

Each One, Teach One *desert fiber arts* AUGUST 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.

AUGUST 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

STASH BUSTING FUNDRAISER

Saturday, August 1

10:00AM – 2:00PM @ DFA Studio

DFA BOARD MEETING

Saturday, August 15

1:00PM – 3:00PM @ DFA Studio

FALL MARKET PLANNING MEETING

Saturday, August 22

1:00PM – 2:00PM on Zoom

HANDWEAVERS GUILD OF AMERICA CONVERGENCE

August 12-16

Learn more at www.handweavers.org

DID YOU KNOW...

August 11 is Crochet Day!

MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARIES &
DESERT FIBER ARTS GUILD PRESENT



FIBER & FRIENDS

Monday, Aug. 3 at 6 pm

Monday, Aug. 17 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.



AUGUST 2026 STUDY GROUP DATES

WED	August 3	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	August 5	Tapestry	1-3pm	DFA Studio
THU	August 6	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
MON	August 6	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
TUE	August 8	EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse	10am-12pm	Zoom
THU	August 10	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	August	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
MON	August 13	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
TUE	August 16	Pop Up Spin	1-3pm	DFA Studio
TUE	August 17	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	August 18	By the Book Knitters	6-8pm	Richland Library
SUN	August 20	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
MON	August 20	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
TUE	August 24	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	August 27	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	August 27	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
THU	August 28	4-6-8 Weaving	1-3pm	DFA Studio
THU	August 31	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio



The Green Corner By Susan Schmieman



What's new?

Creating 3D fabric using marbles, rubber bands, and felted wool knitting or wool fabric was a scintillating topic. Three of our members have been creating exciting textures: deflected double weave by Kathy Myers, wool cloth using marbles attached with rubber bands then felted by Lois Anderson, and knitted snail and Christmas tree by Jeanette Mendell. Fresh new ideas for future events...the Fair, Fall Market and 2028 Allied Arts show.

MaryAnn Mae has been working on creating baskets with the lavender stems. After drying, the stems can be rehydrated for use in basket weaving. The stems seem to have more fragrance than the flowers according to Susan. The flowers are going into sachets made from antique hankies, old tea towels, pinloom weavings, remains or samples from other handmade projects. Endless possibilities for sachets. Lois also explained how to make a lavender tea, not for drinking, but spritzing on linens for fragrance. She also uses stems to attach to the backs of frames that might have a wool component in the composition. This protects the art from moth or other bug damage.

Benton County Fair August 25-29 (Setup August 23, take down August 30)

We will be putting a display together for the county fair as invited by Hope Harkins, our fair coordinator. Items for the 3R Reuse Repurpose Recreate display are requested of the membership. We would like to see before and after of the item if possible: for example, Jeanette's recreated sweater from unraveled sweater yarn would have a partially unraveled sweater being wound on a ball winder next to her newly fashioned and hand knit lace top; or, director's chair reupholstered in denim blue jeans with a pair of old blue jeans draped over the chair arm. Questions: Susan at weaveyourartout@gmail.com

Fall Market

Central Church has graciously agreed to our request for a larger space. This year our display space will be doubled. The EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse team is looking forward to having this additional space for showing off 3R items that have been saved from our overloaded landfills, much of which is textile loaded. Since our presence as featured artist in the Allied Arts show had been cancelled, this gives us an opportunity to show off our best 3R efforts. Please consider a portion of your work for the 3R display. Item does not necessarily need to be for sale. Think of it as you would a gallery display as we have done in the past.

I am grateful for this EcoFriendly team; they are a joyful avenue of hope.... won't you join us at our next zoom meeting. Keep up the good work.

We invite each of you to share your 3R projects with us at the fair.

Reuse, Repurpose, Recreate

Our next zoom meeting is August 8, 2026, 2nd Saturday of the month, 10:00AM

Time: Aug 8, 2026 10:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89266788581?pwd=olVvDh7orJX79lMR2pJAW3oS3vUvky.1>



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, August 18th at 6:00pm
in Conference Room A of the Richland Library*

Anyone watching the World Cup? Is it interfering with your crafting or giving you more of an excuse to get projects done?

It's smoke season in the Tricities, age old debate of what is the best kind of air filters to use. Are you a box fan DIY air filter builder, or do you enjoy looking at the latest technology – there's a new Dyson that looks amazing!

WHAT WE READ

*All were highly recommended
this month*

Surviving the Sand, a biography by Helen Lingscheit Heavirland, about her family's struggle to farm the Pasco desert. Set in mid to late 1950's

This Book Made Me Think of You by Libby Page

And To All A Good Bite by David Rosenfelt

Ruth Galloway series by Elly Griffiths

Tea Shop Cozy Mysteries Series by Katherine Hayton

WHAT IS ON OUR NEEDLES

Clincher Shawl

Adding a lace edging to the Simple Tee by Churchmouse Yarns

Donation hats

Bags

Double Knit Temperature blanket (high and low of the day on each side)

Finishing up the DFA raffle blanket

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

Celebration of Life for Marie Gettmann

Sunday, August 16, 2 pm.
At the Wheatland Community Fairgrounds
811 E. Main Street, Ritzville, WA.

Bring your handwork. There will be a Spin-In!

Marie Gettmann was one of the founding members of the Northwest Regional Spinners Association, now NW Spinners and Fiber Arts. She headed the committee to create their training program for fiber arts judges. She taught around the region and at NWRSA conferences. She helped folks in the SW USA start their own judges program and also helped a group in Australia do the same. She was a great teacher, encourager, and was a wise voice of reason in NwRSA. She lived a long and eventful life, based on a ranch in Ritzville raising Angus cattle. It's so natural that her memorial would include a Spin-In.

You don't need to have known Marie to attend. Spinners are a friendly bunch. You may pick up a bit of history of spinning and fiber arts in our region by chatting with those spinning (or knitting or weaving) around you at this event. There will be many stories of Marie's impact on our region.

Contact Cheryl Reed with any questions. She doesn't know much more than the above. But she'll try to find answers for you.

DFA UNRAVELED SWEATER YARN CHALLENGE

The DFA unraveled sweater yarn bins are almost empty. Yahoo! Hope your efforts are coming to fruition. Here is what Jane Campbell created with her cotton reused yarn. Beautiful, Jane! We will be including these projects in the 3R displays at the fair and Fall Market.



ALLIED ARTS SHOW UPDATE

The Gallery in the Park will be undergoing renovations in January 2027. Unfortunately, this is when we were scheduled to have our Allied Arts show.

Therefore, the show will not be occurring as planned. I have been told that we are scheduled for January 2028 and I will follow up throughout the year to ensure that we remain on the schedule.

While this is disappointing news, it does give us more time to make more beautiful items for next year's show.

Let me know if you have any questions.
Betsy Dickinson
Betsyd1207@gmail.com



COME SHOW OFF YOUR FIBER CRAFTS AT THE FAIR



The **Benton-Franklin Fair** is coming up **August 25–29**, and we want **YOU** to be part of it!

Enter Your Crafts!

Come and show off your creativity! Any and all fiber crafts are welcome—knitting, crochet, spinning, weaving, quilting, embroidery, sewing, basketry, and more!

 **Fair Dates:** August 25–29

 **Entry Deadline:** August 1

 Enter online at www.bentonfranklinfair.com

Department 25 for Natural fibers and **Departmentt 14** for items in Acrylic. ALL WEAVING projects [regardless of fiber content] are entered in Dept 25.

Take-In for Entries:

Sunday, August 23 | 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Item Pick-Up:

Sunday, August 30 | 8:00–10:00 a.m.

Demonstrators Needed!

We are looking for fiber artists and crafters to **demonstrate their crafts throughout all five days of the fair**. Share your skills, meet fellow crafters, and help fair-goers discover the joy of making!

Volunteer for a 4-hour demonstration shift and receive:

-  Free fair admission
-  A parking pass

To sign up, **call or text Hope at 509-378-8220**.

We Want Your Ideas!

Do you have a craft that fair-goers could try themselves? Or do you have a fun idea for a Kids' Day craft? We'd love to hear from you!

We also need a few volunteers to help with Sunday take-in and Monday set-up.

Come be part of the fun, share your talents, and help us celebrate the wonderful world of fiber arts!  

WHAT AN AMAZING TEAM!

An energetic, smiling team of 7 DFA members gathered at the studio last week for the Fire Safety Clean-Up Project. The goal was to remove all flammable items within 24 inches of the studio ceiling, as required by the Kennewick Fire Department fire safety inspection. Goal accomplished! Or, if you were watching the FIFA World Cup soccer championships, one announcer would famously shout out GOOOOOOOAAAAAAL!!! 🇩🇪 🇩🇪 🇩🇪 🇩🇪

The team members are all champions!!! A huge thank you to Kareena 🏆, Vicki 🏆, Ord 🏆, Karla 🏆, MaryAnn 🏆, Nancy, 🏆, Susan 🏆, Cindy 🏆 and her handy husband 🏆 and daughter 🏆 too! Susan 🏆 contributed her delicious carrot cake muffins, which energized everyone to finish the job!

Thank you everyone!
Nancy Klotz 🧐



STASH BUSTING FUNDRAISER FOR DFA



SATURDAY August 1st
10:00am – 2:00pm
Desert Fiber Arts Studio

Every forgotten skein deserves a second chance to become something beautiful

Bring your friends, bring your family and other fiber folks! Come dream up your next project! You never know what hidden gems might find their way into your project bag!

The Stash Buster is a fundraiser for Desert Fiber Arts—not a traditional sale. There are no price tags. Instead, you'll make a cash or check donation for the items you choose. Donate what you can while helping support our guild.

Our goal is to untangle overflowing stash collections and get wonderful yarn, fiber, fabric, books, tools, decor and crafty supplies into the hands of people who will use and love them—all while raising funds to support Desert Fiber Arts.

Contact Kareena Anderson for more information.
425-241-8290
kareena.anderson1@gmail.com

Fall Market Countdown

Fall Market is about 14 weeks away, if I'm counting correctly. That gives us time to make more of our popular items.

Good sellers are:

- Tea Towels
- Hats
- Mittens
- Gloves
- Socks
- Dryer Balls
- Scarves
- Placemats and Table runners
- Ornaments
- Holiday décor
- Children's gifts
- Other small items

The great news is that we will be able to use the full space of both rooms at the church for our market. That will give us more walking-around room. Our demonstrators will have more space and we hope to be able to have our workshops and our raffle in the room as well.

Since the Allied Arts show was canceled, we're dedicating space to highlight what the 3 R's team has accomplished over the past two years. We also invite members to showcase special or unique fiber artwork that isn't for sale. Stay tuned for more details soon!

Here are the dates to remember:

- October 9 and 10 - Take in for donated items
- October 23 and 24 - Take in for all other items
- November 5 - Fall Market set-up
- November 6-7 Fall Market

Questions? Ideas? Join us at the next Fall Market planning meeting by Zoom on August 22nd at 1:00 p.m

Contact Kareena Anderson at kareena.anderson1@gmail.com for Zoom link.



Log In to the DFA website to find these Helpful Emails

Helpful Emails for Desert Fiber Arts Guild

Blaster@desertfiberarts.org

Kathy Thorndike

Distributing guild business information

dfanewsletter@desertfiberarts.org

Jade Kelly

Newsletter articles

events@desertfiberarts.org

Marion Halupczok

Calendar updates

info@desertfiberarts.org

Chris Love

Responding to inquiries from the website

Contact Us

library@desertfiberarts.org

Lisa Saget

Books, Magazines, and Media from the DFA

Library

media.admin@desertfiberarts.org

MaryAnn Mae

Facebook and Instagram

members@desertfiberarts.org

Carol Kaminsky

Membership

president@desertfiberarts.org

Nancy Klotz

Contacting the DFA President

treasurer@desertfiberarts.org

Kareena Anderson

Fiber Arts and Japanese Tanabata Folklore!

By MaryAnn Mae

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

While the traditional textile stories we think of are often European fairy tales - like Sleeping Beauty pricking her finger on the spindle of a spinning wheel, this month we're gazing at the night skies of the East! The legend of Tanabata is a sacred astro-mythology story about star deities that explains astronomy, and inspires artists to renew their creative energy through festival lore! It's folklore that projects human activities like weaving into the cosmos.

We start with two gods: Orihime (Vega), the star weaver maiden and final boss of fiber artisans, and Hikoboshi (Altair), the cow herder. Orihime wove the colorful fabric of the heavens along the Amanogawa (the river of heaven that we call The Milky Way), which kept the universe in order. No pressure! Though her work on the Tanabata Tsume (the fabric of time) that entwined the seasons, brilliant colors of the sky, and twinkling lights of the stars was stunning, Orihime was lonely.

Orihime's father, the Sky King Tentei, set her up with Hikoboshi, who was, of course, a major hottie. They fell hard for one another and ditched their work to spend time together. The celestial loom went dark, buried under accumulating materials. (Is this sounding familiar?) Hikoboshi likewise abandoned his oxen, leaving them to wander the heavens. The consequence of Orihime and Hikoboshi spending all their time together was that the sky began to decline in harmony. Yikes!

Angry, Tentei separated the lovers, placing them on opposite sides of the Amanogawa, allowing them to see each other on a single day every year - on the seventh night of the seventh month. (Originally, this was dictated by the solar calendar and celebrated by the Chinese in July. It was later adopted in Japan and aligned with the traditional lunar calendar to fall in August). If the lovers fulfill their responsibilities the rest of the year, magpies form a bridge across the Amanogawa so they can be together.

For fiber artists, the story of Orihime and Hikoboshi is a powerful framework for balancing your passion with your practice. It teaches that there is a balance between our inspirational sparks and the discipline of our labor. When there is a disconnect, stagnation can pop up which can cause overwhelm and abandonment of our projects. For example, I recently had a "dog on the loom" that stagnated my creative energy until I was able to pull out of the rut and find my joy in it again.



Tanabata (the star festival) offers a chance to return to our art with fresh eyes and reconnect by using the traditional lore of August to actively clear stagnation. In Japan, they practice Tazukue, a ritual of hanging cloth in five colors representing the elements of earth, water, fire, wood, and metal. Today we can apply this by going through our stash and selecting colors and fiber that excite us and separating them from our other materials.

Kikaeden, or The Weaver's Wish, is the Japanese practice of praying to Orihime for practical help improving skills, instead of asking for money or popularity. The belief is that creative flow can be bridged (though probably without magpies) so work can flow and the stars can continue to align. (Who doesn't want the lovers to be together?)

Continued on next page!

Fiber Arts and Japanese Tanabata Folklore! (continued)

To learn more about how Tanabata festival bridges textile history and astronomical cycles (guess which month of the year the Vega and Altair stars can be seen together in the night sky?) I suggest looking for videos of celebrations in Sonon Hiratsuka and Sendai. The cities are decorated to look like rivers of moving colors because of Fukinaggashi, giant colorful paper and fabric streamers, representing Orihime's unraveling threads from her heavenly loom. It's breathtaking!

Kamigoromo paper kimonos are also strung around homes and cities to ward off bad energy and bring blessings of improved fiber art skills. A fun way to participate is to write a Tanzaku wish where bamboo, because it grows towards the sky, is used to carry messages to Vega and Altair. Wishes or offerings were wrapped or hung from the bamboo sticks. Weavers hang silk threads called Goshili no Ito to ask Orihime to bless them with steady hands.

Lastly, because the celebration is about renewal and removing stagnation, it is a time of cleansing homes, studios, and work spaces, as well as refreshing tools for the last summer season. Our DFA stash buster is perfectly coinciding with Tanabata. We can organize and purge items that haven't been used, like that fiber we had to get ("It was on sale") and now isn't serving our art or space.

For more Tanabata fun, hang a small fabric Kamigoromo (Kimono talisman) in your craft space. Let it be a reminder and encouragement to renew your creative energy. We're excited to share this energy of renewal and release of stagnation during our stashbuster fundraiser at the studio on August 1st, as we think of Orihime and Hikoboshi. May your tools be perfectly suited for your art, your fiber inspiring, your space filled with flowing energy, your hands patient to learn, your mind wise to retain knowledge, and your heart open to "each one teach one!"



August Birthdays

Bonnie Baker

Breanne O'Hare

Cassandra Wald

Hollie Zepeda

Janet Schoel

Nancy Klotz

Patty Elder

Peggy Berk

Robin Phillips

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

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