

Each One, Teach One *desert fiber arts*

MARCH 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.

MARCH 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

PURL SIDE FIBER FEST

Saturday, Feb 28

10:00AM – 4:00PM

Sunday, March 1

11:00AM – 4:00PM

Harkenrider Senior Activity Center
Hermiston, OR

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, March 7

10:00AM – 12:00PM @ DFA Studio

LEARN TO SPIN: FIBER WITH A TWIST

Saturday, March 7 &

Saturday, March 21

10:00am – 12:00pm

@ Richland Public Library

MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARIES &
DESERT FIBER ARTS GUILD PRESENT



FIBER & FRIENDS

Monday, March 2 at 6 pm

Monday, March 16 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!

MARCH 2026 STUDY GROUP DATES

MON	March 2	Basketry	12-3pm	DFA Studio
TUE	March 3	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
WED	March 4	Tapestry	1-3pm	DFA Studio
THU	March 5	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	March 5	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
MON	March 9	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	March 10	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	March 12	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	March 12	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SAT	March 14	Eco-Friendly & Creative Reuse	6-8pm	Richland Library
SUN	March 15	Pop Up spin	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	March 16	Basketry	12-3pm	DFA Studio
TUE	March 17	By the Book Knitters	6-8pm	Richland Library
TUE	March 17	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	March 19	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	March 19	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
MON	March 23	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	March 24	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	March 26	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	March 26	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
FRI	March 27	Drawloom	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
FRI	March 27	4-6-8 Weaving	1-3pm	DFA Studio
TUE	March 31	Handcrafts	6-8pm	Richland Library

March's Green Star Award Goes To...

Kitty Bryan



Among her many talents, she hand-dyes with vegetable dyes, spins her own yarn and reclaims cashmere yarn. She even knitted a basket using fishing line rescued from the beach!

Congratulations, Kitty!

This photograph is Kitty's author picture from her book, 'Knitting Variegated Yarn', credit to VA Davis Photography. There is a copy of her book in our DFA library, so be sure to check it out!

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

jeanette.mendell@gmail.com

Behind the Scenes at DFA

By Betsy Dickinson

It won't be long before the flowers are blooming and gardens are in the works. We made it through another gray winter. Good thing we have our yarn habits to keep us occupied.

There's a lot happening behind the scenes. The most pressing issue is that we need an ALLIED ARTS COMMITTEE CHAIR. I am willing to assist, but I can't be the chair as I have some travelling to do. This person will coordinate the take-in, set-up and take down of our bi-annual show at Gallery in the Park in Richland. The committee determines the theme and the featured study group or fiber art form. One person on the committee needs to be able to produce a spreadsheet of the inventory one month prior to the show and coordinate with the show organizer at the Gallery. The set-up of the show includes gathering whatever display items will best show off our fabulous works of art.

Please let a board member know if you can volunteer for this position. Planning needs to start ASAP!!!!

How about that front room? Thanks to Kareena and Breanne for making the room like a working studio. It completely changed the atmosphere when you enter the studio.

Do you want to be part of a study group but can't make it work with your schedule? Any member can start a new study group in the evening or on the weekends or any other time the studio is not scheduled. Gather a few people who are interested and let the Board know when you'd like to start and we will get it on the calendar.

And finally, lots of kudos to our librarian, Lisa Saget. She has researched many of the books in our library and found that we have hidden treasures galore. Many of the books are out of print or very difficult to find. Take advantage of this resource! Remember, any time you pull out a book or magazine, sign it out and put it in the return box. This helps Lisa know what books are being used. Do this even if you use it in the studio and don't take it home.

And finally, DFA needs a Workshop Coordinator. This person will research and recommend workshops to bring to our members. There is money available in the budget for workshops or guest speakers. If you are interested, please notify a board member.

In the meantime, if there is a workshop or presenter you would like to see at DFA, please let the Board know and we will assist you with the arrangements.

RIGID HEDDLE

At our last Rigid Heddle meeting, Carol Kaminsky and Karyn Watson were working on a project several of us thought we would like to try. Carol and Karen had been looking at the 2026 Spring Little Looms magazine. They decided the Clasp Weft project on page 41 looked very interesting.

It is Clasp Weave that starts in the middle and picks up on each side. Karyn uses 3 shuttles. Carol works with one shuttle and pulls from a yarn cone on each side on the floor.



BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

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

There has been lots of watching the Olympics as we knit our squares for the summer reading afghan. Figure skating and curling were the top discussions. The theme is Richland's 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.

What is on our needles:

Accent on the Upbeat Cowl by Wonderland Yarns

Thinking about attempting brioche with the Hearthside Pullover by Wool & Pine

Deliciosa sweater by Norah Gaughan

Falderal (2023 Mystery Shawl) by Rosemary (Romi) Hill

Northeasterly by Skeinanigans

Reminder for the squares:

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.

See what we read on the next page...

BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

continued

WHAT WE READ

(* means a very good book)

*Separation of church and hate by John Fugelsang
*very thought provoking

Once there was by Kiyash Monsef

Listen for the lie by Amy Tintera

The Inheritance & Sanctuary by Ilona Andrews

The Hallmarked Man by Robert Galbraith

The borrowed life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston

Rage against the dying by Brigid Quinn

The Psychology of time travel by Kate Mascarenhas

Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano

The Study of Animal Languages By Lindsay Stern

East of Eden by John Steinbeck

The Silo Trilogy (Wool, Shift, Dust) by Hugh Howey (discussed the show

version as well – just called Silo and events are in a different order

than the books, so maybe pick one or the other)

A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms (A Song of Ice and Fire) by George R. R. Martin

The Nazi and the Psychiatrist by Jack El-Hai

Familiaris by David Wroblewski

The Running Dream by Wendell Van Draanen (Movie Flipped on Netflix by

the same author inspired to pick up other books by the author)

Diamonds and Daggers by Nancy Warren (paranormal cozy mystery)

Herringbones and Hexes by Nancy Warren (paranormal cozy mystery)

Knitting Variegated Yarn: Gestalt Techniques by Kitty Bryan (can be found on Amazon – local author) – we had a bit of a discussion about how our variegated skeins in the blanket squares look and this book has the technique behind it.



The Green Corner



By MarryAnn Mae

Spring cleaning your fiber stash is about more than tidying up; it's mindfully decluttering in a way that benefits you, your space, and the community. As Jennifer Ely put it, think of it like a blend of Lent's spirit of renewal with refreshing your space in a practical way. Start by evaluating your textiles—fiber, clothing, linens, and even materials for crafting, remembering that the beauty of fiber is its versatility!

Asking yourself these questions helps to evaluate your options for repurposing and transforming what you have (or responsibly passing them on to others who are able to) in a way that renews our lives in alignment with the symbology of the spring season:

- Have I used this in the past year?
- Does this item still fit my current lifestyle and needs?
- Is it in good enough condition to be donated or repurposed?
- Do I have duplicates or similar items that serve the same purpose?"
- Does this item bring me joy or serve a practical purpose?
- If I were shopping today, would I buy this item again?
- Am I keeping this out of guilt or obligation?
- Could this be better used by someone else?
- Is it repairable, or beyond saving?
- What is the most sustainable way to dispose of this?

If you're overwhelmed with evaluating your space, recruit a friend and make a party of it! Maybe you can take turns, going through your things and then going through theirs. Many hands make light work and bring a community together. Happy eco-friendly spring cleaning!

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.



CERAMIC & COILING COLLABORATION

New Learnings at the Basket Study Group



The Basket Study Group (BG) has been experimenting with ceramic bases that are embellished with pine needles. Let's explore the beautiful basket Vicki H. completed at the February meeting of the BG. Look closely and you can see the bright orange base.

Hope H. has been throwing bases on her new potter's wheel for the BG. She lets them dry before taking the bases to Prosser to fire. Some are flat, some are more bowl shaped, and some have asymmetrical tops. Hope works with the BG to design the bases for workability & aesthetics. Round #1 of bases is almost complete. Everyone is excited & noodling about Bases Round #2.

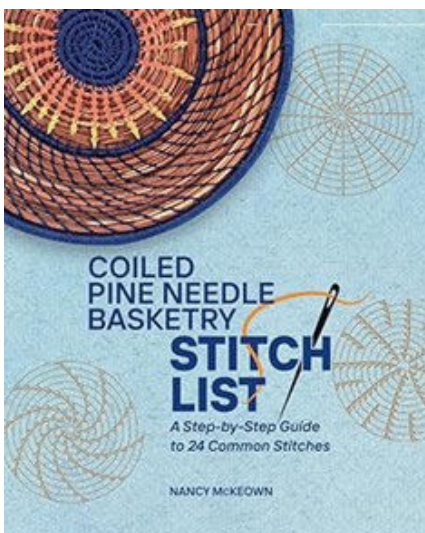


Vicki even made a lid for her basket.

What a sweet little basket collaboration it has been.



Janet S. working on her stitching.



The BG is exploring different stitches and use of beads. Check out the multitude of stitches!

The BG is very grateful for Judy R.!

She processes all the pine needles by cooking them in glycerin water.

The learning never ends!

March is National Crochet Month...

...which is a good time to celebrate our very own DFA member, Karen Whooley.

Karen is an award-winning crochet designer, author, and instructor. She started her crochet journey with her Nonna teaching her basic chains. Then years later, Karen purchased a Leisure Art leaflet where she learned to read patterns.

Fast forward to 1998, she was encouraged to submit her designs to publications and began her career selling her creations. Frustration began when the publishers wanted her to use worsted weight instead of finger weight yarn. With Italian Lace being her specialty, this didn't work out so well. Which led her to begin self publishing in 2010.

Karen has 27 published books. Our library carries 4 of her books that she generously donated.

A Garden of Shawls

Coastal Crochet

Pineapple Passion

Modern Italian Lace Crochet

She has taught at major events such as: Interweave Yarn Fest and Stitches West among others.

"I specifically did not investigate her before my book because I wanted to get to know her as a person first. She is amazing! She is the epitome of DFA's mission of Each One Teach One. It extends beyond fiber work. She offered a general meeting on 'So You Want to Write a Book.' She mentored me patiently step-by-step through the publication process. I would not have succeeded without her. She is internationally recognized and an asset to our guild!"

— Kitty Burns Bryan

Refundable deposit only \$250pp

Join Teva and Karen Whooley!!

7 Night Knitting & Crochet Group Cruise to Glacier Bay, Alaska

Join us for a gorgeous 7-night journey along the Inside Passage where you will enjoy Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, Victoria B.C. while **working on your current project!** Plans include an onboard cocktail meet and greet, yarn shops in Skagway and Juneau, onboard sit and stitch groups, complimentary patterns and a chance to sign up for crochet classes with PNW's own Karen Whooley!

There is nothing better than your favorite hobby with a view, so don't miss your chance to sign up!

View itinerary here: [Itinerary](#) or scan QR code:

Starting at *\$3452 per couple interior

13-20 June 2026

***Price includes:**
All taxes and fees Gratuities
Cocktail Party 2 patterns
Sit and Stitch Meet-ups

QR code

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Learn more about Karen:

Her Story

<https://karenwhooley.com/pages/mystory>

Her Website

<http://karenwhooley.com/>

Her Newsletter

<http://karenwhooley.com/subscribe>

On pins and needles: Why Olympians pass the time knitting

Originally published on NPR.org by Alana Wise



When you imagine what an Olympic-level athlete might pack to take to the Winter Games, you probably imagine things like ski goggles and athletic gloves. For a growing number of athletes, the packing list also includes knitting needles to stitch the whole picture together.

For them, knitting supplies are an essential piece of mental health gear.

"We are very busy over here during some points. We also have a lot of downtime," said U.S. men's cross-country skier Ben Ogden.

"During that downtime, it's essential that we rest and put our feet up and relax to get the best out of our training and racing sessions. So, for me, knitting is a great way to be completely relaxed, off my feet, and just chilling without just looking at my phone all the time."

Ogden this week became the first U.S. men's cross-country skier to win two Olympic silver medals. In the sprint classic, his silver medal win marked the first time an American man had placed in the sport since 1976.

For all his intensity on the track, however, the Olympic-podium-backflipping 25-year-old takes a more mellow view on knitting.

"I suspect this is true for a lot of athletes: I think a lot of us have very single-minded sort of brains, and we really tend to fixate on things a little bit, which can be both a blessing and a curse," Ogden said.

"It's great when it comes time to work on your weaknesses and get better, but when you have a bad day, or something's bothering you and you're not feeling quite right, it can be really draining to just be obsessing over it all the time. And I find that having a project that you can obsess over in a really productive way is a super essential thing for me."

Ogden is hardly the first elite-level athlete to turn to knitting during the intensity of competition. *(continued on next page)*

On pins and needles: Why Olympians pass the time knitting

continued

Team Finland famously knitted their way through the 2018 Winter Games. British Olympic diver Tom Daley went viral at the Tokyo 2021 games for knitting in the stands during an event. And this year, Canadian biathlete Adam Runnalls has developed a devoted following on his Instagram account, where the Canadian biathlete posts his knitting feats alongside training content.

Ogden picked up the habit from his friend and fellow U.S. skier Luci Anderson, who convinced Ogden to knit himself a sweater rather than buy one from the store.

"I wear a lot of logos as part of my job, so I was really interested in having some pieces that don't have any logos," Ogden said.

"[Anderson] showed me a bunch of sweaters that she had made over the years, and I got super motivated and bought all the yarn and all the needles and stuff at the store in Switzerland. And yeah, I've just been really into it ever since."

Since then, Ogden has learned that more of his teammates, including Jessie Diggins and Julia Kern, like to unwind after a long day in the cold with a skein of yarn and a pair of knitting needles. U.S. Alpine skier Breezy Johnson says she knits a new headband for every race. And U.S. snowboarder Maddie Mastro posted all the projects she knitted for these Games.

"We hang out with the same people and do the same thing all the time, and all of us are really into skiing, but it can be tempting just to talk about skiing at dinner, and at breakfast, and at lunch, and all the downtime," Ogden said.

"So having a shared hobby amongst the teammates is a pretty sweet way to have something else to talk about and connect with, and that doesn't cause any stress or anxiety, and everybody can just sort of enjoy."

Knitting's stress-relieving properties are well-documented. The deliberate, repetitive action is found to help lower blood pressure, decrease symptoms of depression and even protect aging brains from cognitive decline.

Ogden hopes that he and his knitting pals can maintain that easygoing spirit as their skills in the craft improve.

"Ideally, we'd keep it as a non-competitive thing. Sometimes when these hobbies become competitive, that's when it's time to drop it and move on to the next one," Ogden said. "But so far, knitting has been a nice, non-competitive outlet for all of us."

But the lack of competition doesn't stop Ogden from setting goals for himself. He already knows what ambitious project he wants to conquer during the upcoming World Cup.

"I'm already planning at the start of next season, in November when I come over, I'm gonna get all this stuff to knit a cable knit sweater," he said.



March Birthdays

Carolyn Mason

Hope Harkins

Jade Kelly

Jennifer Ely

Maria Neill

Peggy Larreau

Susan Jones

Susan Kernan

Susan Smith

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!*