Desert Fiber Arts
Newsletter of Handweavers, Spinners and Fiber Artists
Published Monthly  Editor: Bonnie Baker 943-5460
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March 2022  2128 Hudson Ave, Richland WA 99354

web site http://desertfiberarts.org  President: Vicki Hughes
Please use  President.desertfiberarts@gmail.com  to send me any DFA related emails.

March 3rd Fund Raiser Committee zoom meeting
March 8th 10am at the guild house  Stafford Weaving Study Group(zoom if necessary)
March 9th 10am DFA Board meeting zoom and at the Guild House
March 15th 6:30pm By the Book Knitters at the Richland Public Library
March 17th 5:30pm General Meeting Weaving with copper and glass on Zoom

Please join us on March 17th at 5:30 (yes that is correct).

Sally Eyring a weaver in the Boston area will be joining on zoom with us to present her HOT Topic; Weaving with Glass and Copper.

STAFFORD WEAVING STUDY GROUP
March 8, Tuesday, 10am-noon
DFA Studio, 101 N Union St, Suite 208 IF COVID cases continue to decline. Otherwise, Zoom.
    Cheryl will email the link a couple days before IF we must Zoom. Everyone is welcome.
If you are not on the Stafford Study email list, email Cheryl for the link.
cheryldavisreed@gmail.com

We’ll need to wear masks in the studio. Too many of us are vulnerable or live with a vulnerable person. But it will be great to see each other and our projects in person.
Discussion: 8-Shaft Twill Blocks & Tie-Up Quadrants. (Lesson released Feb. 24.)
Plus anything we want to talk about. Bring your projects, your questions, your tips, your discoveries.

RE: EG2 PROJECT.
Betsy Dickinson has warp on her loom to sample fabric for the river. She is looking for rags or natural fabrics/fibers that you think might work. If you have something you think we should try, contact her at 509-366-3486 (text or call) orbetsyd1207@gmail.com.
SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND SO HAS SPRANG

As RHSG continues to explore the many possibilities on this humble loom, the techniques of Sprang has entered into the weaving repertoire. February saw many scarves created with the Sprang technique incorporated. Though a seemingly simple technique, it takes concentration and finger dexterity to make the netting consistent. Want to join the fun: Go to Google and type in: You Tube SolRhiza Sprang. You will find School for Sprang where you can ‘Sprang’ along with them and learn a new skill to add to your fiber arts skills.

On Valentines Day we gathered at the DFA Studio and enjoyed the "RHSG 10 Year Anniversary" cake that was decorated with this miniature rigid heddle loom! We all voiced a big "Thank You" to Kathy Myers and Dorothy Mucha for being the "Dynamic Duo" founding mothers, leaders, instructors and mentors for the Rigid Heddle Study Group for 10 great years so far!

Spring Has Sprung and so has Sprang
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We will meet March 14 & 28th from 1:00 – 4:00, 101 N Union St, Suite 208, Kennewick, WA

By the Book Knitters
Our next meeting will be March 15th at 6:00pm in Conference Room A at the Richland Library.

A big HI to Gail, who we missed this month, Congrats on the new job!

We are still working on the Self Striping Sock Yarn, We will pe purchasing Nehalem Superwash a fingering weight, undyed yarns that is 80% Superwash Merino/10% Cashmere/10% Nylon - 100 gm skeins, 414 yds/skein. It will cost aprox $6.00 per skein. If you are interested in participating please send me an email with how many skeins you would like. emokler@gmail.com Yarn will be ordered in March, Skeining and Dyeing will be in April/ May
What we are Knitting
Melany has been working on From Grandma with Love for quite a while. She has put all the counterpoint squares together and is knitting the binding with 4 very long circular needles, they meet at the corners. The pattern also showed her a new way to join the squares with a ‘flat’ crochet stitch.

Julie and Leah are working on Afghans for the Linus Project. Susan and Lynnette are working on Socks. Kim is knitting a Baby Blanket. Jill finished her Curtain Call sweater and has started on Mini Serratus by Andréanne Pérusse. Lissa finished Tilly a very cute bunny for her niece. Tilly has a cute dress and bloomers with a bunny tail. Lissa is also working on Rose with a combination of hand knit cables and machine knit body. Rosanne is knitting more hats. Jan is working on a DishCloth. Lynnette also wove a great Bread Bag.

What we are Reading
A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman
Animal Farm and 1984 by George Orwell
Before and After and Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate
Bicycling with Butterflies by Sara Dykman
Clara and Mr. Tiffany by Susan Vreeland
Digital Minimalism by Cal Newport
Evanly Choirs by Rhys Bowen
Fool's Paradise and Blood Feud by Robert B. Parker
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë
Knitted Animal Friends by Louise Crowther
Maggie Hope Series by Susan Elia MacNeal
Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive by Stephanie Land
Persuasion by Jane Austen
State of Terror by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny
The Bartender's Tale and Heart Earth by Ivan Doig
The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson
The Code Breaker by Book by Walter Isaacson
The English Girl by Silva, Daniel
The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes
The Guest List by Lucy Foley
The Madness of Crowds by Louise Penny
The Mystery of Mrs. Christie, Personal Librarian, Carnegies Maid and The Other Librarian, Carnegies Maid and The Other Librarian, Carnegies Maid and The Other
Einstein by Marie Benedict
The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow
The Return by Nicholas Sparks
The Secret History by Donna Tartt
Utopia Avenue by David Mitchell
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens
Winter Solstice by Rosamunde Pilcher
Worth the Trouble by Jamie Beck
NORTHWEST REGIONAL SPINNERS ASSOCIATION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Northwest Regional Spinners Association (NwRSA) is reorganizing to serve the same diversity of fiber arts as our Desert Fiber Arts Guild enjoys.

NwRSA is searching for way to support fiber arts makers in WA, OR, ID and MT. They explored a region-wide event in January on St. Distaff’s Day with a Zoom event. They had breakout rooms that provided spinning/handcraft circles…like Jane Campbell hosts each Tuesday for DFA, a teaching room where members could share a technique or project…like our “Each one teach one” motto, a room for contests…like spinning with latex gloves on, a room for vendors to give attendees a glimpse into their shops. An online version of a Conference.

More ideas in the works:
+ Quarterly Zoom teaching/learning opportunities. [February’s perk for members was a spinning lesson from Judith McKenzie.]
+ Use the NwRSA Zoom account for use by Areas for their own meetings/ teaching sessions.
+ They are compiling a directory of fiber producers in all 4 states. That could lead to a study of fibers produced in the 4 states. Possibly a Breed Study of fiber animals with fiber enthusiasts from all over the region studying and sharing on Zoom.
+ Support for Areas to plan their own retreats/fiber celebrations.

This is a work in progress. There will be a change of the name of the organization, a rebranding, with a new logo.

If you are interested in reshaping this organization for our current needs in the fiber art community, join online and volunteer your talents. Go to nwrsa.net From the top line, click Membership. From that drop-down menu, follow the links to join.

DFA is in Area 4030, which is essentially Eastern WA. Cheryl Reed is the temporary Area director. She may be able to answer your questions or find answers for you.
cheryldavisreed@gmail.com

SARC Donations

Betsy is requesting donations for the SARC fundraiser silent auction that will take place in early May. She will put a bin at the Guild House for donations. Scarves, towels, shawls or table linens would be perfect. SARC (Support, Advocacy and Resources Center) provides counseling and advocacy support for crime victims, including sexual assault, trafficking and child abuse victims and their families. Please attach a care label.

Thanks!

Betsy
509-366-3486 (text or call) or
betsyd1207@gmail.com.
Fall Fundraiser 2022
November 4-5, 2022
Proposed venue at Central United Church, Richland
1124 Stevens Drive, Richland
- Large open space
- Good lighting
- Ample parking
- Easy access ramps
- Good location
- Free
Proposed Commission Rates:
- Volunteers pay 25% commission to the Guild
- Members unable to work pay 30% commission
You are our most important resource, you can help:
- Join the Fun’raising team
- Brainstorm a name other than “Fall Fundraiser” that we can use from year to year.
- Start creating!!
- Share ways to improve our marketing, how to create more attractive displays, and help plan for future fundraisers.
Questions: Susan Schmieman weaveyourartout@gmail.com
Join us at our next Zoom meeting, March 3 at 10 AM. Blaster will send Zoom link.
EXQUISITE GORGE 2 Project Update:
Ophir will be ZOOMING into DFA on the first and third Monday of each month. On February 21st a group of 11 folks met with Ophir to discuss weave structures and our sculpture. Next meeting will be to discuss SPRANG techniques and more details! Please join the group to see what you can do to make our sculpture a success!
Next meeting will be March 7th at 9 am. (Ophir will be zooming in from Israel.)

Ophir will be in residence the week of April 7th-14th! She will be working with us in the studio daily!

Elements to be worked on:
• SPRANG
• River weaving 2 days
• Needle felting
• Rock Painting (Tyvek rocks)
• Ophir will need access to a woodworking shop & tools to create the frame & panels.

Volunteers?
Please arrange your calendar to come explore, experiment & create during the week of April 7th-14th!

SPRANG Tower Kathy M.       Tyvek Rocks Lois A. River Exploration Betsy D.

For more information contact:
Marion marionmade55@gmail.com or Vicki president.desertfiberarts@gmail.com

Exquisite Gorge 2 Project KEY DATES: now until July-ish...programming in the communities
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION YOU HAVE ASAP (If you haven't already done so)

MARCH: Schedule with Maryhill the pick-up of finished sculpture. (Through Volunteers, a moving company or with Lou & a U-Haul. (Marion, Vicki & Ophir)
MAY: Volunteer sigh up sheets for those willing to help with Moving the Sculptures/and/or event.
JUNE: Volunteers needed to install EG2 Section #8 at THE REACH MUSEUM
July: EG2 Section #8 will be displayed at THE REACH MUSEUM for the month of July. We need to nail down display dates & when to move the sculpture to Maryhill for the August 6th Event.
AUGUST: A sculptures moved to Maryhill during the first 5 days of August. ASSEMBLY OF THE SCULPTURE WILL BE AT THE EVENT on AUGUST 6TH!
AUGUST 6TH: Culminating event will be held from 10am-4pm.
There will be a stage MC, microphone. Artists and Community Partners will be asked to speak!
Maryhill has planned music and activities for all.
   Can DFA provide a booth or activity for museum goers???
End of August the pieces will be removed from Maryhill. These ultimately belong to the artist, so it is important that there is a clear message as to where these will go. There has been some rumblings about using our portion of the sculpture for the 2023 Allied Arts January Display. ARTISTS: please remember that your pieces will be seen from two sides except for the frontispiece and section 10. We will have drone images and professional photography of each piece from all sides

VIDEO & PUBLICATION will be created by Maryhill for lasting memories!
This is the Project of a lifetime!! Woot! Thank you one and all for the amount of community and artistry that is being created along the Columbia River. Be proud!
Best,
Lou

MEET THE EXQUISITE GORGE 2 PROJECT ARTISTS!
Maryhill is doing artist interviews and video clips throughout the spring. To access the videos at will go to the Maryhill Museum website.
https://www.maryhillmuseum.org/exquisite-gorge-project-2022
Currently there are 3 videos on the page. More artist interviews will be posted as they are filmed!
• Watch Part ONE of the Virtual Studio Visit: Carolyn Hazel Drake
• Virtual Studio Visit: Carolyn Hazel Drake
• Virtual Studio Visit: Kristy Kún
AVL Workshop to be rescheduled in October!

KENNEWICK COMMUNITY EDUCATION (KCE) /DFA
GARLIC BASKET CLASS HUGE SUCCESS!

Huge thanks to Judy R., Kathy M., Kathy T., Vicki & Pam for helping with the Garlic Basket class! Wowsers! We had 13 community members join us at the studio to make individually designed, hand-crafted Garlic Baskets. The DFA fundraiser made a little over $500.00 for a 3 hour class & garnered 3 new DFA members! Class participants indicated they want MORE classes in fiber arts! Baskets, weaving, felting, knitting, kumihimo, and whatever we would like to offer. KCE will advertise & collect class fees. We get to do what we LOVE to do! “EACH ONE…TEACH ONE!” We received clearance for “Pop-Up” classes to be held this spring. If you have an idea for a class, contact Vicki or Marion to get it on the calendar.
THE GNOMES ARE COMING!!!!

Calling all weavers....we need your empty cones to make gnomes for our fundraiser this year!!!

Also, when you are out and about and you see some felt in Christmas colors(any kind of felt will work) or faux fur (for beards) at a good price, pick some up for our gnomes. Or, rather than felt, we could use part of a felted wool sweater for the body and hat, Christmas or winter themed socks, or whatever you see that you think will make an awesome gnome. Let’s start collecting materials now so by late summer or early fall we will be ready to have a gnome making party !!
Mary Thomas – appreciator of people and the hand made

Mary credits her family for giving her an appreciation of things finely handcrafted. These handmade items were to be respected and treasured. The family was one of the recipients of her aunt’s silver work. Her aunt created jewelry and spoons. Mary’s father worked with wood and made small wood chests for jewelry and spoon and spice racks.

But it was Mary’s mother who provided the fiber and sewing interest. Her mother sewed very well. As she grew up in Rockford, Illinois, Mary knitted and sewed doll clothes.

After graduating from the University of Illinois with an elementary education degree, she taught for six years across the country – Illinois, New York and California. After her children were raised, she has worked with children in many volunteer programs. Vicki Gerton and Mary coordinated children’s summer classes for Allied Arts for five years. Currently Mary works in the Lewis and Clark Elementary School’s Special Friends program. The school guidance counselor assigns a child who needs a friend.

While living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she took a batik class. It was an eye opener. A lot of work went into achieving the unique look! Soon after that she enrolled in a Beka Loom weaving course.

The Beka loom came with Mary when she moved to Richland in the mid-1970s. A group of natural dyeing people were forming DFA at that time. Mary states that the members themselves were what attracted her to the group. In particular, “Edith Marsh was so relaxed and nice to work with”. Mary joined DFA and has been involved ever since. She has been on the board in every capacity and more than once.

Seeing the work of others has been inspiring and has encouraged her to try things. Mary has a real sense of what goes with what. She’s always thinking “I’ll cut that up and make a vest.” A very successful example was when she combined a “very ugly” scarf that she had discharged and an African shawl which a friend had brought back. Both garments went onto Mary’s cutting table and were subsequently put together to make an elegant vest. In her standard spirit of thinking of others, she gave it to her daughter for a charity auction and it was sold to someone on the Washington coast. A 24” Norwood workshop loom is in her studio. It is limited by width – limited to making small things … like vests!

For a few years Mary made up Folkwear patterns for locally owned Ariel when the store sold the patterns and fabric. She recalls making an Egyptian shirt with a smocked front. Ariel put the garments on display and sold them.

Mildred Stice took Mary under her arm and taught her how to spin from roving Mary had won at a DFA recycling vest contest. She’s spun at the Renaissance Fair, Sacajawea Park, the Benton Franklin County Fair and many other venues to promote the craft.

When asked what main thing is she passionate about, she replied “to keep fit”. You can find her at the Columbia Basin Racquet Club playing tennis 3 times a week and in the aerobic classes.

--- by Chris Simonen
You can be a part of the **Desert Fiber Arts Guild**. To join send a $40 check along with your name, address and

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

Funding has been provided by Humanities (NEH) as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) approved by US Congress and signed into law by Joseph R. Biden