

Each One, Teach One desert fiber arts

FEBRUARY 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.

FEBRUARY 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, February 7
10:00AM – 12:00PM @ DFA Studio

LEARN TO SPIN: FIBER WITH A TWIST

**Saturday, February 7 &
Saturday, February 21**
10:00am – 12:00pm
@ Richland Public Library

SAVE THE DATE: CREATING WITH T-SHIRT YARN

Saturday, February 21
10:00AM @ DFA Studio

UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS

See page 9 for more information.

MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARIES &
DESERT FIBER ARTS GUILD PRESENT



FIBER & FRIENDS

Monday, Feb. 2 at 6 pm
Tuesday, Feb. 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.



FEBRUARY 2026 STUDY GROUP DATES

MON	February 2	Basketry	12-3pm	DFA Studio
TUE	February 3	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
WED	February 4	Tapestry	1-3pm	DFA Studio
THU	February 5	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	February 5	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
MON	February 9	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	February 10	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	February 12	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	February 12	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SUN	February 15	Pop Up Spin	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	February 16	Basketry	12-3pm	DFA Studio
TUE	February 17	By the Book Knitters	6-8pm	Richland Library
TUE	February 17	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	February 19	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	February 19	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
MON	February 23	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	February 24	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	February 26	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	February 26	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
FRI	February 27	Drawloom	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
FRI	February 27	4-6-8 Weaving	1-3pm	DFA Studio

February's Green Star Award Goes To...

Nancy Klotz



Nancy continuously saves materials from the landfill by coming up with ideas to use them in creative projects, which she then shares with the DFA membership. Congratulations, Nancy, and thank you for your generosity!

*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



Greetings, Green Friends! Being the new year and all, some of us think this will be the year I am going to get my craft room/fiber stuff organized/d downsized. You may be thinking this is the year for big changes of some sort. This is my hope every year.

Yesterday was a full day, overcrowded with much to do. This is always the time when I try to find something quickly in my chaotic weaving room. It doesn't generally go well and I realize I really, really, and I mean it, I must do something. As it happened, Nancy Klotz sent me an AARP link on decluttering. What timing! So, I want to share something with you as I begin my decluttering process.

Remember our goal it to keep things out of the landfill. The AARP article was encouraging all of us to donate those items we are not using to places that will use them. The types of items were listed alphabetically beginning with Appliances. Habitat for Humanity might be a place you could donate appliances, for instance.

<https://www.aarp.org/home-living/guide-to-getting-rid-of-anything/>

In my own home, my first and obvious stash I need to find new home for is the yards and yards of fabric I used for rug weaving. I no longer have a rug loom and have moved on to other kinds of weaving. So, giving my fabric to quilters and quilting charities is a no brainer. And I am here to have you hold me accountable. I will get that done by the end of the month.

However, Dear Rag Weaving Friends here is where you come in. I have much of the fabric cut in one-inch strips and wound into balls, ready for weaving.

They are yours for the asking (Susan, weaveyourartout@gmail.com)

They can be used at the studio on the rug loom, or you can take them home to your own loom. Just help me keep those strips out of the landfill. When you are overwhelmed with too much stuff, it would be so easy to just throw it out...but that would not be a green thing to do and my conscience immediately pings me.

So, do check out the internet to see who might be interested helping with your decluttering efforts for 2026. Do join us for our EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse Zoom meetings which will be on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10AM-11AM. We share our ideas and news on how we can practice the 3R's: Reuse, Repurpose, Recreate. 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.



BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

*Our next meeting will be
Tuesday, February 17th at 6:00pm
in Conference Room A of the Richland Library*

Many thanks to Earlene for heading up By The Book Knitters for the last 15 years. Best wishes as she moves to be with the grandkids, we'll hopefully see her around a bit more before she leaves.

If anyone has books they have read and want to email me the list before the monthly meeting, feel free, so you don't have to watch me attempt to capture them all during discussion time.

We wound the yarn for the annual summer reading program afghan. The theme is Richland 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.

Here are the square Instructions:

Using the Library Yarn

- Cast on around 40 stitches (depending on your gauge)
- Finished square must be 8 ½ x 8 ½ Inches
- Knit 5-7 rows of Seed Stitch as a beginning selvedge
- Knit 5 Seed Stitch the Beginning and End of each row (side selvedges)
- The Center Section can be whatever pattern you decide.
- Knit another 5 – 7 rows of Seed Stitch as an ending selvedge
- Seed Stitch - Alternate knit (K) and purl (P) stitches across each row (e.g., K1, P1 across, then P1, K1 across). This gives a nice border to be able to attach all our squares together.

Please bring your finished squares to the library by May 19th. We will have yarn at our meeting each month until it is all done, bring back the squares and leftover yarn as you finish to pass along to others.

If you need more inspiration for your patterns, we looked at several Stitch Dictionaries:

- The Doodle Knit Directory by Jamie Lomax (library has if you want to check it out)
- Knitting Block by Block by Nicky Epstein
- Knitovation by Andrea Rangel
- AlterKnit by Andrea Rangel

And if you're reading this far, I'm one of the organizers of this, so want to make sure everyone is invited to a Free Rummage Sale!

When: Saturday January 31st, 9am-3pm

Where: FBC Richland - 1107 Wright Ave, Richland

This is the time of year many of us clean out and organize our homes and is an opportunity for a free rummage "Sale". Come share in a free exchange of items where everything is gifted—no buying, selling, or bartering.

Bring items you no longer need (in clean and good condition only), take what you can use, or simply stop by to say hello. Everyone is welcome, and there is no requirement to bring anything.

Drop off donations: Thursday January 29th 4-6pm & Friday January 30th @2:30-5:30pm or Saturday when you come to shop.

Shopping: Please bring your own bag or box

Items leftover at 3pm on Saturday will be donated!

Melany Bickford
melany.eslinger@gmail.com

What We Read on next page!

BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

What We Read

(means a very good book)*

The audio version of the Brandon Sanderson series of graphic novels (actually describes the pictures, for those who prefer audio books.)

Undeclared by Jim Thorpe

So Far Gone by Jess Walter

The Butter in the Well (series) and Egg Gravy (recipe book) by Linda K. Hubalek *

Rough magic: Riding the World's Wildest Horse Race by Lara Prior-Palmer

Vera Wong's unsolicited advice for murders by Jess Quintero

True Grit by Charles Portis

The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau by Kristin Harmel

Circle of Days (building of Stonehenge) by Ken Follet

Black Wolf by Louise Penny *

Girl with ice in her veins: A Lisbeth Salander Novel by Karin Smirnov

The Wedding People by Alison Espach * (trigger warning for theme but well written)

Heart the Lover by Lily King

Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid *

Lightbreakers by Aja Gabe *

Sea road (short stories) by Ursula K. Le Guin

Cafe on the Edge of the World by John Strelecky

A Sherlock Holmes Bookshop Mystery series by Vicki Delany (cozy mysteries*)

Art of Driving in the Rain by Garth Stein

Shanghai Girls by Lisa See

How to Be an American Housewife by Margaret Dilloway

Hercule Poirot Christmas by Agatha Christie

A Christmas Tragedy by Agatha Christie

Christmas Tree Farm series by Jacqueline Frost

Christmas Cupcake Murder by Joanne Fluke

Merry Christmas, Alex Cross by James Patterson

The girl from devil's lake by JA Vance

The seven rings by Nora Roberts (3rd in the trilogy)

Classics - have any recommendation? Please share!

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

The Hobbit by JR Tolkien

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift

Lost Roses by Martha Hall Kelly

The Vampire Knitting Club series by Nancy Warren

The Crone by Barbara Walker (We talked a bit about this knitting

legend who passed away in December. She has many classic stitch

dictionaries, but this is one of her non-knitting books.)

FIBER & FOLKLORE:

A Journey Through Threads, Stories, and Tradition

We are thrilled to announce that our very own MaryAnn Mae will be presenting a captivating and richly informative program at the January 10th General Meeting! Her presentation, Fiber and Folklore, promises to weave together history, myth, and the timeless art of fiber in a way that will delight knitters, spinners, weavers, and storytellers alike.

MaryAnn will guide us through the cultural heart and soul of fiber arts, drawing inspiration from a collection of fascinating works that explore how threads connect us across generations and traditions.

For further information, our DFA library includes:

The Knitting Goddess: Finding the Heart and Soul of Knitting Through Instruction, Projects, and Stories by Deborah Bergman — a celebration of knitting as both craft and calling, rich with wisdom and creativity.

Spin Span Spun: Facts and Folklore for Spinners and Weavers by Bette Hochberg — an enchanting blend of practical knowledge and age-old legends from the spinning world.

Costume Patterns and Designs by Max Tilke — a visual and historical treasure trove showcasing traditional garments and textile designs from around the world.

Basket Tales of the Grandmothers: American Indian Baskets in Myth and Legend by William A. Turnbaugh — a powerful exploration of Native American basketry as storytelling, symbolism, and cultural heritage.

HAPPY READING!

January's presentation at the General Meeting...

...was nothing less than inspiring. Pam Root and Lois Anderson shared some beautiful jewelry pieces they created. I dug around in the library for more ideas for handmade jewelry. Here are some resources (but not all) discovered!

1. Bead Crochet Jewelry: An Inspired Journey through 27 Designs (Knit and Crochet) by Bert Rachel Freed
2. Patterns and Graphing for Bead Crochet Ropes by Judith Bertoglio-Griffin
3. The Paper Bead Book by Beverly Dieringer
4. Braids: 250 Patterns from Japan, Peru, Beyond by Rodrick Owen
5. Chinese Knotting: Creative Designs that are Easy and Fun by Lydia Chen
6. The Art of Felt Making: Basic Techniques for Making Jewelry, Miniatures, Dolls, Buttons by Anne Vickery
7. Making Kumihimo Japanese Interlaced Braids by Rodrick Owen
8. Knitted Flowers by Nicky Epstein
9. Knitting Wire by Nancie M Wiseman
10. Learn Lucet: An Ancient Cording Tool by Jennifer Hansen
11. Spin Art: Mastering the Art of Spinning Textured Yarn by Jacey Boggs
12. Tassels by Doris Hoover
13. Tatting Jewelry by Lyn Morton

If any of you talented members have questions for help searching for textile topics feel free to reach out and I'll do what I can.

Lisa Saget

WELL, IT SOUNDED LIKE A GOOD IDEA...

Our Green Queen, Susan Schmieman started the thrums collection, saying we could use thrums for all all kinds of things. Like a dog bed or something.

When we had the most recent stash sale, I found a few yards of fleece with dog paws printed on it, so thought "Great! I'm going to make dog beds!"

I collected all the thrums and took them home. I sewed up the dog bed and as I stuffed it with massive amounts of thrums, I realized they didn't smell very....let's say....fresh. So I decided to wash the dog beds when they were finished, fully recognizing it could cause some felting of the thrums.

Felting happened. Two big, lumpy dog beds were pulled out of the wash. (Actually yanked, cranked and twisted out of the wash.) What a mess.

In an effort to save a "really good" idea, I sliced open a seam, pulled out the clean and fresh smelling mess and proceeded to cut it apart in little bits. I restuffed the dog beds and now have two cozy pillows for my dogs...that can never be washed again.

So, if you ever decide to use thrums for something, dog beds are not the thing to do.

You're welcome.

Betsy Dickinson



DRAWLOOM STUDY GROUP

The drawloom study group is back in action. We have begun weaving on the newly rearrange pattern heddles.

If you need some coaching to get started or a refresher on how to use the drawloom, contact Susan: weaveyourartout@gmail.com

If you have woven on a floor loom, you can weave on a drawloom. The warp is off-white, 22/2 cottolin. Weft can be 16/2, 10/2, or 8/2 with a firm beat. Images can be 17 units wide. Think of graph paper with 17 squares wide.

We meet the 4th Friday of the month 10-12.



Check out these upcoming events!

Red Alder Fiber Arts Fest

February 12-15, 2026
Hotel Murano
Tacoma, WA

info@redalderfiberarts.com

Learn more at redalderfiberarts.com

Purl Side Fiber Fest

February 28 – March 1
Harkenrider Senior Activity Center
Hermiston, OR

info@purlsidefiberfest.com

Learn more at purlsidefiberfest.com

MAWS (Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners) Conference

June 16-21 2026
Open registration begins February 14, 2026

Learn more at montanaweavespin.org

HGA Convergence (Handweaver's Guild of America Convergence)

August 11-17, 2026
New Orleans, LA

Learn more at weavespindye.org



February Birthdays

Charlotte Friberg

Oksana Ison

Susan Schmieman

Theresa Hicks

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!*