The City if the Lost and Darkness Absolute by Kelley Armstrong
The entire Anne of Green Gables series by L. M. Montgomery
The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Annie Barrows
“Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all is a form of planning.”
– Gloria Steinem

Tis the season of dreaming. December begins the countdown to Christmas and a brand-New Year. DFA members are busily putting finishing touches on projects for gifts, decorations and the Allied Arts Show. During the finishing process, minds churn with new ideas, what ifs and how abouts. So much to do, so little time.

Fiber Arts knowledge has been handed down from generation to generation, ancestor to ancestor, civilization to civilization. Capturing fiber arts knowledge and sharing with future generation has become DFA’s springboard for the new Learning Channel, YouTube Channel, Facebook and social connection platforms. The hope is to create a repository of ideas, techniques, demonstrations and classes to share our love of fiber arts with future fiber arts enthusiasts globally. What each of us do in our home studios is nothing short of amazing. Please take pictures of the process of your creations. Post those photos on the DFA Learning Channel. (learning.desertfiberarts.org)

We are living, breathing, walking, talking history! We are not aging; we’re evolving into an incredible Fiber Arts Library.

Please share your knowledge base!
Planning/dreaming/imagining is what we do!
We are our motto:

Each One, Teach One!

-Marion Halupczok
STAFFORD WEAVING STUDY GROUP
Final discussion of 2020: The Grande Finale! Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1-3pm, on Zoom. Next video lesson released on Thanksgiving.
This is the last lesson of Season 4, “Twills on 4”. Jane describes this lesson, “In this grande finale, we look at all that we’ve learned this season and how Twills on 4 builds on everything I have presented in the previous 3 years of the Online Guild.” She will probably give us a peek into Season 5 starting in January, 2021. Everyone is welcome to the Zoom. Email Cheryl Reed for the link to the meeting if you’re not already on the Study’s email list. cheryldavisreed@gmail.com . To access Jane’s lessons you need to subscribe to her Online Guild. More information here: https://janestaffordtextiles.com/online-guild/

Mary Thomas uses end of a sample warp.

Mary Thomas shared her most recent project at the last JST meeting

KAREN LAMAR’S TOWELS IN FALL COLORS
These towels are called Falling Leaves. I bought the draft and yarn from Jane Stafford Textiles about a year ago because of the bold colors. With plenty of time to catch up on back projects I started working on these.
After doing the original pattern and color I decided to spread out and try something different. I came up with the idea to find lighter yarn in the same colors that she used from my stash and to see what would happen doing it in spot lace. Then I pick my favorite color from the second towel and use it for the whole weft in the third towel alternating huck lace squares with spot lace with no divider.
The yarn for this project was 8/2 cotton the sett was 18 epi. The colors combination were surprising when mixed, leaving you with many ideas for future projects.

HELPING OUR HANDS
As fiber artists we need to take care of our hands. I found a web site “Wellness For Makers” that had a free booklet called “Happy Healthy Hands.” It gave three basic exercises for helping your hands stay healthy. The booklet suggests using stretching, massaging and strengthening techniques to help reduce pain and the risk of injury. Exercises can be found on the internet to help you in these areas or you can get this booklet. Just be careful and do not cause undo stress or injury to yourself. Thanks to Kathy Thorndike for teaching us how to protect our hands.
UPDATE:

Please send your photos of your Design Poker Challenge, the list of your 4 or 5 prompts from the chart, and a few sentences about your project—the process, or inspiration, or background story, or anything you want to share about it. Email them to Cheryl, cheryldavisreed@gmail.com, so we can create a slide show for a December meeting. We need your photos and descriptions by December 14.

AND if your project is not finished, keep working on it for the January Allied Arts Exhibit.

What is the Design Poker Challenge? Every few years, DFA members accept a challenge to our creativity. This year it’s Design Poker. [See chart in your Nov. newsletter.] The goal is to create something new to you. In other words, mix up our creative process a bit.

The vehicle to get us out of our ruts is that chart. Deal yourself the 5 cards and match them to the chart for elements to include in your creation. You can discard 2 elements that you don't like and draw 2 new cards to replace them.

But this vehicle is not THE LAW. Simply a prompt. Do your best to incorporate these elements. If you've forgotten a couple, simply draw some new cards from the deck. OR some folks tell me they are getting inspired to create something and they are picking specific elements from the chart that fit their inspired project. Kind of backwards to The Rules.

When we display the projects, we will want to know the elements from the chart that you used. BUT no one needs to know if you were dealt those cards/elements OR if you chose them yourself. It won't matter to our goal. Enjoy making something that might stretch you a bit. Share it with the rest of us then. No tight rules; no DFA Police. Any questions? Contact Cheryl Reed, (509) 318-5293, cheryldavisreed@gmail.com

ALLIED ARTS SHOW

Allied Arts Gallery at the Park remains open, so it looks like our January 2021 "Wearable Art" show will go on at the gallery with some restrictions. Unless things change, there will be no docents or demonstrations to limit the number of people in the gallery. This is disappointing but not surprising. If things change by the middle of January, we will work at getting docents/demonstrations for at least a few days.

The form for your show inventory is attached to the newsletter, and a form for hang tags will be coming to your email box shortly. If you get a printed copy of the newsletter call me to have the hang tags mailed to you. We are still waiting on the final DFA logo to be approved. The inventory sheet will calculate the gallery price for you if you choose to fill it out using Excel and comes with instructions at the top of the file. If you have any questions call or text Hope to (509)378-8220. It should be self-explanatory (I hope so anyway). If you have trouble filling it in on your computer, simply print it off and fill it in by hand and mail it to Hope Harkins, 25905 Spirit Lane, Kennewick, WA 99338.

Deadline for the inventory sheets is December 18th. If you have not completed an item but think you WILL have it completed by the January 3rd show setup, please include it on your list. I would rather have things on your inventory that you have to withdraw, than items added at the last minute. This way we will have the scan stickers to put on all the hang tags at take-in.

Take-in/setup is January 3 & 4th. If you have time/date restrictions, please indicate that when returning your form. You will be assigned a drop-off date and time, so we don't have everyone showing up at the gallery at the same time. A few volunteers to help with take-in and hanging things in the gallery would be appreciated for both January 3rd and 4th. Please email Hope (brianharkins@msn.com) or call/text (509)378-8220.

Plans for a virtual class are still in progress and we will let you know if this becomes available. It would available through our new learning.desertfiberarts.org page.

The show runs through January 30th at 4 p.m. Take down will be immediately following the show closing. [i.e. January 30 4-6 p.m.] If you cannot pick up your items that evening at your scheduled pickup time, please make prior arrangements or have someone else pick your items up for you.

It is always amazing to see all the gorgeous items that you create.
It's time to re-evaluate how we connect with our customers for the Fall Sale and our biannual exhibit at the Gallery at the Park. Specifically, is there a more cost-effective vehicle than our current email service, Constant Contact? Just a couple volunteers are needed to explore possibilities and report to the DFA Board in February, 2021. Contact Cheryl Reed for more details. Thanks for helping DFA continue to grow.

**Jane Stafford Online Guild in 2021**

“A Study of Cloth with Holes & Spots.” Jane has shared her plans for the 2021 Online Guild lessons: “I have been very busy preparing our programme for 2021....we are going to start with 8-shaft turned twill because it is so fabulous! Then....we'll dive into 4-shaft laces, pull them apart and, put them back together in a million different ways ”. The DFA Stafford Weaving Study group is where you can discuss the concepts in these lessons. To view the lessons, you must join Jane’s Online Guild. Details here: [https://janestaffordtextiles.com/online-guild](https://janestaffordtextiles.com/online-guild) But the discussion is open to anyone in DFA and their guests. We also share our other fiber arts projects. So bring your latest creations . Email Cheryl Reed if you’re not on the Stafford Study’s email list. She’ll send you the link to the Zoom meetings.
Desert Fiber Arts - Allied Arts Show January 2021

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LOOMS AND WEAVING TOOLS FOR SALE

60” TAPESTRY LOOM: Includes reed, lease sticks, warp sticks. $1100

Weaving tools: simple open heddle loom, shuttles, ball winder, niddy-noddy, 100 ml graduated cylinder, and more.

59” FLOOR LOOM: GLIMAKA, countermarch, 8H with reed, texsolve, warp sticks, lease sticks and bench. $2500. (These looms new are $5-6000)

Call to make an appointment to view. Jan Nilsson 509-999-2118 (I Text)
RIGID HEDDLE STUDY GROUP
Monday, December 8, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom -- watch for the Zoom invitation.
The RHSG had another interesting meeting on November 9 via Zoom. The group continues to explore new ideas and projects, but we are hopeful that we will be able to meet in the studio in the new year.
K. Myers

WEAVING AND MEDITATION
Terms of the day:
these troubled times; uncertain times; daily statistic, information to absorb, evaluate and sometimes feel awash in!
If there has ever been a time of information overload, I feel that describes what has happened in our life;
is it possible that it won’t slow down? And then what?
This is not an original evaluation. Perusing through written material as well as the web, I find many references to this information overload impact on our lives.
Meditation is a common denominator for many of the suggested solutions for our psyche survival; this combined with the resulting creativity that comes quietly for some or in bursts for others.
Handwork—knitting—was one such described activity. Knitting has a calming and focused effect; distractions are put aside, and focus is on the counting or designing.
It occurred to me that weaving has the same ‘mantra’ sequences. The rigid heddle weaver focuses on the up shed, throw, beat, down shed, throw, beat, repeat, get lost in the rhythm. The body relaxes, the mind focuses, yet flows with the weft, back and forth, back and forth . . . . . The floor loom weaver has similar flow with rhythm in the treadling, throw, beat, treadle, throw, beat . . . .
Turn off the media, put a project on your loom or take up one that has been sitting idle.
Weave and meditate. Focus on the rhythm of your breathing and weaving. D. Mucha
( Excerpt from https://comfortclothweaving.com/weaving-as-meditation/ posted by Tigan Frisino

Other times, I have woven things that have just helped me unwind after a stressful day. These are the times I focus on my breathing, my rhythm and the advancement of the woven web. These are the times of my meditation. Many people will state that weaving is a very conscious act. You have to be focused on every pick and beat to make sure that it is even and consistent. When you learn your loom however, you know all the sounds it makes, and the exact product you have made 100 times before- you can get yourself into a wonderful headspace where you can just feel the movement.
https://handwovenmagazine.com/woven-flow-weaving-as-meditation/
Please welcome 2 new DFA members for the 2020-2021 fiscal year
Tanya Stanley
P.O. Box 1019
Selah, WA 98942
(509) 307-3324    fionafionared@yahoo.com
Fiber Interests: pending
Involvement interests: pending

Mary Demiter
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 845-6279
missmary0049@yahoo.com
Fiber Interests: Crochet, Crochet, Dyeing, Felting, Knitting, Spinning, Weaving
Involvement interests: Annual Fund Raising Sale, Benton County Fair, Biennial Membership Show

And welcome returning member:
PATTI KIRCH
Kennewick, WA 99338
(509) 947-3627
patti10s@aol.com