

Each One, Teach One

desert fiber arts

MAY 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.

MAY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

DID YOU KNOW?

May 3rd is National Textile Day!

FINGER KNIT & DYE IT

Thursday, May 7

4:30 – 6:30PM @ Richland Library

Learn more on page 8

FIBER WITH A TWIST

Saturday, May 9

10AM – 3:30PM @ Richland Library

Learn more on page 8

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, May 30

10AM – 12PM

MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARIES &
DESERT FIBER ARTS GUILD PRESENT



FIBER & FRIENDS

First and Third Monday of the Month at 6 pm

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!

MAY 2026 STUDY GROUP DATES

SAT	May 2	Learn to Spin	10am-12pm	Richland Library
MON	May 4	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
WED	May 6	Tapestry	1-3pm	DFA Studio
THU	May 7	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	May 7	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SAT	May 9	Eco-Friendly & Creative Reuse	10am-12pm	Zoom
MON	May 11	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	May 14	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	May 14	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SUN	May 17	Pop Up spin	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	May 18	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	May 19	By the Book Knitters	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	May 21	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	May 21	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
FRI	May 22	Drawloom	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
FRI	May 22	4-6-8 Weaving	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	May 25	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	May 28	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	May 28	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom

May's Green Star Award Goes To...

Lissa Staven



Lissa is productive and comes up with innovative ways of using materials she has at hand. Not only does she spin her own yarn and knit beautiful items, she shares her vast knowledge and skill with other DFA members. Congratulations Lissa!

*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



What's new?

The enthusiasm as we share what green thing we have been creating is contagious! Creative reuse doesn't begin to describe the process, the results, and most of all the joy! Jeanette had a felted sheep which originated at the Harkins/Brower sheep shearing recently. Jeanette attended the shearing event and gathered pieces of fleece for her project. Lois has been busy with paper. She showed us her lovely paper weaving. She is currently focused on the technique and will later determine its use. Carol has been making page markers out of colorful cloth muffin bags (muffin mixes from Country Mercantile).



Quilt Show

Fabulous job, Team! A great prelude to our next event at the Allied Arts Show in 2027 (January)

Allied Arts Show (January 2027)

EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse with the 3 R's has been invited to be the featured artist for the 2027 show. This will be a nice conclusion for our two-year exploration of the 3 R's. We will have opportunity to share our goals and display what we have accomplished. Other thoughts regarding the 3 Rs: Creativity cannot be boxed in; we share "doing things in the moment" and they may come to fruition, or not!

So, consider your creative and worthy efforts for the 2027 show, just 8 months away.

Fiber Garden

Karyn Watson has graciously offered a 4 X 8-foot space to grow a fiber garden as a test plot. Breanne offered to start seeds of indigo and/or flax. Susan has cotton seeds started and will transplant them to Karyn's garden in May. Thank you, Karyn! 4' x 8' raised bed. The cotton can start in the vacant end and after Bill's garlic is out, it's open for any other planting.

Lois Anderson shared a YouTube on making hats from sweater sleeves. Check it out. https://youtube.com/shorts/htu_O2Dpd2M?si=X5lrCcxfBomYR-N

Thank you, Lois!



Next meeting and all are invited by zoom, May 9th, 2nd Saturday, 10-11AM

Desert Fiber Arts Guild is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse

Time: May 9, 2026 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83740599387?pwd=hW2dtlQrwykQhahWRU9aWst4VEXWy5.1>

Meeting ID: 837 4059 9387 Passcode: 209180



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.

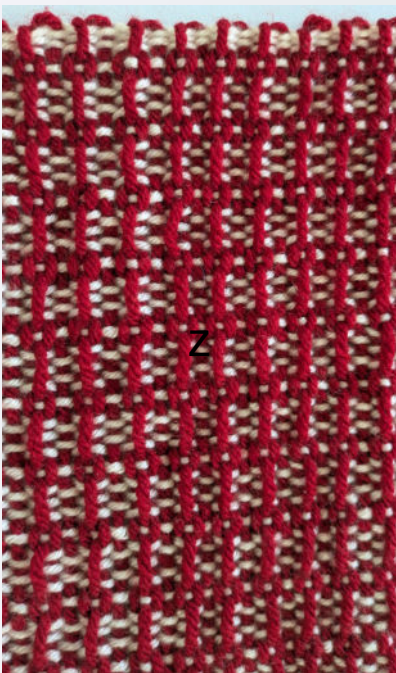


RIGID HEDDLE

Our Rigid Heddle Study Group thanks Kareena Anderson for hosting our April 13 meeting in her home. It was a special time for having our Show and Tell about our finished projects and to walk around and watch each other weaving our current projects.



Kathy Myers passed out a handout on how to thread 2 heddles on a rigid heddle loom. Then she demonstrated warping her 2 heddle loom.



Maryann Mae used page 89 of the Weavers' Idea Book to create her interesting detailed fabric on a 16-inch rigid heddle loom. She will use it for a plant rug.

Maryann will also send a photo of this red project to Breanne O'Hare for the Bingo card project she described at our March General Meeting.



BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

*Our next meeting will be
Tuesday, May 19th at 6:00pm
in Conference Room A of the Richland Library*

We pinned together 49 squares for the summer reading program afghan!

What are you challenging yourself this month? Maybe learn a new crafting technique or a read a different genre of book. Is there one thing you can do that is different?

Visited any yarn shops? I recently went to Jimmy Beans Wool in Reno – wow! Was so fun to see everything. And I've been getting emails that Paradise Fibers has changed back to the original owners, so if anyone is in Spokane could be worth a visit.

WHAT IS ON OUR NEEDLES

Hearthside Pullover by Wool & Pine
(brioche)

Colorwork hat with a bee pattern

And I forgot to ask what everyone
else was working on because we
were so busy with the afghan!

WHAT WE ARE READING

(* means a very good book)

Knight of seven kingdoms by George R. R. Martin

Scary Smart by Mo Gawdat

84 Charing Cross Road by Helene Hanff

Brigands and Breadknives by Travis Baldre

Time of Fog and Fire [A Molly Murphy Mystery] by Rhys Bowen *

The Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code
Breakers

of World War II by Liza Mundy *

Sula by Toni Morrison

The Sorcerer's Army in The Gryphon Chronicles by E.G. Foley (youth
science fiction series)

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

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. <https://midcolumbiaballet.org/> The performance is amazing! Highly encourage everyone to attend, and tickets are very reasonable, from \$10 for general seating to \$20 for reserved seats.

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.

May 9, 2026 from 10-4 at the Richland Public Library. Fiber With a Twist Spinning and Craft Event. Craft and spinning circle; lunch items provided (no pot luck) donations appreciated; door prizes; weaving education - weave a small project which is suitable for children; vendors with yarn and craft supplies. All welcome.

Hats off to America! Bells of the Desert Concert May 15 at 7pm and May 16 at 3pm at Central Church. \$10 Suggested Donation. Half of net proceeds will benefit Columbia Basin Veterans Center. Bellsofthedesert.org or facebook.com/bellsofthedesert

Note the new Desert Fibers Art Guild liaisons for By The Book Knitters: Lissa Staven, Liz Martini

Fiber Arts and Greek Spider Folklore!

By MaryAnn Mae

What does Greek spider folklore have to do with fiber art? I'd love to tell you!

Mythology is a type of folklore involving gods, heroes, or other types of supernatural beings, and the purpose is often to explain the origins of natural phenomena or cultural practices. The Greeks have several interesting myths that tie to fiber arts, but today's story is about Arachne! As with most myths, there are of course several versions. Today I'm sharing the one I'm most familiar with.

Arachne was a talented weaver in Greek mythology who dared to challenge Athena, the goddess of wisdom and crafts, to a weaving contest. Arachne created a tapestry that highlighted the flaws and weaknesses of the gods, which Athena was not thrilled about. Arachne also boasted that her skill was superior to Athena's. In her anger, Athena lashed out, destroyed Arachne's tapestry, and beat her.



Las Hilanderas (The Spinners) by the Sevillian painter Diego Valázquez in 1648. From www.worldhistory.org

Feeling repentant after, Athena transformed Arachne into a spider, condemning her and her descendants to weave forever. Myths often have themes and this myth explores themes of skill, pride, and divine retribution- it also serves as a cautionary tale about challenging the gods, or, as in this case, the goddesses!



Minerva e Aracne by Jacobo Tintoretto is an oil painting (circa 1579) at the Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy.

The story of Arachne is woven deeply into the cultural understanding of fiber arts, especially when it comes to the ideas of skill, competition, and the consequences of pride. Culturally, weaving is seen as a skill worthy of divine recognition. In many cultures, weaving isn't just a craft - it's an art form with spiritual and social or familial importance ("each one, teach one"). As I discussed at the February general meeting, patterns and motifs often carry stories, histories, and cultural identities, making weaving a powerful way to express and communicate. Arachne's story resonates because it reminds us to be mindful of our talents, competition, and respect traditions while celebrating our creative gifts.

It's fun to know that Arachne's story is remembered and celebrated in spiderweb patterns found in lace, embroidery, and woven textiles! Some artists even create pieces that depict Arachne or scenes from the Greek myth.

With warmer weather bringing out more spiders, let's keep in mind that they are our sister weavers in nature's tapestry. And a friendly reminder from Arachne's tale: a little humility goes a long way!

Author's note: *I first read Arachne's story in Ovid's Metamorphoses and enjoy that she was described as being known for being an artist, not for being famous in any other way. Her father was in trades, a Lydian dye-merchant. They had no noble connections, so Arachne was known specifically for her weaving skill.*

Upcoming Events...

Fiber With A Twist

Saturday, May 9, 2026
10 AM – 3:30 PM

New to fiber arts? Try out a new craft!
Free learning activities and demos for **all ages!**

Sponsored by the Northwest Regional Spinners
Association #4030 and the Richland Public Library.

There will not be a potluck, but Fiber with a Twist will provide lunch items.

There will be children's activities.

For any questions, contact Sue Wilson @ suerph1@gmail.com

FINGER KNIT & DYE IT

Thursday, May 7, 2026

4:30 – 6:30pm @ Richland Public Library

For all ages!

Join us in the library Collaboratory to learn how to knit using just your fingers. Then we will be using Kool-Aid to dye your creations in a zip lock bag.

We will be using permanent dye, so please wear a smock or clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

If you already know how to finger knit, you can still knit a strand and dye it with Kool-Aid!

Volunteers, please arrive at @ 4:15pm!



May Birthdays

Janice Higgs

Jeanne Cozad

JoAnne Rieger

Leigh Williams

Lois Anderson

Mardine Campbell

Nowelle Francis

Wendy Hahn

Wishing each of you a very happy birthday!

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

*I tried doing a few things differently this month,
let me know what you think!*