



Each One, Teach One

DFA BOARD MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 17
1:00PM – 3:00PM @ DFA

DFA ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK

SATURDAY, MAY 31
10:00AM – 1:00PM @ Richland
Public Library
See more on next page!

MID-COLUMBIA LIBRARIES &
DESERT FIBER ARTS GUILD PRESENT



FIBER & FRIENDS

Monday, May 5 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.

MAY 10: FIBER WITH A TWIST
10:00AM – 3:30 PM @ Richland Library

MAY 21: Robert Frost Elementary
STEAM Night @ 5pm

Important Membership Renewals Delayed to May 1, 2025

DFA Leadership is rolling out a brand-new Member Registration form on the website. We are diligently working to get the new program up and running as soon as possible. May 1st is just a target date, and it could even be before then. While we work on this new process we are closing the Registration page. These changes are being made to save money on the website as costs are increasing. Our dues will remain the same at \$40 for Members and \$5 for additional members living in the same household (add-on Family Members). Please look for notices through Blasts and direct emails with important information on renewing your membership.

Please direct any questions to Carol Kaminsky at
carol.kaminsky67@gmail.com or text 650-575-1720.

STUDY GROUP DATES

May 1 – Sticks & Hooks 10am–12pm DFA Studio
May 1 – Handcrafting 7–8:30pm Zoom
May 3 – Great Wheels 1–3pm Richland Library
May 5 – Basketry 1–4pm DFA Studio
May 6 – Great Wheels 6:30–8:30pm Richland Library
May 7 – Tapestry 1–3pm DFA Studio
May 7 – Great Wheels 1–2pm Traveler Espresso
May 8 – Sticks & Hooks 10am–12pm DFA Studio
May 8 – Handcrafting 7–8:30pm Zoom
May 12 – Rigid Heddle 1–4pm DFA Studio
May 13 – Drawloom 10am–12pm DFA Studio
May 13 – Great Wheels 6:30–8:30pm Richland Library
May 14 – Great Wheels 1–2pm Traveler Espresso
May 15 – Sticks & Hooks 10am–12pm DFA Studio
May 19 – Basketry 1–4pm DFA Studio
May 20 – By the Book Knitters 6–8pm Richland Library
May 20 – Great Wheels 6:30–8:30pm Richland Library
May 21 – Great Wheels 1–2pm Travelers
May 22 – Sticks & Hooks 10am–12pm DFA Studio
May 22 – Handcrafting 7–8:30pm Zoom
May 23 – 4-6-8 Weaving 1–3pm DFA Studio
May 24 – Pop Up Spin 1–3pm DFA Studio
May 26 – Rigid Heddle 1–4pm DFA Studio
May 27 – Great Wheels 6:30–8:30pm Richland Library
May 28 – Great Wheels 1–2pm Traveler Espresso
May 28 – Band Weaving 6–7pm DFA Studio
May 29 – Sticks & Hooks 10am–12pm DFA Studio
May 29 – Handcrafting 7–8:30pm Zoom

DFA Annual Meeting & Potluck Brunch

Saturday, May 31, 2025

10:00AM – 1:00PM

Richland Public Library

**The DFA Annual Meeting & Potluck
is a gala that you don't want to miss!**

- Munch on tantalizing brunch tidbits!
- Watch and be a part of the Fabulous Fibers Fashion Show
 - Win (perhaps) one of the divine door prizes
- Congratulate the newly elected DFA Board Officers
- Recognize DFA members for their contributions
- Enjoy seeing all of your fantastic fiber friends

**We need a few eager volunteers to make this a
memorable event! Is your hidden talent to be a:**

Fashion show director, model or contributor?

Decorator to decorate tables?

Worker bee to help set-up & clean-up?

If so, please contact Nancy Klotz by May 5th

Everyone participates to create delicious dishes for brunch, of course!

Nancy Klotz | 509-521-2587 | nancyklotz77@gmail.com

**THE DFA TRANSITIONAL BOARD MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE
DIRECTLY AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING.**



Behind the Scenes at DFA

By Betsy Dickinson

My favorite flower, lilacs, are blooming right now. And our hot tub is clean and up and running. It must truly be spring.

DFA is blooming as well. With new members and fresh ideas.

Behind the scenes, we have been working on the 25-26 budget and recruiting volunteers to serve on the board. Plans are being made for the end of the year potluck. Keep your eyes peeled for more news soon!

The Strategic Planning committee has met to gather ideas to ensure a solid future for DFA.

In our first meeting we developed a working mission statement. Once that is finalized we will share it with our members.

We made a list of DFA's strengths, which include our equipment and library memberships, positive relationships and a positive financial standing. We also identified areas where we can improve.

In our second meeting, we set priorities to work on this fiscal year. They are:

MEMBERSHIP

The majority of our members do not appear to be active in study groups, volunteering or attending meetings. We want to know how we can better serve these members, and will figure out how best to gather that information.

FINANCIAL

DFA is the recipient of a free space for our studio due to the generosity of our landlords. While this gift has been steadily given for a number of years, that may not hold true in the future. We will develop a plan for addressing this so we are prepared if we have to make a change.

Also, we have a healthy reserve fund, but need to make sure it's earning. The Finance Committee will study this and make a proposal to the board.

Have fun with your spring activities.



Happy fibering!

Betsy Dickinson

Rock Wrapping Workshop

On a lovely Sunday afternoon in April, we had a very well-attended **Rock Wrapping Mini Workshop**. The enthusiasm from the 14 attendees was awesome.



Cheryl and Ron Reed came with rocks and other items to share. We also had Karyn Watson, Cindy Jewell, Fernna Eckert, Melanie McKenna, Jeannie Bass, Marion Halupczok, Pam Root, Jeanette Mendell, Judy Rice and Oksana Ison. The group was led by Kathy Myers and Carol Kaminsky. This whole group was a lot of fun, and we hope to have another Rock Wrapping class again.

Below are some pictures of everyone's work. Sorry for the poor photo quality, that's my fault, Carol



We started
simple and
then we
started to
ROCK with
creativity!



Green Star Award

**Our first Green Star Award
goes to Kathy Thorndike!**



She wove a fabric she calls 'Plarn' from plastic shopping bags and cotton yarn, which she made into a marvelous shopping bag! Kathy will receive her Green Star at our next general meeting.

A unique green star will be awarded each month to a member who demonstrates eco-friendly values. If you would like to nominate someone for this prestigious award, please contact Jeanette Mendell, jeanette.mendell@gmail.com

RIGID HEDDLE

At our last meeting Kareena Anderson brought a large basket of balls of cut fabric for rug making. These strips were donated by DFA member Chris Simonen. She and her mother cut them many years ago.



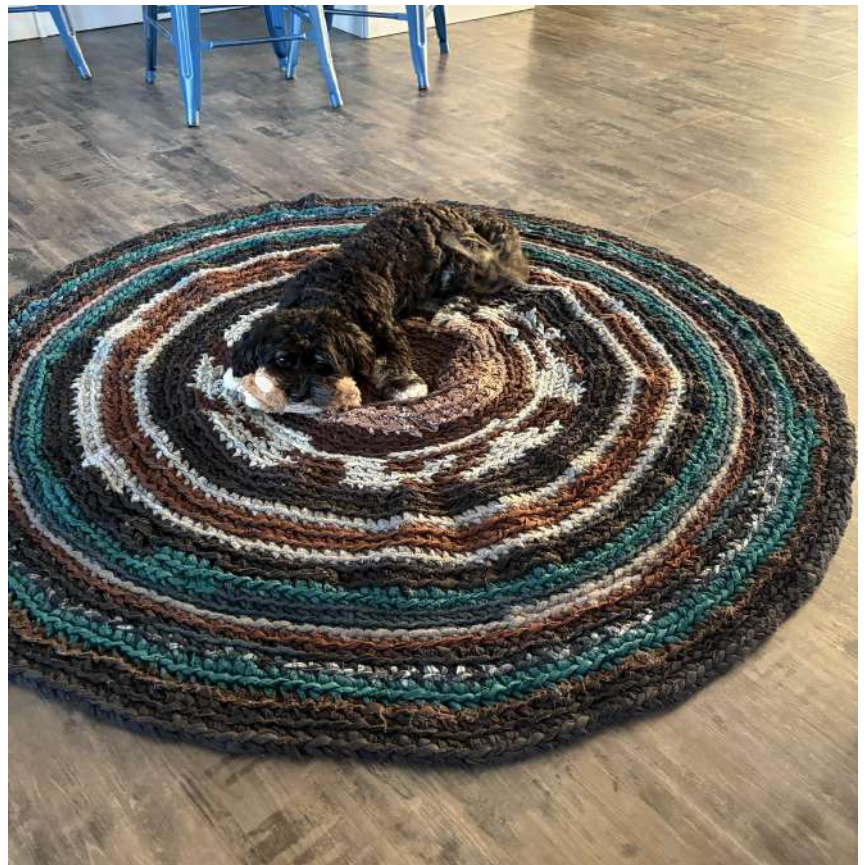
In this photo, Robin Phillips is holding a rug made from fabric strips.

Debbie Clawson, and Breanne O'Hare are holding balls of strips they plan to weave into rugs. Kareena has a small rug of braided strips.

This project is following our DFA theme "Reuse, Repurpose, Recreate". Many of our rugs will be sold at our fall market.

There are more balls of fabric strips at our DFA studio, and we can get more by contacting Chris. She has also woven vests from cloth strips. (She suggests we search the Internet for directions.)

Kareena sent the following photo to show people who like to knit or crochet that they can also make rugs from fabric strips.





BY THE BOOK KNITTERS



*Our next meeting will be
Tuesday, May 20th at 6:00pm
in Conference Room A of the Richland Library*

Please bring in any squares you have finished as soon as possible. Last month we received 25 squares! All squares should be brought in by the May meeting. The SRP Afghan should be ready for the June meeting

The website recommended for purchasing Gutermann thread is WAWAK.com. The person who made the recommendation said her group pools orders and gets approximately 200 spools at time.

The Richland Library and the Mid-Columbia Library have the Libby App. You can use it to check out and read over 30 different crafting magazines including titles from Interweave Press and knit and crochet magazines from Germany, Australia, Spain and Italy.

WHAT WE READ

A Well-Trained Wife by Tia Levings

All the Beauty in the World by
Patrick Bringley

AlterKnit Stitch Dictionary by Andrea
Rangel

Any knitting book by Nicky Epstein

Chet and Bernie Mysteries series by
Spencer Quinn

Chief Inspector Gamache Mystery
series by Louise Penny

Counting Miracles by Nicholas
Sparks

Healing Wounds by Diane Carlson

In Death series by J. D. Robb

Inheritance and The Mirror: The Lost
Bride Trilogy by Nora Roberts

Leaphorn, Chee & Manuelito series
by Tony Hillerman

Maisie Dobbs series by Jacqueline
Winspear

Memorial Days by Geraldine Brooks

My Heart Will Find You by Jude
Deveraux

Number Knitting by Virginia Woods
Bellamy

On Thin Icing by Ellie Alexander

Patchwork Knitting by Horst Schulz

Same As It Ever Was by Claire
Lombardo

Sewing Happiness by Sanae Ishida

Small Things Like These by Claire
Keegan

Spaced Out by Stuart Gibbs

Stiff by Mary Roach

The Axeman's Carnival by Catherine
Chidgey

The Monsters of Templeton by
Lauren Groff

The Women by Kristin Hannah

Thursday Murder Club Mystery
Series by Richard Osman

Vivian Hoxbro's Knitting Handbook:
8 Schools of Modular Knitting by
Vivian Hoxbro

Yarn Over Murder, Knitting Mysteries
series by Maggie Sefton

BASKETRY

The basket group is putting finishing touches on our Antler Baskets. Here's a few of our creations! Our next deep dive into exploration of natural materials is with gourds and pine needles.



***Stay tuned for more unique artist basketry
from the DFA Basket Study Group.***

DFA BOOTH AT MARCH'S TRI CITY QUILT SHOW

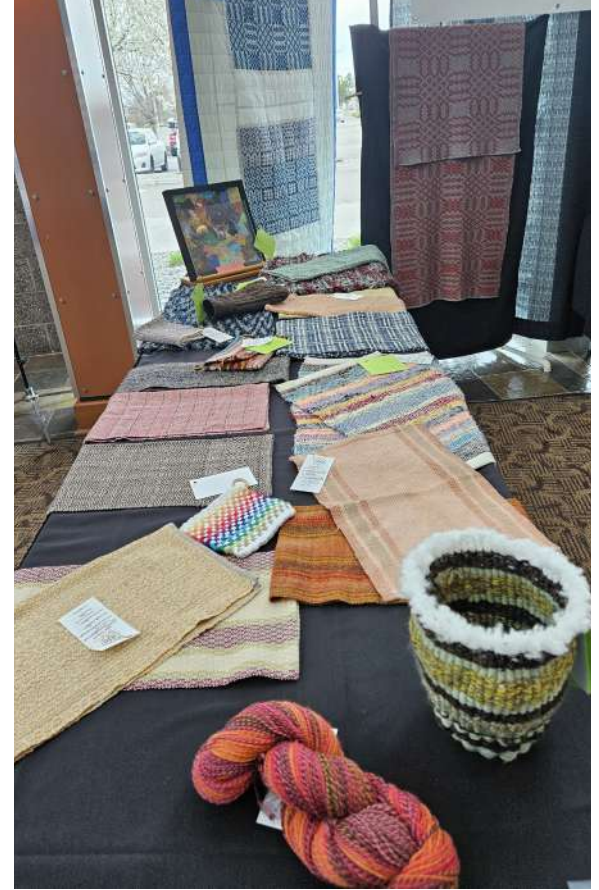
Thank you, thank you to everyone who brought their beautiful hand-crafted fiber goods to be displayed at the DFA Booth last weekend at the TC Quilt Show!

Big shout out and thank you's to everyone who volunteered at the booth! Over 20 dedicated DFA members helped to transport booth equipment, set-up, take-down, demonstrate, sell raffle tickets and schmooze with the many, many interested folks! We had FUN!

Our booth was very successful at engaging people, young and old, to talk to members who were demonstrating spinning, weaving and knitting, and to buy raffle tickets for the 2025 knit afghan! People were appreciative of the intricate fiber items on display, making comments like, "That is so beautiful...detailed...gorgeous...how do they do that...I love those colors...". We had 34 new customers sign up for the DFA Constant Contact newsletter and one new member sign-up. We handed out many "Save The Date" cards for our Fall Market, as well as DFA business cards and pamphlets.

YOU are the wonderful DFA members who make these events possible!!! Our community outreach like this event continues to grow the number of customers who come to our Fall Market, and become interested in appreciating and/or participating in DFA fiber arts activities. This is a great way to grow our membership - of all ages and interests!

Please consider volunteering for a DFA community event - it is guaranteed to be a FUN and FULFILLING experience!



**Thank you! You are all
AWESOME!**

**Nancy Klotz,
TC Quilt Show Booth
coordinator**



All DFA Fiber Artists!

The DFA ANWG Booth is Under Construction & we need items to display!



The Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds (ANWG) biennial conference is at the Yakima Convention Center, June 16-21, 2025. Our ANWG Booth Planning Committee is busily planning our DFA booth, which will be on display June 19-21 at the convention center.

The ANWG Conference is a BIG DEAL! ANWG includes 90 guilds and affiliates in the Pacific Northwest United States and Western Canada. <https://northwestweavers.org/conferences/>

Our booth is a wonderful opportunity to display DFA's incredible breadth and depth of artistry and skills to an extensive community of fiber artists as well as to the public.

The DFA booth theme will primarily be based on the official conference colors (see below and in the studio). We will also incorporate fiber items that demonstrate our new DFA two year focus on *"Reuse, Repurpose, Recreate"*.

We ask EVERYONE to look in your closets, storage and on your walls for a fiber piece created by you (or another DFA member) that demonstrates the best quality creativity and skills of our talented members!

While the focus of the ANWG conference is on weaving, spinning and creating wearable or useful items from handwoven fabric, we value the diverse fiber talents of ALL of our members! If you are a weaver, spinner, felter, basket weaver, knitter, crocheter, sewer, rug maker, or creator with fibers, please consider contributing at least one of your best pieces to show in the DFA Booth at the conference!

Please send me a photo of the piece that you think fits the conference color theme and/or our "Reuse, Repurpose, Recreate" focus. Or you may bring it in to the studio and place it in the bin under the table with the ANWG booth sample display in the front room of the studio. Follow the posted instructions for labeling it and write it on the Artist Inventory Sheet on the clipboard.

In mid-May, the committee will make a mock-up of the booth in the studio. At that time we may reach out with specific requests for more pieces and/or we may be unable to display every item. Watch for more information soon!

Questions? Please contact one of the ANWG Booth Coordinators

Nancy Klotz | 509-521-2587 | nancyklotz77@gmail.com
Karyn Watson | 702-205-9520 | desertquilter1@gmail.com

What is Mercerized Cotton?

By Era Tschebotarjew

If you're a lover of cotton for your fiber crafts, it's very like you've come across cotton yarn that's labeled 'mercerized.' You might have noticed that mercerized cotton yarns are more slick and shiny than their non-mercerized counterparts – but what exactly makes them that way? Mercerization is a cellulose fiber treatment invented by John Mercer in 1850, and it entails submersion of the cotton product (thread, yarn, or fabric) under tension in a caustic solution of ~20% sodium hydroxide (NaOH). Hydrogen bonding systems are modified within the cellulose, resulting in a fiber with a rounder cross section and a smoother surface.

Mercerized cotton has the advantages of being more durable, lustrous, and easy to dye. However, it is often less absorbent and hence less breathable. Some examples of commercial products with mercerized cotton include:

- Textiles such as bed linens, tablecloths, towels, luxury clothing, and socks
- Nearly all cotton sewing thread
- Yarns (of course!)

In last month's Green Corner, we discussed the concept of closed-loop practices where materials are reused to reduce material waste and harm from environmental release. The reuse of alkali from mercerization is not so straightforward due to the complex mixture the treatment creates. Recovery systems involve multi-stage separations and evaporation, and as engineering improves, these systems can be economically favorable and have low carbon production. Unfortunately, it is difficult to find information on how widespread the practice of alkali recovery is as transparency in the textile industry is a work in progress.

In terms of choosing sustainable options for fiber arts, rarely are there designations of completely "good" or "bad." However, being informed about textile production processes can help us prioritize what aspects of sustainability are important to us. We hope you learned something new today!

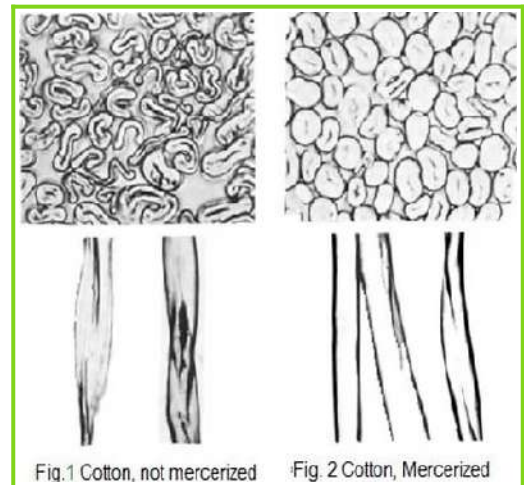
Resources:

Thread Collective Blog: What is the Difference Between Mercerized and Non-Mercerized Cotton?

<https://threadcollective.com.au/blogs/fibre/mercerised-vs-nonmercerised>

Desalination and Water Treatment (Journal): Clean treatment and reuse of cotton mercerizing waste alkali resources using multi-stage evaporation technology

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1944398624000286#bib4>



DFA HAS SO MANY CREATIVE MEMBERS



Kathy's invention lightened the mood of our 4-6-8 meeting.

We all laughed with her as she proudly explained her new way to wind/rewind her yarn! We all are anxiously awaiting her next creation. Patent pending.

DFA has so much talent!

To any mothers in the guild:

Happy Mother's Day!



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