

Each One, Teach One

desert fiber arts

JULY 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.

JULY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

DFA BOARD MEETING

Saturday, July 18

1:00 – 3:00PM @ DFA Studio

DFA STASH BUSTER

July 31 – August 1 @ DFA Studio

MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARIES &
DESERT FIBER ARTS GUILD PRESENT



FIBER & FRIENDS

Monday, July 6 at 6 pm

Monday, July 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!

JULY 2026 STUDY GROUP DATES

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

Membership Renewal Reminder

Please note: The 60-day grace period for renewal will end on July 31.

With our new membership program this means that if you renew after July 31 you will need to complete a new application form and request a new door code because your data and your door code access to the guild shop will have been deleted from the system.

We have a new membership renewal page and a very easy way to renew your membership.

Log in to <https://www.desertfiberarts.org/>

Log in and click on the Member Renew as seen in this screenshot.



The page will open with two buttons to choose from.

1. Renew Member 2026-2027
2. Renew Add-on Member 2026-2027

No Forms to complete; just click on PayPal or the Credit Card button and you will be redirected to the payment screen. If you have an Add-on Member in your household, you can do both; one right after the other. However, they will be separate transactions.

Desert Fiber Arts has had a lot of unexpected expenses in the last few months so please feel free to make a tax-deductible donation with your membership. Membership and any donations are both tax deductible. EIN 91-0950742

If you would rather write a check or pay with cash, there is a PDF file at the bottom of the page that you can print, complete, and submit with your payment. All check and cash payments must be submitted with the completed form.

- If you are paying with cash, please drop the completed form with your payment in the white secure drop box on the wall next to the whiteboard calendar in the DFA studio.
- If you are paying with a check by mail, you can mail it to 101 N. Union St., Suite 208, Kennewick, WA 99336

Thank you,

Carol Kaminsky
Acting Membership Chair
509-619-0233
650-575-1720 text

PLEASE WELCOME KARLA THRALL AS OUR NEW EQUIPMENT LIBRARIAN



Karla joined DFA in November of 2025, so she could lean to weave. She started with the RHSG and now she is also attending the 4-6-8 SG. Karla has made tremendous strides in weaving. It's like she was borne to the craft.

Thank you! Carol Kaminsky

The following are some reminders about borrowing equipment from the Equipment Library.

Our equipment is color coded; **Green Dot** – Take Home to learn. Arrangements can be made for a longer period than the two-month policy. **Red Dot** – Use in the guild shop only. **Yellow Dot** – these items are various types of shuttles and pickup sticks, etc., and do not have cards they are numbered. You can use them by signing them out in the report cover type binder on the return cart.

Most Items have their library cards attached in some way or another. However, these items have card filed in the green binder on the silver return cart. •Rigid Heddle Reeds •Stainless Steel Reeds •Temples •Niddy Noddys •Umbrella Swifts •Warping Boards •Raddles.

When you borrow something place the appropriate card in the holder on the wall next to the office door. It will be collected from there and placed in a tickler file so we can track its whereabouts and when it is due back. If another member wants what you have, we will start a waiting list.

Please DO NOT reshelve the equipment, return it to the cart in the equipment room so it can be inspected for condition and completeness. It will be re-shelved by the Equipment Librarian.

The color code and policy are both posted on the wall above the return cart. These rules are the same for our books and other media. Please be mindful of your fellow members and treat all equipment as if it is very important, as it is.

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@gmail.com
509-169-0233 or Text at 650-575-1720

WELCOME MARYANNE MAY TO THE DFA BOARD!

MaryAnn Mae has agreed to be a vice president on the DFA Board. We welcome her expertise in social media and the optimistic, positive energy and creative ideas that MaryAnn brings to her new position. The DFA Bylaws allow 2 co-vice president positions.

The primary responsibility of the V.P. is to plan and run the monthly membership gatherings September - May, as well as the holiday party and annual potluck/meeting. MaryAnn is actively seeking a co-V.P. and ideas to attract more members to attend, like interesting topics and presenters.

Please contact her at:
mareelizabeth@gmail.com,
or 509-460-9296.

Some Upcoming Events!

July 23-26: Willow Fest Northwest

Reed College
3203 SE Woodstock Blvd, Portland OR
nwbasketweavers.org

July 31-Aug 2: Flock Fiber Festival

Summit Building
900 Pine St, Seattle WA
flockfiberfestival.com

October 2-4: PNW Fiber Arts Expo Class Registration is Open

Vern Burton Community Center
308 4th St, Port Angeles WA
info@pnwfiberx.com

IT IS ALMOST FAIR TIME AGAIN!!

The Benton Franklin Fair will be August 25-Aug 29th. Signup is going on until Aug 1. Fair is always a fun time for everyone and a great time to show off all of our great projects/talents to the community. The Fiber Arts department (Dept 25) is always a big attraction with different fiber arts being demonstrated by DFA members as well as non-member fiber artists. Please sign up to enter your projects into fair at bentonfranklinfair.com.

Drop-off is Aug 23rd, pickup Aug 30. Everyone is encouraged to enter items. There is a ton of public exposure and interest in the fiber arts area. If you have questions, my contact info (509)378-8220 or brianharkins@msn.com.

We always welcome demonstrators to come and share their crafts. A 4 hour shift gets free fair entry and a parking pass. Demonstrator signup will be available in August. Last year we had demonstrators doing carding, spinning, knitting, felting, crochet, weaving – sometimes all at the same time!! It was fabulous for people to see the variety of projects in the fiber arts world.

We always try to have hands-on project for people to try when they visit our department. Your ideas are welcome - especially for Kid's Day. It is nice to have small projects that people can try. It helps them understand what is involved in making things. You are welcome to help people with the projects or just provide project suggestions if you are unable to assist.

We are looking forward to having a huge turnout for projects again this year and to a fun time of sharing with the community. I hope to see you there.

Hope Harkins
(509)378-8220
brianharkins@msn.com

Fall Market is Just Around the Corner...

Planning for Fall Market has started. The Market takes place on November 6th and 7th this year. The committee thought it would be helpful to remind all members, but particularly newer members about what it is and the kind of items we have sold in the past.

Fall Market is the yearly opportunity for all members to sell their fiber related items. Sellers who volunteer at the market receive 80% of the selling price of each item. Those who are unable to volunteer receive 70%. Last year, our top seller made over \$800! That could be YOU this year. You may also choose to donate the full sale amount of one or more items directly to DFA.

Woven towels, fiber related jewelry, scarves, baskets, sweaters, baby blankets, shawls, ornaments, pot holders, cowls, mug rugs, felted soaps, gloves and socks, and many other fiber related items sold like crazy last year.

This year we will also feature our 3-R items -(Reuse, Repurpose, Recreate) with special GREEN tags that explain how the items meet these criteria.

For newer members of the Guild, nothing feels better than seeing a customer smile as she admires the item that YOU made. You are highly encouraged to add your creation to the inventory.

Volunteers will help as docents, cashiers, gift wrappers and demonstrators. Assistance will be needed for setting up and taking down the sale, as well as checking out unsold items. You can help!

It's fun to meet with other members and our public to share your skills and knowledge with people who are truly interested and invested in our Fall Market.

In future articles and blasts, more information will be available about things like pricing, preparing for take in, donating items, and more.

So get your hands busy making cool stuff!

Please put these dates on your calendar:

Donations take-in: October 9th and 10th (these are items for which you are donating the full amount of the sale to DFA)

All other items take-in: October 23rd and 24th

Fall Market set up: November 5th

Fall Market: November 6th and 7th

If you can help, please contact the Fall Market Coordinator, Kareena Anderson at:
kareena.anderson1@gmail.com.

NEWS FLASH!

Our own creative, ecofriendly member Lois Anderson has two entries in the July juried show at the Allied Arts gallery. Here's what she says about her pieces:

The basket piece was taught by Judy Rice at one of our DFA basket classes. It began as painted watercolor paper but I put my own twist on it and entered it in the show under the title "Polygon Basket" The other piece called "Nestled Nest" was made with strips of wool fabric using a technique called Shirret. The original design was for a hot pad, but I rolled it into a bowl shape I stead.

Congratulations, Lois! Keep up the good work! Reception for this show is July 10.

RIGID HEDDLE

Chris Love and Cindy Jewell have been weaving Krokbragd fabric on their Rigid Heddle looms.

Krokbragd is a traditional Norwegian weaving pattern. It is a weft-faced 3 shaft twill weaving technique. For the first 2 picks the reed is in the up position. For the third pick the reed is in the down position. The design is made by 2 heddle rods in different positions. Each heddle rod is a dowel with strings of the same length reaching down to the warp threads.

The weft yarn is beaten tightly to completely cover the warp threads. This makes Krokbragd a thick weaving style, especially good for mug rugs, place mats, table runners, and anything else that needs thickness.

Cindy has been making mug rugs.



BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

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

Some discussion thoughts: What age were you first introduced to knitting or crocheting? How long have you been knitting or crocheting? How have you improved your technique? Is there a pattern you would recommend?

WHAT WE READ

(* means highly recommended)

Above The Bay of Angels by Rhys Bowen
The Lost Girls of Paris by Pam Jenoff
Kin by Tayari Jones
They Called Us Enemy by George Takei
The Martian by Andy Weir*
Family Honor by Robert Parker (First in the series)
American Grown by Michelle Obama
Magician of tiger castle by Louis Sachar
Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton
This kingdom will not kill me by Ilona Andrews
Platform Decay by Martha Wells
There is no place for us by Brian Goldstone
The Expanse by SA Corey
Harry Potter audiobook (Stephen Fry's version)
Plant This Not That
Enshittification: Why Everything Suddenly Got Worse and What to Do
About It by Cory Doctorow*
200 Ripple Stitch Patterns by Jan Eaton
Land by Maggie O'Farrell*
The Bitter End Birding Society by Amanda Cox
The King's Ransom by Janet Evanovich
The Gryphon Chronicles The Devil's Lair by E.G Foley (finally so close
to done with this youth fantasy series. I definitely recommend the
first several as fun easy reads, but wow got longer as series
progressed. 28 hours for the last audio book, and we are on the last
hour now!)

Local author Paul Eslinger's new book is available now on Amazon. Powerless, an EMP Post Apocalyptic Novel. He also has a few available on Audible.

WHAT IS ON OUR NEEDLES

Clincher Shawl
Shibori Tee by Shena Tschofen
Lissa is test knitting Strawberry Streudel by Shena Tchofen.
Linus blankets
DFA challenge to make a project from reclaimed yarn
Squares to practice – Which reminded me that it has been a bit since
shared the below helpful websites. Year of swatches is a great way to
build your knitting skills. Can either make a blanket, or something
you want to sew squares together, or use dishcloth or linen yarn and
have some beautiful kitchen scrubbing or spa style face wash cloths.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Year of swatches	http://yearofswatches.blogspot.com
Ravelry.com	http://ravelry.com
Knitting Help	http://www.knittinghelp.com/
Desert Fiber Arts	http://desertfiberarts.org

Desert Fiber Arts Guild liaisons: Lissa Staven, Liz Martini



The Green Corner By Susan Schmieman



What's New?

So, what has been happening in the ecofriendly and creative reuse world? Take a look:

1. MaryAnn Mae shared her kumihimo on cardboard project with kids. She is teaching them to make bracelets using embroidery threads from her aunt and recycled cardboard.
2. Susan made a wreath from hops vines to be decorated with dried flowers from fresh bouquets from her thoughtful husband.



4. Liz Martini is crocheting a coral themed doily from the unraveled yarn in coral color.
5. Mickie Chamness wanted suggestions for reusing a terrycloth bathrobe, but Betsy suggested that using it for rag rugs was messy once you cut terrycloth into strips. Anyone else have an idea?
6. Susan has refurbished a camp chair given to her by Chris Simonen. The canvas seats and backs were well worn. Now they have repurposed blue jeans and oh-so-comfy.



3. Jeanette is knitting a lace t-top from the unraveled cotton yarn for the DFA Challenge

Let's Talk About Stains!

This last month we discussed various methods for stain removal to bring life back to clothing or household textiles. The following was submitted by MaryAnn Mae. Thank you, MaryAnn!

An eco-friendly way to remove stains and extend the life of your natural fiber clothes, placemats, tea towels, doilies, and other fabrics is to use common household items—and even your own spit!

Baking soda, mixed with water into a paste or sprinkled directly on stains, gently lifts spots and absorbs odors without harsh chemicals.

A few drops of Blue Dawn dish soap, added to baking soda or cool water, cuts through grease and oil-based stains.

Lemon juice is a great, natural alternative to bleach for lightening mildew and rust stains, and the citrus smell is lovely. For best results, apply lemon juice to the stain (you can rub directly or spray it) and then let your item dry in direct sunlight until the stain is gone.

For your own blood stains, your own saliva can help break them down! How cool is that?

Always remember: heat, whether from washing or drying, will set a stain. Heat is the enemy! Always use cold water when scrubbing, rubbing, or mixing pastes for stain removal.

These methods are eco-friendly, avoid harsh synthetic chemicals, and are gentle on your fabrics, helping them last longer! Happy stain removing!

Join us for our next EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse Zoom meeting on July 18th, 3rd Saturday this month at 10 AM. Might be your most informative hour all weekend!



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.



Thank You Mikal and Busy Bee Remodeling!

Last spring, a near-disaster occurred at the studio which we will remember as "The Great Studio Flood of 2026".

Mikal Moulding of Busy Bee Remodeling, generously donated his expertise, labor and materials to DFA to repair the studio's water-damaged bathroom. We are very appreciative of his thoughtful generosity! His skillful workmanship resulted in the bathroom looking like new. The job included drywall replacement in the bathroom and loom room, multiple step finish work (cutting, fitting, taping, mudding, sanding and matching texture), painting, floor moulding, resetting the toilet, putting back the vanity and backsplash and all of the assorted details. He completed the job quickly and professionally. Again, we thank you Mikal!

Mikal's partner is Wendy Hahn, a DFA member who spins, weaves, sews clothing from her handwoven fabric, and is a talented knitter also.

If Mikal's name sounds familiar, perhaps it's because he also arranged for and drove the rental truck for Fall Market last year.

To express our gratitude, the DFA Board voted to approve advertising Mikal's business, Busy Bee Remodeling, in the monthly newsletter for one year. Please share his business card with your family, friends and neighbors.



Fire Safety Challenge

Do you like to declutter and organize spaces? Are you an idea person, a worker bee or both? Can't bend, lift or climb a step ladder, but a good cheerleader? Would you like to be part of a project that makes the studio neater and safer?

Our recent fire safety inspection recommended 3 actions: 1. Upgrade the door locks to allow people to exit quickly. Done ☑. 2. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Done ☑. 3. Clear all flammable materials 24 inches below the ceiling. This is our challenge!

I invite you to look around the studio, talk with others in your study groups and get the creative, problem - solving ideas flowing. What if we think outside the box and...

- had deeper, standard-sized shelving units
- on wheels that could be re-arranged to use studio space efficiently
- that fit standard-sized, clear plastic bins with lids (and they all matched)
- that would save space by being nested when not in use (e.g. when being used to transport stuff to fall market)
- and we asked for big box store donations of some or all of the shelves and bins
- what if we cleared out some of the bulky, mis-matched bins and unused items before the Stash Buster event July 31 - August 1, and put them in the event? All proceeds are donations directly to DFA.

These are a few of the exciting thoughts I've heard so far, and I'll bet you have many more!

If you have questions, ideas, are interested in measuring, designing and planning flexible, efficient storage options, or helping in any way in this short-term, get-er-done, safety challenge, please contact me. I'm excited to see how we can solve some storage and safety issues while creating solutions together!

Nancy Klotz
president@desertfiberarts.org
Cell 509-521-2587

Fiber Arts Bee Folklore! By MaryAnn Mae

What do fiber arts have to do with bee folklore? I'd love to tell you!

Folklore helps us understand the world. Mythology, a type of folklore, explains origins and the unexplainable. Superstitions, another narrative within folklore, are cause-and-effect belief systems rooted in tradition, instead of science or religion. They offer a sense of control over fate, luck, and nature. With bees, mythology establishes "truth," and superstition dictates "rules," both continue cultural practices and oral traditions. Which brings us to the bees!



Honeycomb Collection: Quilt #1
Materials: Encaustic medium,
Japanese paper, birch bark, seed
beads, gold leaf, embroidery floss,
Ontario honeycomb on wood panel



**Honeycomb Collection:
Embroidered Flowers on Gold**
Materials: Japanese paper, encaustic
medium, gold leaf, embroidery floss
and Ontario honeycomb on wood
panel

In ancient Egyptian folklore, bees were believed to be born from Ra's tears, explaining to generations of farmers the reason people must respect bees. The goddess Neith was connected to beeswax and honey. Domestic arts were centered in Egyptian and Mediterranean folklore where spinning and weaving was thought to mirror the geometry of beehives. (If you haven't watched a documentary on beehives, goodness, they are fascinating)! Egyptians hand created hives for bees made out of pottery or mud from the Nile. In Europe and Ireland Bees were kept in woven baskets (called skeps or alvearies) made from twigs, straw, or willow, meaning bees were creating honey within textiles!

Germanic and Slavic textile traditions and bee rituals meant believing that the cloth used to strain honey symbolized a spiritual veil and purification, separating honey (seen as divine) from debris (representing mortality). Some traditions involved drying the straining cloth and displaying it at home to ward off winter sickness. I think if you've ever had a lemon honey lozenge that counts!

In Western Europe "Telling the Bees" is a special tradition: Bees were highly respected spiritual mediums and so people would go to hives to tell the bees of births, marriages, deaths, and other events. For a significant death, like the master of the house, they would cover woven hives with black mourning cloth (another example of color symbology in folklore that I mentioned in my February presentation). If the bees weren't given important information or covered with cloth, it was believed that it could lead to them failing to produce honey, falling ill, or even abandoning the hive. People also believed that swearing near a hive would sour the honey. Now, swearing just means another dollar goes into the jar!

There are modern connections between bees and fiber arts! This was new to me, but artists collaborate with bees by providing fabric and frames for honeycomb construction (Ana Roth's mixed media embroidery is a fun example). Honey is also used as a humectant in watercolor paint, which helps it bind with fiber mediums, and many artists have attempted a variation of a honeycomb pattern in weaving, knitting, crocheting, and quilting.

Honey straining also directly links domestic folklore and fiber arts through the textiles used to filter honey. Before modern filtering systems, traditional plain weavings were used for this purpose. Region and status usually determine what fiber is used to filter honey. In ancient and colonial times flax was available, so linen was used, and Northern Europe has used sheep wool to filter water from wax. Imagine trying to filter with wool! Beekeepers still use unbleached handmade cotton or linen from fiber artists to filter honey. Beekeeping, honey, and fiber arts are all associated with a slower pace of life, homesteading, and developing domestic skills, which are trends that have been returning. I recently started using beeswax lined linen bags as an eco-friendly and plastic-free way to keep homemade bread fresh and it works wonderfully. *(Continued on next page.)*

Fiber Arts

Bee Folklore!

Continued

Bee symbolism in folklore combines spinning, weaving, and honey as symbols of feminine power, sweetness, and divine wisdom. In Celtic and Norse folklore, honey and mead are classic offerings to deities like the Fates and Norns (parallel spinners and weavers, the Fates are Greek mythology and the Norns are Norse mythology), and Hebetrot (the Scottish goddess of healing and spinning).

Many cultures have traditional medicine practices that combine honey and fiber-based poultices for infected wounds.

If you would like to honor time-old bee traditions, consider trying your hand at filtering honey through something hand-woven, name a piece after a weaving deity connected to hearth or honey, gift honey in a hand made basket, or better yet, remember to "tell it to the bees" when you complete your next fiber project. And when you are stitching, weaving, looping, and creating, remember that we aren't all that different from our honored bee friends who are busy with their work in their hives.

Author's note: While the bees will definitely appreciate hearing about your finished fiber projects, please remember to share them with the Desert Fiber Arts (DFA) hive too! We'd love to celebrate your work and learn from you. You can find information about our study groups and monthly gatherings on the DFA website. Also, please consider letting us feature your fiber art on our DFA Facebook and Instagram. Send your photos, short videos, and stories about your inspiration, materials, and creative process to me at medi.admin@desertfiberarts.org.

For information on how to protect bees and the rest of our lovely world through eco-friendly practices, please consider joining our Eco-friendly and Creative Reuse committee. We'd love to have you!



July Birthdays

Andria Domingos

Carol Kaminsky

Fernanda Eckert

Janice Salsberry

Josh Stanfield

Kathy Myers

Lisa Saget

Liz Martini

Marion Halupczok

Ord McConaghy

Valerie Kanu

Vicki Hughes

***Wishing each of you a
very happy birthday!***

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