April 12th 1pm Rigid Heddle Study Group Columbia Point Park
April 13th 1-3pm zoom meeting Stafford Weaving Study Group
April 12th 10 to noon DFA Board Meeting
April 20th 6:00pm Zoom Meeting By the Book Knitters
April 15th DFA General Meeting 6:30-8:30am Zoom Meeting

DFA General Meeting --April 15th 6:30pm Zoom

Maybe this will our last Zoom meeting. Please bring things including your Design Poker projects to share or send pictures to Cheryl Reed or Kathy Thorndike. We want to see what has been produced during this pandemic time. It should make for a great way to get inspired.

Most of us are ready for more hands on work. Fine Gelfand, textile artist-surface designer did a very interesting meeting for the March general meeting.

Budget Woes:

You may have heard that the DFA Board is considering raising membership dues for the future, beginning in the 2021-22 membership year. Once the board gives its stamp of approval, the budget will be shared with the membership prior to the May General Meeting. Our current challenges are income, expenses & cash reserves. My estimate is that DFA is sustainable for approximately 2 years at the current membership dues rate and relying on cash reserves. Below is a projected mini-peak estimate of our finances.

*Note: No drive…no revenue. No Fall Fundraiser Coordinator…no revenue.

Oodles & Gobs of thanks to Gretchen for the hours & hours of data diving & working on the budget!

Income: DFA income was significantly reduced due to the pandemic. No McCurley Car Drives, No Fall Fundraising sale, No classes, lots of No’s. DFA did have some wonderful donations last year. We received $3800 from a loom sale; Carol & Ray K. were busy refurbishing looms that were then sold; donations of fleece; cash donations and grants. Those welcomed monies got us through a difficult year.

Projected income for 2021-22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>10 x $25= $2750</th>
<th>10 x $ 40= $4400</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Car Drives May &amp; September</td>
<td>$2400*</td>
<td>$2400*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected equipment &amp; yarn sales &amp; rentals</td>
<td>$2300</td>
<td>$2300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall fundraising Sale. ( historic 2019)</td>
<td>$ 400*</td>
<td>$ 400*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Rewards (Amazon, Fred Meyer etc)</td>
<td>$ 100</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$7950</td>
<td>$9600</td>
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JUST A FEW OPERATIONAL Expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>$2500 (est)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Star Studio Costs (garbage, water, fees)</td>
<td>$2500 (est)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$1801</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Taxes</td>
<td>$200 (est)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website (updates)</td>
<td>$1000 minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$8001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DFA is extremely fortunate to have Virginia T. on board searching for grants and funding. DFA was recently invited for Round 4 of the CARES grants by TRIDEC. Virginia is on it! Other funding options are being explored as well. Hopefully, DFA will be able to garner at least $6000-$8000 in grants to cover technology, library, class materials, education fees, warping costs, communication etc. Grants have specific guidelines on what monies can be spent on and require documentation. Membership dues are used for day-to-day operation of the guild.

DFA needs volunteers to help with operations as well. Check out the list of current openings for volunteers.

Many hands make light work.

Please contact Marion marionmade55@gmail.com or info@desertfiberarts.org.

FROM THE TREASURER:

I imagine we all are happy to see sunshine and flowers again, even if they come with Tri-Cities winds and in some cases, allergies! At last we are able to look forward to safely resuming operations as an organization.

Desert Fiber Arts will have opportunities to fundraise in the coming months. If any member has experience with the monetary accounting for non-profit fundraisers, please contact me at my personal email gpatrick@charter.net or feel free to call me at 509-851-8316. I have been invited to a multitude of fundraisers over many years; some were lavish, and others were simple and small in scale. Some required a ticket purchase, others could be attended regardless of the ability to give at the time. Please give some thought as to what would suit DFA best given the time and energy requirements it takes to do fundraising. The regulations for fundraising are a reality, but are definitely manageable if this is something members would like to do.

If you have specific questions about the proposed budget, please feel free to contact me at dfatreasureronly@gmail.com, and I will do my best to answer them. Many hours were spent considering what members value, determining realistic operating expense numbers, the professional/legal expertise that is needed in some areas, and building in a reserve for cost increases and unexpected expenses. 2020 was a year full of unexpected events and expenses! Rest assured that Marion and I are in close communication regarding the budget. I am grateful to her and Mark for their help with the process.

As always, monetary donations are appreciated! I know this has been a challenging time financially for many people, and DFA is very thankful for your membership.

Sincerely,
Gretchen
Rose R. has been instrumental in getting DFA approved for a Microsoft grant. This grant gives us up to 10 free licenses of Microsoft Business Premium. The license users must be volunteer Executive Staff/Board Members & DFA Board approved.

The software includes all of the Microsoft products - Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint, etc. and many more business applications, most of which need more investigation.

Microsoft has tutorials and videos on the products that Rose & interested members can review.

LET’S MEET OUTDOORS! LATEST COVID GUIDELINES MAY GIVE RESPITE FROM ZOOM

The latest Phase 3 guidelines for “Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery”, can give all of us hope to begin gathering together outdoors in person - with some critical caveats. CDC and the WA Department of Health emphasize how important it is that we continue to be vigilant wearing masks, 6 feet social distancing and hand-washing/hand-sanitizing. They also recommend avoiding gathering inside in “crowded and poorly ventilated areas”.

DFA gatherings outdoors are safest. Study group organizers may consider holding their meetings outside beginning in April. The board will review the latest Phase guidelines at the April board meeting. In the meantime, we will continue to follow the current DFA studio guidelines of a maximum of 5 people in the studio at one time. The studio is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 to 4 pm (except March 25, 30, April 1 and 13 when it closes at 3 pm due to a 3-hour bottle-feeding schedule for new lambs).

If you are fully vaccinated, the WA Department of Health recently clarified masking guidelines as follows: “Whether you are fully vaccinated or not, masks/cloth face coverings are required in all indoor public spaces and in any outdoor public space where a minimum of 6 feet of distance can’t be maintained at all times.”

You should stay home if you have had a positive COVID test or are ill, or if you have been exposed to someone who has had a positive COVID test or who is ill. If you become ill, best to test if you don't know! Both the CDC and WA state DOH encourage people to get tested if they have any symptoms that are COVID-like e.g., cough, fever, chills, headache, feeling crummy or achy.

In April the WA State Department of Health will re-evaluate case rates, hospitalizations and other metrics for all counties to determine if a county still qualifies to remain in Phase 3 or if their numbers have exceeded the Phase 3 threshold. If the numbers are too high then the county will be moved back to an earlier phase.

Public health officials explain that more people getting vaccinated helps to decrease case rates, as does following all other CDC and WA DOH prevention guidelines. More variants of the virus are being discovered, which could cause an increase in case rates. Public health experience shows that case rates increase when we don’t wear masks, ignore social distancing, and gather in crowds in spaces with poor ventilation.

We must continue to be diligent in the 3 W's: 1. Wear a mask 2. Watch your distance and 3. Wash your hands. Additionally, keeping indoor gatherings small and limiting time spent in close proximity to people outside of your household will limit the risk of spreading the virus.

Let’s enjoy gathering outdoors safely and being with our fiber artist friends!

Nancy Klotz, Re-Opening Team Lead  
509-521-2587
RIGID HEDdle STUDY GROUP

Spring Has Sprung

At long last we can gather in person. Our April 12, 2021, meeting will be at Columbia Point Park in Richland at 1:00. Click here for directions.

Meet at the shelter on the left at the end of Columbia Point Drive. The shelter has two tables, but you will also need to bring your own chair and a stand or table for your loom. We can also sit under the shade trees to allow everyone to spread out.

We will still need to follow the COVID prevention guidelines which includes wearing a mask and social distancing.

What’s New: Little Looms magazine is now available by subscription.

Plan ahead for dying with avocado seeds and skins. Save them in your freezer.

Take your little loom outside to weave. Let sunshine and bird song be your companion.

Easy Weaving with Little Looms Summer 2020 – Long Thread Media

https://handwovenmagazine.com/little-looms/

Avocado Dye : FAQs / Top tips for pink – Rebecca Desnos

https://rebeccadesnos.com/blogs/journal/avocado-dye-faqs-top-tips-for-pink

STAFFORD WEAVING STUDY GROUP

Video Release: April 1

Discussion: April 13, 1-3pm on Zoom
Topic: Huck Lace. Jane describes this lesson, “Huck grows beautifully from Canvas. There are 3 main ways to tie it up and weave it: weft floats, warp floats & lace. We will learn to use those 3 elements to create all kinds of other patterns and we’ll learn how to read the cloth.”

Everyone is welcome to attend, share your latest weaving projects and participate the discussion on the topic. However, if you want to learn from Jane’s videos and handouts, join the Jane Stafford Online Guild.
https://janestaffordtextiles.com/online-guild/

If you’d like to attend the Zoom meeting and are not on the email list for the Stafford Study, contact Cheryl Reed, cheryldavisreed@gmail.com.
BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

Our next meeting will be April 20th from 6:00pm to 6:55-ish via Zoom!
I will email out the link 1 week before the meeting.
Several knitters are working on the Raffle Afghan. It will look great.
Nancy finished the Estonian Knit Along and sent 3 great photos.

Books Read This Month
A Deadly Education by Naomi Novik
A Wee Dose of Death by Fran Stewart
Alpha and Omega Series by Patricia Briggs
Battlefield Earth by L. Ron Hubbard
Becoming by Michelle Obama
Black Cat Crossing by Kay Finch
Firefly: Big Damn Hero by James Lovegrove
Lark! The Herald Angels Sing by Donna Andrews
Long Paw of the Law by Diane Kelly
Lovecraft Country by Matt Ruff
Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini
On Borrowed Time by Jenn McKinlay
Record of a Spaceborn Few by Becky Chambers
The Adventures of Hiram Holliday by Paul Gallico
The Cold Millions by Jess Walter
The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper by Phaedra Patrick
The Midnight Library by Matt Haig
The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead
The Russian Cage by Charlaine Harris
The Spymistress by Jennifer Chiaverini
The Stand by Stephen King
Things I Learned From Knitting: ...whether I Wanted to Or Not by Stephanie Pearl-McPhee
This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger
To Sleep in a Sea of Stars by Christopher Paolini
Toucan Keep a Secret by Donna Andrews
Walt Longmire Series by Craig Johnson
When No One is Watching by Alyssa Cole
Winesburg, Ohio by Sherwood Anderson
Work Song by Ivan Doig
ON THE BALLOT IN MAY

Thanks to these volunteers who fill our slate of officers:

VP’s Kathy Thorndike, Lynnette Treen

Secretary Karen Watson, with a backup team

We are still looking for a volunteer or a volunteer duo to lead as president this year! The many challenges for the Board from 2020 are already covered with fantastic volunteers to take us into our 2021-2022 year. The president’s job this year is not as complicated as Marion’s terms have been. It’s a perfect time for a volunteer(s) to fill this position. Lots of help available. Do you have administrative skills? Even if you are new to DFA, there are several long-time members who can advise you on the details.

Please contact the Nominating Committee: Carol Kaminsky carol.kaminsky67@gmail.com, Cheryl Reed cheryldavisreed@gmail.com, and Katherine Nye for a more detailed description of the duties of president.

SOAP MAKING

I enjoy making soap and had thought it would be fun to invite members of DFA to join me as I make several batches before it gets too hot to work in my garage. Due to COVID, and DFA policies, it was decided that the best way I could issue an invitation to the DFA members to join me was to write an article for the newsletter.

Handmade soap has intrigued me for a long time; when I attend craft fairs, I find I am drawn not only to the fiber artist’s table but also to the soap maker’s table and I cannot resist purchasing a bar or two. Eventually, I began to wonder if I could make my own soap and found a “how to make soap” book and a soap maker in Spokane who offered classes, and I have been enjoying making my own soap ever since.

There is a “magic” moment that happens when two disparate substances: lye and oil are mixed and the mixture becomes cloudy. The technical name for this is saponification. Then, after much stirring, the mixture begins to thicken and can be colored, scented and poured into molds. The next day is the “big reveal” as the soap is turned out of it’s mold and cut to reveal the patterns formed by the colors swirled into it. The last part of soap making is the curing. The soap needs to rest for about 6 weeks to make insure the saponification process is complete.

I mostly make soap for my own use or to use as gifts. Occasionally, I am invited to join other hand crafters to sell my soap in small events. I think it is a fun craft and would love to be able to share it with you all at the Guild house. However, the Guild house isn’t a safe place for a soap demonstration. If you would like to join me on a soap-making day, just give me a call, I can accommodate two people at a time AND if you share in the cost of the ingredients you can create your own unique hand-crafted bars of soap. I will be making soap through the end of this month and the first week of April. If you would like to join me, just give me a call.

Char Friberg
509-781-0527
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.

LIBRARY SERVICES
The closing time for curbside library services for the next 2 weeks [March 23, 25, 30 and April 1] will be shortened to 12 - 3 p.m. (instead of 4 p.m). I have unexpected bottle lambs needing bottles every 3 hours so will need to cut my time at the guild a bit short to be close to meeting their feeding needs.

Thanks for your understanding,

Hope Harkins

DFA MEMBERSHIP
Current Membership = 133 persons.
Sale: $15.00 NEW Member joining for CURRENT fiscal year ending 05/31/2021 continues.
FYI: DFA board is considering a proposal to bring before the Membership for a vote on increasing dues for new fiscal year beginning June 1, 2021.

Sue Silliman
DFA Membership Chairperson