

Each One, Teach One

desert fiber arts

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Our Mission

Desert Fiber Arts Guild's Mission is to preserve, share and promote fiber arts through education, collaboration, outreach, and sustainable practices.

Our Vision

Desert Fiber Arts Guild strives to create a thriving, inclusive community of fiber enthusiasts, connecting generations, celebrating creativity, honoring sustainability, and inspiring positive change.

APRIL 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, April 4th

10:00AM – 12:00PM @ Richland Library

SEVERAL OPEN POSITIONS

Looking to fill board and other positions! Learn more on pages 8-10

WOVEN IN WOOL: RESILIENCE IN COAST SALISH WEAVING EXHIBIT

Running through August 30, 2026 @
the Burke Museum.

More info on the [museum's website](#)

FUN FACT!

April 3 is National Tweed Day

MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARIES &
DESERT FIBER ARTS GUILD PRESENT



FIBER & FRIENDS

Monday, April 6 at 6 pm

Monday, April 20 at 6pm

Kennewick Library | 1620 S. Union St.

Calling all knitters, crocheters, weavers, spinners, embroiderers, and other fiber artists! Join the Desert Fiber Arts Guild at the Kennewick library for an evening of creativity and comradery as we work on individual projects and share tips and tricks.



Study group dates on next page!

APRIL 2026 STUDY GROUP DATES

WED	April 1	Tapestry	1-3pm	DFA Studio
THU	April 2	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	Richland Library
THU	April 2	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
THU	April 4	Learn to Spin	10am-12pm	Richland Library
MON	April 6	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	April 7	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	April 9	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	April 9	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SAT	April 11	EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse	10am-12pm	Zoom
MON	April 13	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	April 14	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	April 16	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	April 16	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SAT	April 18	Learn to Spin	10am-12pm	Richland Library
SUN	April 19	Pop Up Spin	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	April 20	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	April 21	By the Book Knitters	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	April 21	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	April 23	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	April 23	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
FRI	April 24	Drawloom	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	April 24	4-6-8 Weaving	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	April 27	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	April 28	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	April 30	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	April 30	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom

April's Green Star Award Goes To...

Wendy Hahn



Look at this beautiful blanket she's made from T-shirt fabric! She uses and reuses fiber of all kinds. Congratulations Wendy!

*If you would like to nominate a DFA member for this award,
please contact Jeanette Mendell.*

[*jeanette.mendell@gmail.com*](mailto:jeanette.mendell@gmail.com)



The Green Corner **By Susan Schmieman**



Greetings, Green Friends, from the EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse Team!

We are just over halfway through our two-year journey and hope you are all beginning to incorporate the 3 Rs into your purchases, creations, activities, and study groups. It is a lifestyle change that takes time to develop and become a habit. Did you make it to our booth at the quilt show to see the creations DFA has made to make this world a better, healthier planet?

As some of you may know, my husband and I are downsizing. In that process, I have come across many treasures that have been lost for a while. Old letters and notes, half finished projects, and magazines that I never seem to get back to reviewing. Sorting of what to keep, or not, is a bit more time consuming than I would have guessed. The decision-making is painful for me.



Did I mention sorting through magazines of all sorts: weaving, embroidery, macrame, origami... well, enough of that. But I did find some wonderful articles in older magazines on recycling for the purpose of art and keeping stuff out of the landfill. I would like to share with you three older magazines regarding reusing materials that are worthy of your search.

The first is Handwoven September/October 1991. Ideas for recycling materials and weaving from nature include projects from our founding member Betty Davenport (Recycled Weaving). Another weaver has woven a room sized rug out of 75 pairs of blue jeans. This issue is loaded with ecofriendly and creative ideas.



VAV Magazine NR. 4, 2016, directly addresses recycling efforts of several fiber artists:

- A Life in Rags,
- Sculptural Furniture from Surplus Stock,
- Refashion!
- Precious Trash,
- Textile Tales: Threads of Memory.

The third magazine is more recent: What Women Create—Inspiration for your imagination. Winter 2021 Loaded with ideas for the 3 Rs—Reuse Repurpose Recreate

I have included a link to Lori Seibert—Artful Junk Birds which I thought looked so fun and would love to take her online class...after we get moved, of course. Her little birds are a perfect opportunity to use those little snippets of weavings and thrums, just for fun.

<https://jeanneoliver.com/courses/artful-junk-birds/>

www/loriseibert.com

So you see, we Creatives have been trying to Reuse Repurpose and Recreate for years, decades. Keep up the good work!

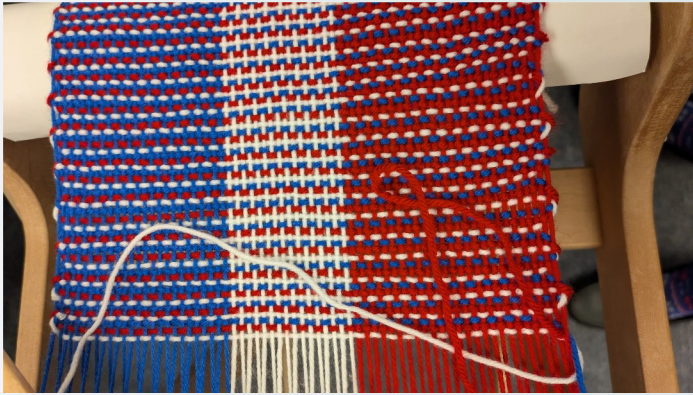


If you have a green fact or story to share, please feel free to submit an article to DFA Newsletter Editor. We would love to hear what you are doing or learning to make our world healthier for the land and its inhabitants.



RIGID HEDDLE

Karen Watson has developed a beautiful red, white, and blue pattern. We will be interested to see what she makes out of it.



Mary Fraser has woven a pink and white scarf of the Log Cabin pattern.



Kathy Myers wove this bag on her Rigid Heddle loom. She used yarn she had made by dyeing old T-shirts and cutting them into strips. She pulled the strips tight as she wove them.

BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

*Our next meeting will be
Tuesday, April 21st at 6:00pm
in Conference Room A of the Richland Library*

Squares due at our next meeting so we can work out the layout for the afghan. Continue working on 8 ½" squares for the summer reading afghan. The theme is Richland Library's 75th anniversary and is navy and gold. The inspiration for the squares can be fun patterns from each decade of the 75 years, diamonds, or just a good opportunity to learn a new technique. We have 39 squares so far! Looking forward to an amazing afghan this year! If you cannot make it to the next meeting, please drop off at the circulation desk and ask them to put in the By the Knitters cubby so we can assemble the afghan at our meeting.

WHAT IS ON OUR NEEDLES

Finished the Accent on the Upbeat Cowl by Wonderland Yarns

Still thinking about attempting brioche with the Hearthside Pullover by Wool & Pine

Temperature blanket (coldest/highest and wind and holidays)

Socks

Finished the Deliciosa sweater by Norah Gaughan

COMMUNITY EVENTS

May 7th around 3:30 PM for setup is finger knitting and dying the yarn with kids at the library. Any volunteers who want to come and assist is appreciated! Anyone have an old salad spinner that wouldn't mind getting dye on it and can bring to the event, let me know.

Mid-Columbia Ballet spring performance is coming up at Richland High School the weekend of April 24th and April 25th. There are two different performances, the Adventures of Madeline that is a storybook ballet that is family friendly. The evening performance is Legacy & Liminality, a selection of classical and contemporary pieces. Tickets are on sale now at <https://midcolumbiaballet.org/>

WHAT WE READ

Almost every book came recommended this month, I marked a few of them that were favorites but even more were greatly enjoyed.

The Grace Kelly Dress by Brenda Janewitz. +

Poems and Prayers by Matthew McConaughey

First sign of danger by Kelley Armstrong

The Borrowed life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston +

Nash Falls by David Baldacci (new series)

The Correspondent by Virginia Evan+

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

Skylark by Paula McLain

A Scandal in Scarlet by Vicki Delaney (a Sherlock Holmes Bookshop cozy mystery)

When the Moon Hits Your Eye by John Scalzi

The Quilter's Apprentice by Jennifer Chiaverini

Story of a Murder: The Wives, the Mistress, and Dr. Crippen by Hallie

Rubenhold +

Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir

The Johnston Flood by David McCullough

Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner +

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

The Bullet Journal Method by Ryder Carroll +
84, Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff (non-fiction) +

How To Read a Book by Monica Wood

Raising Hare: A Memoir by Chloe Dalton +

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt +

The Ladies of Missalonghi by Colleen McCullough +

In the Woods by Tana French

Ribbing and Runes, Mosaics and Magic, Cables and Conjurers - The

Vampire Knitting Club Mysteries



DEA booth at the Tri Cities Quilt Show

The booth featured our green theme, "Reuse, Repurpose, Recreate" as well as demonstrations and displays of weaving, knitting, spinning, wet-felting, needle-felting, basketry and other fiber arts!



Behind the Scenes at DFA By Betsy Dickinson

BOARD POSITIONS ARE OPEN AND A NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS NEEDED!

It's that time of year when new flowers spring forward and fresh faces volunteer to run for Board positions and take over various responsibilities that keep our guild running.

Board elections occur in May, so a nominating committee is needed. Board members may not serve on this committee, so we need 2 or 3 people that are able to visit various study groups and attend our general meeting to seek out interested members for the positions. PLEASE notify a board member right away if you can spend a little time performing this important role.

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

(Complete job descriptions can be found on the website under Documents in the Guild Policies.)

President

We have one person who has volunteered to run for President. However, if you have an interest, please let a board member of the nominating committee member know.

The President is the official representative of the Guild and conducts the Annual Meeting, Board meetings, and Special meetings. Prior leadership experience is preferred for the person in this position.

Preferred Skills and Abilities:

- Organizational and Leadership skills
- Ability to track progress on issues and bring closure
- Ability to delegate and encourage officers and committee chairs
- Good communication skills

Members-at Large

Up to three (3) Members-at-Large may be elected to the Board of Directors. The people in these positions have voting rights and serve as representatives of the members. They will visit or participate in various study groups, report concerns to the Board and act to serve the best interests of the Guild.

Member-at-Large Duties:

- Attend study groups as agreed upon by the Member-at-Large and the Board. The Member-at-Large may already be involved with one or more study groups for which they represent, or can choose to visit other groups and bring information back to the board.
- May be requested to act as a committee chair as needed.
- Actively participate in Board activities, Guild activities as scheduled.
- Assist officers in duties as assigned.
- The Member-at-Large positions are great entry for newer members or for those members who would like to learn more about the inner workings of the Guild.

Vice-President(s)

(2 people may share duties and both have voting privileges.)

The Vice-President acts in the position of president in his/her absence. Prior leadership is preferred for the person in this position, as well as a desire to be nominated to the position of President when the term expires.

Vice-President Duties:

- Plans and arranges the program for General meetings from September through May. This includes notifying Guild members of the time, place and program or speaker for each general meeting.
- Runs the General Meeting each month.
- Provides upcoming meeting information to the newsletter editor and/or the Blaster.
- If a Co-Vice-President has been elected, this person will assist the Vice-President in all activities and may also assist the President in assigned duties. The Co-Vice President is a voting member of the board.

Thanks for your attention to this and we look forward to seeing new faces on the Board.

Happy Spring!

Betsy Dickinson

Equipment Librarian Needed

Carol Kaminsky is stepping down from some of her many responsibilities. She has updated and maintained our equipment library for many years and it's time for someone else to take over.

Please contact a Board Member or Carol Kaminsky for more information.

The following is what is needed for this volunteer position. The person in this position can have a back-up or a few people to help.

Preferred Skills and Abilities:

- Capable of utilizing computer and computer software to track equipment loans, loan deadlines, etc.
- Good organizational skills

The Equipment Chair is responsible for the upkeep, loan management, and utilization of all DFA equipment. **The Equipment Chair shall:**

- Process equipment loans.
- Ensure that correct equipment is loaned to members.
- Check in returned equipment and return to storage.
- Ensure that equipment is returned in good working order; monitor for missing parts, repairs, and maintenance.
- Monitor equipment loans and returns on a weekly basis.
- Track borrowed equipment for overdue items, send out overdue notice as necessary. This includes a copy of the DFA policy regarding late returns.
- Track equipment bought, sold, removed, or added to rental inventory. Provide information to the Asset Manager.
- Request equipment purchases from the Board of Directors when necessary, such as for classes or to replace worn out or damaged equipment.
- Present equipment donations to the Board of Directors prior to accepting donation.
- Possess a code to the studio to allow access for equipment loans and returns.
- Arrange for selling or removal of inadequate equipment as deemed appropriate and as approved by the Board of Directors.
- Check inventory of consumable items such as brown paper for wrapping and replace as necessary.
- Clear equipment library check-in cart weekly.
- Perform yearly inventory on items with a value of \$25.00 or greater.
- Maintain the order and locations of all inventory.
- Notify membership of missing items and request return.
- Sewing machine and serger will be inspected yearly, cleaned, and maintained as necessary, and used briefly to ensure machine is in good working order.
- Report concerns or problems to Board
- Attend Board meetings and report activity as requested.
- May request assistance or back-up from members and will train in the loan process.

DFA Website Liaison Needed

Carol Kaminsky, our current Website Liaison would like to retire from this volunteer position. She's been doing it for a LONG time and has helped the Guild transition to a more usable website. She has done the hard work of updating the site and has worked with our fabulous website manager to make the job as easy as possible.

The person in this position communicates with the Board and with the website manager. He or she updates information and posts documents to the website. Documents include Board minutes and the newsletter as well as updated policies, forms and changes in personnel.

Attendance at Board meetings is not required but may need to occur periodically.

Hands on training will be provided. Experience with Wordpress is a plus.

Please contact a Board member or me if you can take on this important job. Carol can answer any questions. She can be emailed at carol.kaminsky67@gmail.com.

Betsy Dickinson

betsyd1207@gmail.com

509-366-3486

CALL FOR RIGID HEDDLE LOOM DONATIONS

Hello Weaving Enthusiasts!

Our group is growing, with many new and prospective members eager to learn about the world of weaving, especially using rigid heddle looms.

If you have a sampler rigid heddle loom or any other size that you're no longer using and would like to donate, we would be thrilled to give it a new home. Your generous donation would provide a wonderful resource for our members to learn and practice weaving.

If you're interested in donating, please contact MaryAnn Mae at mareelizabeth@gmail.com or **509-460-9296** to arrange for drop-off or pick-up.

*Thank you for considering supporting
our weavers!*

A Bit About Kitty Bryan

This month, we have the grand pleasure of Kitty Bryan, who is a weaver, spinner, dyer, knitter, and knitting designer, speaking at our General Meeting!

Kitty began knitting, inspired by her knitter aunt. Then later, while working at Sheep's Clothing, knitted with gals who are now part of the Sticks and Hooks study group.

As an experimental engineering student, she learned to design, test, evaluate, redesign. An approach she uses with her creativity. She keeps notes of her discoveries and creates workbooks that she uses in her workshops.

You can find some of her designs on ravelry.com.

Kitty is presently teaching a weekly class for the Shoalwater Bay Tribe in Tokeland WA. Which has morphed into a weekly knitting group of all levels of expertise.

She has written and recently published her first book, "Knitting Variegated Yarn: Gestalt Techniques" An exploration with the art of dyeing yarn and a guidance of choosing patterns to highlight individual skeins. We are fortunate to have a copy in our library and fortunate to have Kitty in our DFA family she is warm, caring and a down to earth creative intellect with the curiosity of a cat!

Fiber Art and Scottish Musical Folklore!

What does an old Scottish folk song have to do with fiber art? I'd love to tell you!

The modern "Skye Boat Song" has been popularized by Bear McCreary's version associated with the show *Outlander*, but did you know the original 18th century folk song, adapted by Sir Harold Boulton from Anne Campbell McLeod's Gaelic rowing tune, was a reference to Bonnie Prince Charles Stuart escaping to the Isle of Skye after the 1746 Battle of Culloden?

The Jacobite Rising escalated into this final battle, which resulted in the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie's forces. This defeat led to his flight from Rome to France, which inspired numerous folk songs ("Will ye no come back again, Bonnie Charlie", etc.), and it's speculated "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" is also about Bonnie Prince Charlie. As folk tradition has it, his return from Skye was anxiously anticipated by his people.

Each version of the song carries a deep tie to fiber art clues pointing to this historical event in Scottish fiber art history!

18th-Century fiber samplers from the 1740's to the 1760's are often linked to the (doomed) Jacobite cause that led to the Battle of Culloden. These stitched pieces serve as artifacts of a rough patch in Scottish history.

Contemporary needlework fiber artists create textiles with needle felting and machine embroidery that depict images from the song. It's not uncommon even in modern Scotland to have lyric art of the folk song featuring flowing script with fiber-inspired designs like Celtic knot detailing used in decor.

The song is culturally connected to textiles since it has been used as a "waulking" song. Waulking is the rhythmic process of beating and kneading wool cloth to soften and shrink it. It was considered women's work, so women would gather to work fiber and sing traditional Gaelic songs as they worked to keep on beat together. Imagine waulking at a DFA study!

Symbolism in tartan cloth is a recurring motif in both the music and visual representations of the period. Songs like "Oh, My Bonnie Highland Laddie" explicitly mention the "tartan plaidie" as a symbol of the Prince's identity. Even now there are memorials at Culloden that often feature pieces of tartan in tribute to those who fought.



Bonnie Prince Charlie Entering the Ballroom at Holyrood house by John Pettie, National Museums Scotland.

Jacobite Tartan variations called "the lost tartan" include older versions with mixes of yellow (hope/resilience), white for purity, red for courage, and black. Jacobite versions included more subdued variations of white, brown, black, and subtle teals and blues.

The folk/historical significance is that after the Battle of Culloden, the tartan was banned by the Disarming Act of 1746, which marked Highlanders making or wearing this pattern as a sign of defiance.



Image of the Prestonpans Tapestry from "[Prestonpans Tapestry - The World's Longest Tapestry?](#)"

Okay, now on to my favorite connection! The world's longest embroidered tapestry, The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry, depicts the journey of Bonnie Prince Charles as he sought to bring his father (King James) out of exile and regain the British throne for him. In less than 8 weeks, he landed in the Hebrides, assembled an army of Highlanders, took Edinburgh without a single shot being fired, and took down the Hanoverian army at Prestonpans. He had Scotland! (Prior to the defeat at Culloden, if you're following dates).

The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry is a modern commission on display at The Battle of Prestonpans Museum (the former Prestonpans Town Hall) in Lothian, Scotland. The tapestry consists of 104 panels (each a meter) colorfully analyzing the Prince's story. 260+ Volunteers who live along the route he took in 1745 worked on the tapestry. It was designed by Andrew Crummy and Dorie Wilkie was the head of the stitchers. It was an effort of 24 months and over 25,000 stitching hours and ten million stitches!

Fiber Art and Scottish Musical Folklore! (Continued)

All of this to illustrate Bonnie Prince Charlie's flight from Culloden, the chase where he ran as a fugitive protected by Highlanders, his disguise as he was smuggled in a boat to Skye dressed as a maid to get through checkpoints, and his final escape from the Highlands to France.

His story really highlights the importance of what folk stories our fiber heirlooms are telling us, and what stories we are telling with our fiber art. Comparing the differences in song lyrics, we can also appreciate how variations in fiber art exist and may tell different versions of the same story!

Information for this article was gathered from andrewcrummy.com, The Battle of the Prestonpans podcast on BBC Radio Scotland - Our Story, The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry, and my general folklore studies through music (self study of old folk songs), and through folklore taught at Nicholls State University.

Amazon.com also has a a paperback book titled "The Prestonpans Tapestry" for sale if you'd like to know more.



A reproduction by Hands Across The Sea Samplers. It features wool on linen with thistle motifs.

The Skye Song (Bear McCreary's Version)

*Sing me a song of a lass that is gone
Say, could that lass be I?
Merry of soul, she sailed on a day
Over the sea to Skye
Billow and breeze, islands and seas
Mountains of rain and sun (mountains
of rain and sun)
All that was good, all that was fair
All that was me is gone
Sing me a song of a lass that is gone
Say, could that lass be I?
Merry of soul, she sailed on a day
Over the sea to Skye
Sing me a song of a lass that is gone
Say, could that lass be I?*

The Sky Song (Sir Harold Boulton's version based on Ann Campbell McLeod's rowing tune)

*Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on
the wing.
Onward, the sailors cry!
Carry the lad that's born to be King
Over the sea to Skye.*

*Loud the winds howls, loud the
waves roar,
Thunderclaps rend the air.
Baffled our foes stand on the shore.
Follow they will not dare.*

*Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on the
wing.
Onward, the sailors cry!
Carry the lad that's born to be King
Over the sea to Skye.*

*Many's the lad fought on that day
Well the claymore did wield,
When the night came, silently lay
Dead on Culloden's field.*

*Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on the
wing.
Onward, the sailors cry!
Carry the lad that's born to be King
Over the sea to Skye.*

*Though the waves leap, soft shall ye
sleep,
Ocean's a royal bed.
Rocked in the deep, Flora will keep
Watch by your weary head*

*Speed, bonnie boat, like a bird on the
wing.
Onward, the sailors cry
Carry the lad that's born to be King
Over the sea to Skye.*



April Birthdays

Cheryl Reed

Dorothy Mucha

Duane Klotz

Judy Rice

Michelle Ellis

Sharon Ofsthun

Valerie Beaver

Yulia Ely

Wishing each of you a very happy birthday!

Please send articles for the newsletter to
dfnewsletter@desertfiberarts.org