

Each One, Teach One

desert fiber arts

JUNE 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.

JUNE 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

DFA BOARD MEETING

Saturday, June 13
1:00 – 3:00PM

DID YOU KNOW?

June 13th is World Wide Knit in Public Day!

MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARIES &
DESERT FIBER ARTS GUILD PRESENT



FIBER & FRIENDS

Monday, June 1 at 6 pm

Monday, June 15 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!

JUNE 2026 STUDY GROUP DATES

MON	June 1	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
WED	June 3	Tapestry	1-3pm	DFA Studio
THU	June 4	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	June 4	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
MON	June 8	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	June 11	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	June 11	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SAT	June 13	Eco Friendly & Creative Reuse	10am-12pm	Zoom
MON	June 15	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	June 16	By the Book Knitters	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	June 18	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	June 18	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SUN	June 21	Pop Up Spin	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	June 22	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	June 25	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	June 25	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
FRI	June 26	4-6-8 Weaving	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	June 29	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio

DFA Annual Member Potluck & Meeting

By Nancy Klotz

DFA members brought heaping platters and over-flowing plates of delicious food to the Richland Library on Saturday, May 30th, to celebrate each other and socialize! We applauded our wonderful, talented members with a Tapestry theme:

"A single thread in a tapestry, though it's color brightly shine, can never see its purpose in the pattern of the grand design"

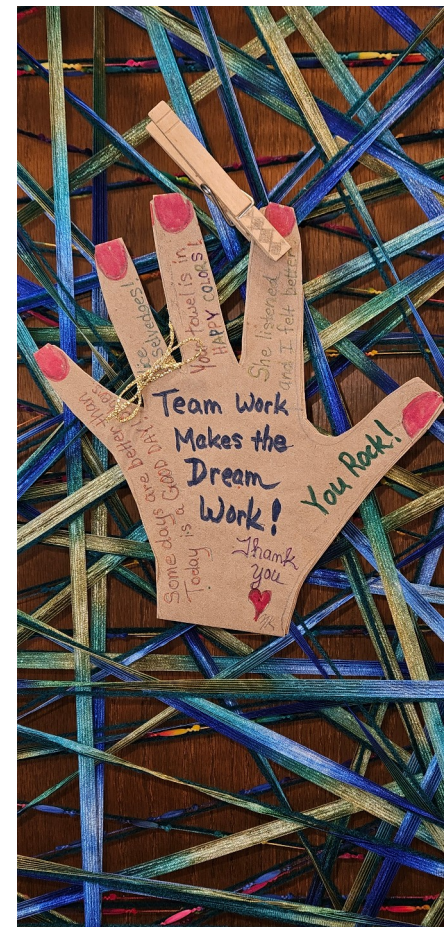
This is the first line of the lyrics from the theme song in the movie, Prince of Egypt. Another poem, "Life is but a Weaving", (also known as the tapestry poem), by Corrie ten Boom, describes how the many threads of our lives weave a beautiful tapestry. But often, we only see the back of the tapestry, which may appear untidy or messy. When the tapestry is complete, the front side is beautiful to behold.

By teaching, learning, supporting each other, sharing kindnesses and building positive relationships, we create the exquisite weaving that is the Desert Fiber Arts Guild. Our members are the threads and DFA is our tapestry.

After enjoying the scrumptious food, everyone set about creating a beautiful piece of group art that symbolizes what DFA means to us. Everyone traced their hands onto brown paper from repurposed grocery bags. Then they embellished the hand with drawings and inspiring words. These thoughts reflected the caring words and heart-warming experiences the members shared with each other over the past year. Then each member secured their paper hand with wooden clothespins to a beautiful, criss-crossed webbing of colored art yarn on a large warping board. Of course the warping board was borrowed from the DFA equipment library! The resulting symbolic and spontaneous fiber art project will be displayed at the studio for everyone to enjoy.

Outgoing president, Kareena, announced the results of the DFA annual election for fiscal year 2026-2027: President - Nancy Klotz. Co-vice presidents - both positions are open. Co-treasurers - both positions are open. Secretary, Ord McConaghy continues for her final year. New Members at Large are Melanie McKinnon, Karla Thrall and Wendy Hahn. Please call Nancy Klotz (509-521-2587) if you want to learn more about the open board positions. Also, the proposed budget for 2026-2027 and bylaw changes were approved.

Kareena gave accolades to the many worker bee members who are behind the scenes of DFA life, as well as the members of the outgoing board. See article, "Accolades to the DFA Worker Bees".



See article, "What's Happening in the Guild" for other announcements and information.

What's Happening in the Guild?

By Nancy Klotz

DFA will be starting the new fiscal year 2026-2027 on June 1st! During the summer months of June, July and August, the guild takes a break from monthly member meetings. Member meetings resume in September. Watch for DFA news via the Blast, the monthly newsletter, DFA website calendar and postings in the studio.

Board meetings will continue monthly during the summer and any member may visit. The next board meeting is Saturday, June 13th, 1-3 pm at the studio. Zoom will be available by request; contact Nancy Klotz at 509-521-2587 or nancyklotz77@gmail.com

The Benton Franklin County Fair is August 25 – 29. It's time to finish up the projects that you plan to submit to the fair for judging. Hope Harkins, the Benton Franklin Fair superintendent (and DFA liaison) is asking for DFA members who would like to be involved in planning the fiber area and demonstrating at the fair, to contact her at (509-378-8220) or brianharkins@msn.com

DFA's skilled multi-shaft loom weavers, (about 12 of them) have been working diligently on "The Davison" project which was under wraps. Vicki Hughs and Cheryl Reed announced that we have permission to talk about DFA's significant part in making complex weaving samples to be photographed for a new edition of this out-of-print, extensive pattern book for master weavers. See upcoming article explaining the exciting news! Thank you Cheryl for being the project lead for DFA!

The DFA Fall Market Planning Committee will have it's first Zoom meeting on Saturday, June 27th at 1 pm. Contact Kareena Anderson at kareena.anderson1@gmail.com for more information.

The biennial DFA Allied Arts display in January 2027 will be led by Betsy Dickinson. Contact Betsy at betsyd1207@gmail.com if you would like to help. She will be scheduling the first planning committee meeting soon!

Books Added to the DFA Library:

Best of Both Worlds: Enhanced Botanical Printing by Jane Dunneworld

Natural Processes in Textile Art: From Rust Dyeing to Found Objects by Alice Fox

Crochet!: Techniques Stitches* Patterns* by Marie-Noelle Bayard

Crocheting in plain English by Maggie Righetti

Knitting Variegated Yarn: Gestalt Techniques by Kitty Bryan

Mix and Match Knit Sweater Designs: Choose your favorite neckline, sleeve length, fit and style, stitch patterns, & so much more by Rita Maassen

Japanese Knitting Stitch Bible: 260 Exquisite Patterns by Hitomi Shida

Aran Knitting, Expanded Edition by Alice Starmore

Vogue Knitting: The Ultimate Hat Book: History, Technique, Design by Vogue Knitting Magazine

Spin Art: Mastering the Craft of Spinning Textured Yarn by Jacy Boggs

Mary Meigs Atwater Recipe Book: Patterns for Handweavers by Mary Meigs Atwater

Favorite Scandinavian projects to weave: 45 Stylish designs for the modern home by Tina Ignell

June's Green Star Award Goes To...

Pam Root



Pam creates beauty from materials that many would cast aside. She has taught workshops, demonstrated at our DFA booths and she is generous in her willingness to share what she learns with others. Congratulations Pam!

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

jeanette.mendell@gmail.com



The Green Corner

By Susan Schmieman



DFA Challenge 2026

The EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse team is throwing out a challenge for 2026. Create something from unraveled, previously knitted or crocheted yarn. Consider any fiber discipline: knit, crochet, macrame, woven, respun, basketry, you name it! You can either unravel your own item or use from an already established collection of unraveled yarn. There will be two bins of unraveled yarn at the studio for you to choose from. Take what you can use. As featured artisans, we hope to see some of these final creations in our Allied Arts Show 2027. Get your creative hats on and go!



Allied Arts Show 2027

Our presence at the quilt show this spring, was an opportunity to share our efforts with the 3R's Reuse Repurpose Recreate. As my husband says to me sometimes, "Well, done Grasshopper!" I say the same to each of you who were and are exploring the 3 Rs.



Our two objectives along with showing off our handiwork are:

1. Gently informing our patrons of the impact of the textile industry on the earth and its inhabitants.
2. And creating family narrative in the preservation and repurposing of our textiles.



Regarding family narrative, MaryAnn spoke about how our craft can bring the nostalgia out in people as they remember the tools, skills, and creations of their family. Jeanette talked about creating felted mittens out of one of her grandmother's handmade sweaters. Sharing how to repurpose items from our family's past would make a great Textile Talk (we were considering last year for the mini talks at Fall Market) Thanks, MaryAnn! Certainly, a new perspective I hadn't considered for this event.

As I look at my own family narrative, I see a small pillow made from a quilt my grandmother made for me. In it are pieces of cloth I can recall from my mother's dresses and my grandmother's dress. This week as we were sorting through memories, a military sweater from our son surfaced. His sibling put it on and began to cry. After 9 years, she could still smell her brother in the sweater. Family narrative keeps the memories alive through preservation in many different forms.

I hope you will consider joining us at our next meeting to plan more excitement for making us all more aware of our planet and who we are.

Next meeting and all are invited by Zoom, June 13, 2026, 2nd Saturday, 10-11AM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81037479815?pwd=yStreIb1N59O8APbjGmVpZ7lWUo3WS.1>

Meeting chat link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/jc/81037479815>

Meeting ID: 810 3747 9815

Passcode: 344492



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.



BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

*Our next meeting will be
Tuesday, June 16th at 6:00pm
in Conference Room A of the Richland Library*

WHAT WE READ

(* means highly recommended)

Mrs. Endicott's Splendid Adventure by Rhys Bowen *

A Victory Garden by Rhys Bowen

American Fantasy by Emma Straub *

More Than Enough by Anna Quindlen

Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult

A Far-flung Life by M.L. Stedman * (sheep!)

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger
(coming of age story, but good

enough to ready twice)

The Things We Never Say by Elizabeth Strout

The Bunburry mystery series by Helena Marchmont (short cozy mysteries)*

They called us enemy by George Takei
(graphic novel)

Artemis by Andy Weir (science fiction)

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten by Robert Fulghum

Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage by Haruki Murakami

Home by Toni Morrison

The Gryphon Chronicles by E.G. Foley

Buckeye by Patrick Ryan

Blind Date with a Werewolf by Patricia Briggs *

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans *

The Surrogate Mother, Never Lie, and The Teacher by Freida McFadden

Reminders of Him by Colleen Hoover

Summer reading afghan for the library's 75th anniversary is all put together and just finishing up the edging. Turned out our largest one yet! Huge thank you to Earlene for stitching together this creation.



Check out the new book store in West Richland (A Lettered Home). Has new and used books and store credit if you're looking for a place to turn in good used books.
5335 W Van Giesen St, West Richland, WA 99353

Local author Paul Eslinger has a new book coming out shortly on Amazon. Powerless, an EMP Post Apocalyptic Novel. He also has a few available on Audible.

WHAT IS ON OUR NEEDLES

Hearthside Pullover by Wool & Pine (brioche) - finished

Shibori Tee by Shena Tschofen

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mid-Columbia Ballet with LIGO and Ki-Be Elementary has teamed to bring you a one-of-a-kind showcase! Our local 4th graders have been busy studying the rhythm of waves--both in the lab and on the stage. See it for yourself this Thursday: LIGO Hanford Observatory Thursday, May 21 at 5 PM 4th Grade Art Showcase Performances by Mid-Columbia Ballet LIGO Facility Tours The energy is going to be *gravitational* Reserve your spot (free) at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/science-art-showcase-tickets-1986038885770>

Desert Fiber Arts Guild liaisons: Lissa Staven, Liz Martini

RIGID HEDDLE

At our Rigid Heddle meetings we enjoy a "Show and Tell" time to admire each other's finished projects. We also enjoy walking around to see what new projects everyone is weaving.

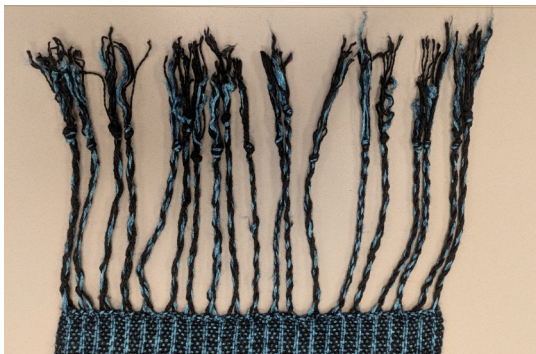
At our May 11 meeting Vivian Myers was weaving a very colorful coffee table runner and Karla Thrall had just finished a light weight and delicate scarf.

Vivian got the idea for the bright colors with a black background from a weaving she saw on a trip to Mexico. Black makes the other colors pop.

Her pattern is Krokragd, a Scandinavian pattern. She was making gold bands in a red background.

The orange metal bars on top of Vivian's project are a spreader, which keeps the edges straight instead of pulling in like weaving often does.

Karla's scarf is delicate and very light weight and warm. The blue weft is viscose/Merino wool. The warp is 5/2 black bamboo. To show how delicate the yarn is, each twisted fringe contains 8 threads.



HANDCRAFT GROUP

The Handcraft Group meets every Thursday via Zoom at 7PM. The group has enjoyed recent discussions on the latest Martha Wells book in the Murderbot series (Platform Decay). We have also enjoyed seeing the project each person is working on including Sue's progress on her sweater and Jane's progress her latest baby blanket. We have also discussed everyone's general misery at the pollen in Spring although we all enjoyed the flowers. The group has also been doing some squares for the project Jane is organizing for the Richland Library to design a square based on a book cover. Here's a few pictures to show off what DFA members have contributed. The books are Project Hail Mary, Moon Called, and Dragonsong. Send an email to plarreau@msn.com if you would like to join the discussions.



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR OPENING

For New Members:

- Send a template welcome letter in a template email with the latest Newsletter attached, and personalize as needed.
- Send new member information to the appropriate committee for Blaster Contact, Id Badge, and Constant Contact.
- Send a welcome email to the blaster to announce the new member. - Requires some backend website work - required training provided.
- Additional contact with members having issues with membership may be required.
- The member app section of the website requires monitoring for new members' joining.

There are no records to keep, and no printing to do. Everything needed is on the website or provided by the Treasurer for those members that join or renew on paper.

Please Contact Carol Kaminsky
carol.kaminsky67@sbcglobal.net
509-169-0233 or Text at 650-575-1720

Fiber Arts and Indian Paintbrush Folklore!

By MaryAnn Mae

What do fiber arts have to do with Indian Paintbrush Folklore? I'd love to tell you!

Legends and tales are types of narrative folklore, passed down through generations to teach, entertain, or explain the origins of things. While definitions vary, I see legends as stories rooted in cultural and historical beliefs, often involving real people or events. Tales, on the other hand, offer survival lessons or social commentary.

The Indian Paintbrush is a vibrant wildflower, usually red, orange, and yellow. But where did it come from? Tomie dePaola's "The Legend of the Indian Paintbrush" offers a magical explanation.

The story centers around Little Gopher, a Native Plains boy who wants to become an artist and bring the colors of the sunset to Earth.

Little Gopher prepares white buckskin as his canvas, intending to paint warrior deeds, dream visions, and hunting scenes. He cleverly makes paint from berries, flowers, and rocks. When he struggles to capture the sunset, the great spirits reward his efforts. They transform the paint he brushed on a hillside into colorful brushes—reds, oranges, and yellows—perfect for painting the sunset.

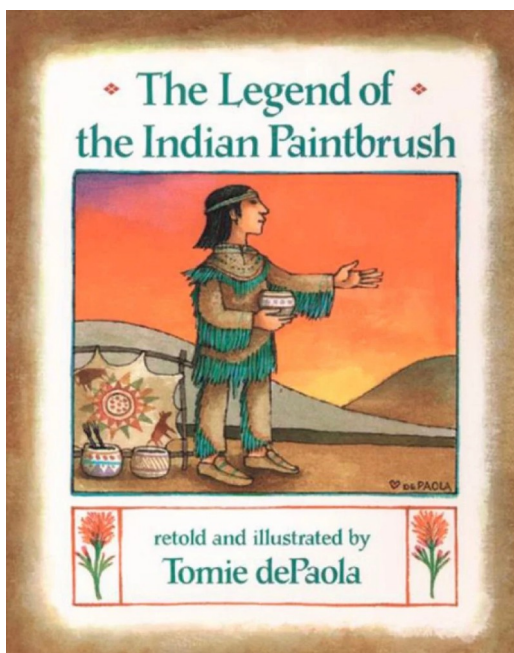
As I mentioned in my February lecture, I'm fascinated by parallels in folklore. The legend of Little Gopher explains the origin of the Indian Paintbrush flower in a charming way, while also preserving native values and reflecting the work of everyday fiber artists.

Like Little Gopher, we prepare our "white buckskin"—whether it's fiber on looms, basketry, or felting. We carefully consider our subject matter: patterns, motifs, stories, and intentions, forming a goal (like Little Gopher's desire to capture the sunset). Ultimately, we achieve our outcome.

We can interpret the Indian Paintbrush legend literally, applying it to color theory, which is a delightful idea. Or, we can draw from it the importance of intention, preserving our stories and hard work. The rewarding culmination of our efforts then blooms into a new creation. This is how legends and tales connect to what we do as artists every day!



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Author's note: Want to learn more? Tomie dePaola's "Legend of the Indian Paintbrush" is a children's classic you can find on Amazon or at other bookstores for the full story. I also recommend searching for images and info about the Indian Paintbrush and other plants used for natural, eco-friendly dyes. Color theory is another fascinating area to explore—our DFA library has great resources! And don't forget to appreciate the colors in your local nature spots; think about how you might use them in your art. Happy flower hunting! I hope you remember the Legend of the Indian Paintbrush next time you see those colorful spikes growing.

SAVE THE DATE!

SPOKANE FLEECE AND FIBER FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 26 – 27, 2026



ROSE BUTTE RANCH
6225 N OLD TRAILS RD, SPOKANE, WA



SPOKANEFLEECEANDFIBERFESTIVAL.COM

VENDORS!



CLASSES!

Hook, Line & Italia

A crochet adventure in the heart of Italy

Karen Whooley is working with the Ireland-based Knittingtours.com to develop a tour in Italy for 2028. She is starting an interest list to see who may be interested in joining her on this tour, which will include staying in Milan, visiting Lucca, and much more.

To learn more or express your interest, please visit <https://karenwhooley.com/italy-2028-interest/>

June 6-7: Fiber Fusion Northwest 2026

The evergreen Fairground, Monroe WA

<https://www.fiberfusion.net>

June 16-21: Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners (MAWS)

University of Montana Campus, Missoula MT

<https://www.montantaweavespin.org>

June 26-28: Black Sheep Gathering

Linn County Expo Center, Albany OR

<https://blacksheepgathering.org>

Accolades to the following members who are the worker bees behind the scenes, who keep DFA going!

Study Group Leaders

Sticks & Hooks, Sue DeMerchant (Kathy Thorndyke, back-up)

Rigid Heddle, Carol Kaminsky (Kathy Thorndyke back-up, Kathy Myers, instructor)

Basketry, Marion Halupczok (& Judy Rice)

Tapestry, Karen Lamar & Kathy Thorndyke

Eco-Friendly & Creative Reuse, Zoom, Susan Schmeiman

Pop-up Spin, Carol Kaminsky
4 – 6 – 8, Cheryl Reed (and Davison Project Coordinator)

Website

Carol Kaminsky, Liz Martini (in training)

Marion Halupczok, (Home page, calendar)

Equipment Library

2025-2026 Carol Kaminsky
2026-2027 Karol Thrall (in training)

Library (books, magazines, DVDs, etc.)

Lisa Saget

Studio Maintenance

2025-2026 Bruce Nicoll

2026-2027 Open

Membership

2025-2026 Cindy Jewell & Carol Kaminsky

2026-2027 Carol Kaminsky

Blaster & Communications (sets up Zoom meetings too)

Kathy Thorndyke (Carol Kaminsky back-up)

DFA Newsletter Editor

Jade Kelly

Constant Contact e-newsletter

Jennifer Ely, Marketing

Nancy Klotz, assistant

Facebook & Social Media Administrator

MaryAnn Mae

Grant Writing Team Leader

Marion Halupczok, assisted by Ord McConaghy & Nancy Klotz

New Member Orientation

Betsy Dickinson

Photographer (informally)

Jeanette Mendell (and everyone else!)

2025 ANWG Regional Conference, DFA Booth Coordinators

Nancy Klotz

Karyn Watson

TriCity Quilt Show DFA Booth Coordinator

2026 Karyn Watson

Afghan Raffle, Sticks & Hooks Study Group Leader – Sue DeMerchant, Coordinators

2025 Lyn Backe

2026 Liz Martini

Benton Franklin County Fair Liason

Hope Harkins

Fall Market Team Leader

2025 – Wendy Hahn

2026 – Kareena Anderson

Allied Arts Team Leader (Jan. 2027)

Betsy Dickinson

DFA Booth Coordinator (Sept., Oct.)

Nancy Klotz

Betsy Dickinson

Student/Youth Outreach at Schools

Breanne O'Hare (Pasco)

Ord McConaghy

Member-lead Workshops 2025-2026

Carol Kaminsky, Rock Weaving

Cindy Jewell, Machine-sewn Baskets

Lois Anderson & Pam Root, Making Accessories of T-Shirt Yarn

Outgoing Board of Directors, 2025-2026

Kareena Anderson, President

Betsy Dickinson, Past-president

Era T., Treasurer

Ord McConaghy, Secretary

First Co-Vice President, Breanne O'Hare

Second Co-Vice President, Nancy Klotz

Karyn Watson, Member at Large

Karen Dodson, Member at Large

MaryAnn Mae, Member at Large

Incoming Board of Directors, 2026-2027

Nancy Klotz, President

Kareena Anderson, Past-president

2 Co-Treasurers, both positions open

2 Co-Vice-Presidents, both positions open

Ord McConaghy, Secretary

Melanie McKinnon, Member at Large

Karla Thrall, Member at Large

Wendy Hahn, Member at Large

By-Laws & Policies

Betsy Dickinson

The Supporting, Welcoming, Learning, Encouraging & Teaching Team: Everyone!!!

Thank you to all of our wonderful, caring members who live by our motto, "Each One, Teach One".



June Birthdays

Anita Osterhaug

Cassidy Daugherty

Debra Clawson

Eileen Nicoll

Franna Pitt

Katy Krebs

Nancy Jo Born

Regina Stredwick

Tammy Patrick

Tracy Hamar

Wishing each of you a very happy birthday!

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