

Each One, Teach One

desert fiber arts

SEPTEMBER 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.

SEPTEMBER 2026 HIGHLIGHTS

DFA GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, September 5
10:00AM – 12:00PM @ DFA Studio

DFA BOARD MEETING

Saturday, September 19
1:00PM – 3:00PM @ DFA Studio



Tuesday, September 8 at 6 pm
Monday, September 21 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.



SEPTEMBER 2026 STUDY GROUP DATES

WED	September 2	Tapestry	1-3pm	DFA Studio
THU	September 3	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	Richland Library
THU	September 3	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
MON	September 7	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	September 10	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	Richland Library
THU	September 10	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SAT	September 12	EcoFriendly & Creative Reuse	10am-12pm	Zoom
MON	September 14	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio
TUE	September 15	By the Book Knitters	6-8pm	Richland Library
THU	September 17	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	Richland Library
THU	September 17	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
SUN	September 20	Pop Up spin	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	September 21	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
THU	September 24	Sticks & Hooks	10am-12pm	DFA Studio
THU	September 24	Handcrafters Zoom	7-8:30pm	Zoom
FRI	September 25	4-6-8 Weaving	1-3pm	DFA Studio
MON	September 28	Basketry	1-4pm	DFA Studio
MON	September 28	Rigid Heddle	1-4pm	DFA Studio

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS...

National Felt Hat Day
Tuesday, September 15

World-Wide Spin in Public Day
Saturday, September 19

International Lace Day
Saturday, September 26

National Alpaca Farm Day
Saturday, September 26

Sandollar Farm
2001 S Washington St, Kennewick
10:00am – 3:00pm

What's Happening At DFA?

July and August have been busy months!

Study groups are active and welcoming new members into the flock! Experienced members are living our motto of "Each One Teach One" with eager beginners. Members are proudly showing off their fabulous new projects for the county fair, fall market, and gifts. The cheerful chatter, laughter and smiles are contagious!

The 2026 raffle blanket is nearing completion! It is a beautiful blanket designed by Liz Martini and created by the talented knitters in the Sticks & Hooks study group. Pictures coming soon! Liz M. says that it may be ready to start showing and selling raffle tickets by the end of September. This raffle has been a very productive fundraiser for the guild for the past couple of years, culminating during Fall Market.

The Fall Market committee is meeting regularly on scheduled Saturdays on Zoom.

Contact kareena.anderson1@gmail.com to join in the fun of planning and sharing ideas for our largest 2 day event of the year! Kareena reports that DFA will have double the display space for our market this year at Central Church. This is a wonderful, growing and showing opportunity for the guild's creative makers! For those new to DFA, Fall Market will be held on November 6-7, 2026. It provides our members a venue for selling their hand-created items and earning money to buy more materials! DFA earns 20-30% of the selling price to cover market expenses and as our largest fundraiser.

Thank you to the members of the Grants Committee, Marion, Ord and Nancy, for recently submitting the application for the Community Accelerator Grant. DFA successfully applied for this grant in '24 and '25 and was awarded \$2500 each year. Grant award recipients for '26 will be announced in December. ArtsFund partners with Allen Family Philanthropies on the funding for the Community Accelerator Grant. The program provides unrestricted grants to cultural organizations across Washington, prioritizing communities with less access to mainstream funding. We are hopeful!

Kareena led a very successful Stash Buster event that took in over \$2000 in donations! Thank you to all who donated stuff from your stash, volunteered and donated funds to take home new stash!

The Benton Franklin County Fair will have wrapped up by the time you are reading this newsletter. Thank you to Hope Harkins, Superintendent of the Open Class Fiber Arts Exhibit at the fair and DFA member, for her passionate work developing the exhibits, recruiting fiber arts submissions for display as well as scheduling volunteers to help and demonstrate their fiber crafts during fair week. Also, thank you to all of our members who participated by showing their work, helping and demonstrating your craft to fair attendees. We look forward to seeing your ribbons!

DFA has been invited to give fiber demonstrations at a very fun, family event, on Saturday, September 26th at Sandollar Alpacas in Kennewick.

If you would like to demonstrate, contact Karyn Watson at desertquilter1@gmail.com.

We are beginning the next phase of the studio organization project since all flammable items stored within 24" of the ceiling have been taken down. Keep an eye out for information about the "Studio Storage W.I.P." (Work In Progress)! Watch for Blasts about opportunities to help design studio storage that is more effective and user-friendly. Contact Nancy Klotz, president@desertfiberarts.org, 509-521-2587

The DFA Board is working hard while being short several positions. Treasurer 1 and treasurer 2 and a 2nd Vice President position are open. We are also looking for volunteers to chair the committees for Workshops, Hospitality ("Sunshine") and Outreach. Please contact Nancy Klotz, board president, or another board member, with inquiries.

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

Kareena Anderson, past president and acting treasurer, kareena.anderson1@gmail.com

MaryAnn Mae, vice president, mareelizabeth@gmail.com

Ord McConaghy, secretary, ord1542@yahoo.com

Karla Thrall, member at large, kdthrall@gmail.com

Wendy Hahn, member at large, wkhahn@yahoo.com

Melanie Mellick, member at large, mimellick@aol.com

The board meets monthly every 3rd Saturday from 1-3 pm at the studio and also via Zoom. All members are invited. If you would like to participate in Zoom, please let me know so I can email you the link. Nancy Klotz



The Green Corner By Susan Schmieman



The 3R's were represented at our county fair this week with works submitted by Lois Anderson, Hope Harkins, Kathy Myers, and Susan Schmieman. Materials for the exhibit were from grocery bags, t-shirts, Squirt soda can, polyester knits, unraveled cashmere, and blue jeans. Not only so but the display unit was made by Hope which reused old shelving and palettes. A huge thank you to each of you for your efforts to get your items to the fairgrounds. Our next display will be at Fall Market. An opportunity for all members to see what you can Reuse Repurpose and Recreate. Just as a reminder of what our 3R's mean, let me give you a guide for paperwork purposes (and paperwork is not something I am good at). This came up as we tried to put labels on our 3R items.



Reuse—it has been mended, painted, or repaired somehow and still used for the same purpose as before. This is an ecofriendly thing to do rather than throwing it out and buying a new item.

Repurpose—an item that has been repurposed has not been altered, at least not much, but it is used for another purpose. My example: After several years of wear, my cotton underwear was worn out. Swiffer pads for the floor are expensive so I thought I would try to put the undies on the Swiffer to dust/sweep my floors. It made me laugh and it did a good enough job! So, you see here, nothing about the underwear changed but the purpose certainly did.

Recreate—In slicing up a t-shirt to make a necklace or cutting blue jeans to weave a bag you are changing the material to create a new item for a different purpose thereby recreating an item.

Sometimes these terms overlap. Unraveling a sweater for instance and felting or knitting the yarn into another piece of something could be considered repurposed and recreated. The thing to remember is that we are trying to do the right thing by keeping things out of the landfill to make our planet a better place for our inhabitants.

On another note, I watched a documentary this week on the art of Jesse Krimes. It is his incredible story of incarceration art and seeing the incarcerated for more than their crimes. What first drew me to investigate his story were the materials he used to create his art which kept him sane during solitary confinement: playing cards, toothpaste, hair gel, newspaper, and plastic spoons. He used these materials for a hand printing process to transfer images to bed sheets. I hope you will read about his work or watch the video (90 minutes on Prime) to learn more about his art and impact. Art in Krimes by Krimes



https://www.aspendailynews.com/news/article_aacf3126-02e8-11ec-a493-4b5e2e182ac4-4cb69916/

Elegy Quilt series by Krimes. Beautiful story quilts were created from material given to Krimes from incarcerated or previously incarcerated people.

<https://fabricworkshopandmuseum.org/exhibition/jesse-krimes-elegy-quilts/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkuXEU4TYvo&t=49s>

This reminded me of the weavings DFA created years ago at biannual celebrations from Hospice House. Pieces of clothing and articles from loved ones were given to the weavers when they entered the sanctuary for the ceremony honoring those who had passed. During the ceremony a banner was woven and nearly finished when the ceremony was over. Three panels were created and hung in Hospice House, a family narrative in a way to remember and honor those loved.



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.



4-6-8 BIG WEAVE



Fifteen DFA members have participated in the BIG WEAVE PROJECT, working on reweaving many samples in A HANDWEAVER'S PATTERN BOOK, by Marguerite Porter Davison. Many are members of the 4-6-8 Weaving Study. The samples DFA members wove will be used in the new edition of this book. [Eugene Textile Center has it for pre-sale on their website.] In appreciation for their contribution, they received "I SURVIVED THE BIG WEAVE" totes.

SAVE THE DATE!

SPOKANE FLEECE AND FIBER FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 26 – 27, 2026



ROSE BUTTE RANCH
6225 N OLD TRAILS RD, SPOKANE, WA



SPOKANEFLEECEANDFIBERFESTIVAL.COM

VENDORS!



CLASSES!

BY THE BOOK KNITTERS

*Our next meeting will be
Tuesday, September 15th at 6:00pm
in Conference Room A of the Richland Library*

WHAT WE READ

A wide ranging variety this month!

Her Royal Spyness by Rhys Bowen
Where the Sky Begins by Rhys Bowen
Rose Arbor by Rhys Bowen
30 Million words by Dana Suskind MD
Palaces of the crown by Ray Naylor
The Astral Library by Kate Quinn
French Exit by Patrick Dewitt
The Jellyfish Problem by Tessa Yang
Monsters in the archives by Caroline Bicks
Reading list by Sara Nisha Adams
Whistler by Anne Patrick *
Antarctica by Kim Stanley Robinson
The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid
I See You've Called in Dead by John Kenney
The Phone Booth at the Edge of the World by Laura Imai Messina
The Egg and Other Stories by Andy Weir
Wrecked: Unsettling Histories from the Graveyard of the Pacific by Coll Thurst
Tea Shop Cozy Mysteries Series by Katherine Hayton
Dungeon Crawler Carl Book 5: The Butcher's Masquerade by Matt Dinniman

WHAT IS ON OUR NEEDLES

Charity hats
Crochet scarf
Blue Sky Fibers scarf kit
Jimmy Beans Wool Herbarium Blanket Kit

YOU'RE INVITED TO A FREE RUMMAGE SALE!

This is a community event that I'm co-hosting so you all get the info as well. Our spring sale was huge, and this one is shaping up to be as well. It's not a fiber specific event, although there was a craft table last time with lots of choices.

When: Saturday August 22, 9am-1pm

Where: FBC Richland (indoor event)
1107 Wright Ave, Richland

Start of the school year is a great time to 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: Friday August 21 4-6 pm or Saturday when you come to shop.

Shopping: Please bring your own bag or box

Items leftover on Saturday will be donated!

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

RIGID HEDDLE

At our Rigid Heddle meetings it is always fun to walk around and see other members' projects.

Cindy Jewell has finished a beautiful towel with a design using 7 colors. The pattern is "Log Cabin with a Twist". It is by the designer Rogue. It uses a pickup stick to create floats. Floats provide texture to the finished towel.



Tracy Hamar is weaving a towel of 100 percent organically grown mineral

blue cotton, a special yarn with little accents of blue and gray. She is working on a very interesting pattern.

FAIR AWARDS!

Yulia Ely

*Best Original Design &
Best of Show*



Jeanette Mendell

*Mildred Stice
Best Felted/Fulled*



Laurie Blessing

Best Handspun



Laurie Blessing

Best on Rigid Heddle



Franna Pitt

Best of Challenge Class



Kareena Anderson

*Edith Marsh
Best Use of Color*



Check out the reuse recreate repurpose group's display on a recycled shelving unit made from a discarded pallet, a piece of bed frame, boards from the shed and borrowed shelves!

Sophie Bachelder

*Pat Voorman
"Next Generation"*



Sallie McMillan

Best Made of Yarn



The Desert Fiber Arts Guild is 124 Members Strong and Growing!

At just \$40 a year (plus \$5 for each family add-on), a DFA membership is a fantastic bargain. But have you ever wondered exactly what your dues support?

Combined, member dues are one of DFA's largest sources of income, contributing over \$4,500 to our operations budget this year! This essential funding keeps our guild thriving by paying for:

- **Our Creative Home:** Maintaining and updating our studio, paying for the lights, A/C and heat, covering our insurance, supplies and necessary operational costs.
- **Our Digital Hub:** Funding our website, which attracts new members, links to our Facebook and Instagram, and shows off pictures of our members having fun creating together. It also provides essential resources for current members, like our Google calendar, member directory, recent newsletters, our By Laws and Policies, and useful forms.
- **Guild Offerings:** Helping us maintain our equipment and library resources, as well as offer workshops and social activities like Sunday movies.

What Do You Get in Return? Beyond supporting the guild, your membership unlocks a world of privileges, including:

- **Studio Access:** Safe, secure use of the studio via your unique member code.
- **Extensive Libraries:** Free borrowing privileges from our comprehensive library of books, magazines, and educational materials and our skillfully-resourced fiber equipment library.
- **Loom Room:** 7 fabulous multi-shaft floor looms that can be used for instruction and projects for beginning to advanced weavers.
- **Study Groups:** An open invitation to join specialized groups like Rigid Heddle Weaving, 4-6-8 Weaving, Sticks & Hooks (knitters and crocheters), Basketweavers, Tapestry Weaving and Pop-up Spin.
- **Community Events:** Access to our monthly get-togethers where we socialize, learn, and share our creative projects during a fun Show & Tell.

At DFA, our motto is "Each One Teach One." Whether you are a master of your craft or a curious beginner, we are here to welcome, teach, and support you in the fiber art of your choice. Thank you for being a vital part of our community!

Nancy Klotz, DFA President, president@desertfiberarts.org 509-521-2587

PROUD NEW BASKETEER!

*Karen is a new DFA member
working on her 2nd basket.*



STASH BUSTING EXTRAVAGANZA RESULTS!

To say the Stash Sale was a success is an understatement. The Guild received over \$2000 in donations as a result of everyone's generosity and hunger for cool stuff.

Stash came from members, the back room, and a huge donation from Larry Taylor.

Larry was a long-time member, past president and active board member at various times in the past. He is a phenomenal weaver. Unfortunately, he is moving out of state and can't seem to fit a loom in his suitcase. Lucky for us, that loom, a lovely Gilmore, will replace the ancient rug loom in the front room.

The Stash Sale helpers included Kareena Anderson, Vicki Hughes, Melanie Mellick (formerly McKenna), Kathy Thorndike, MaryAnn Mae, and Karyn and Bill Watson. Good job everyone!

Many thanks to the members who assisted with the removal of items from top shelves in the back room and above the library shelves. As you may recall, the Fire Department advised us to remove all items within 24 inches of the ceiling. What a project! And I hear that more organizing is in our future. Stand by!

The Guild has recently accepted the donation of a 4-shaft 32" Gilmore floor loom! To make room for this loom, we have posted the 2-shaft Sears Fair Loom for sale. If you're interested in purchasing this loom from the Guild, please let me know.

Additionally, the Guild has been gifted a Schacht horizontal warping mill with a two yard circumference. If you are interested in purchasing this from the Guild, please reach out.

Karla Thrall
Email: kdthrall@gmail.com
Phone: 509-539-6262

Fiber Art and Hair Folklore! By MaryAnn Mae

What does fiber art have to do with hair folklore and the act of saying goodbye? I'd love to tell you!

Throughout history, manipulating hair has been an ancient act of tactile magic and a way to archive community practices. This past month, it became a sacred act of love as I sat with my mother during her final days, brushing and braiding her hair.

In her care home, amidst the everyday routines of friends and caregivers, we found our own rhythm. I brushed her hair, much like the rhythmic movements of any fiber art—like the spinning of a wheel or the passing of a shuttle on a loom. For hours, we would sit in this cycle. Like many cycles, there were interruptions. As her mind and body failed we had moments of needing to bring her back to the present and her caregivers would help me when needed, and then we would be back to our rhythm.

Gradually, I began to weave braids, a quiet way for her to feel that I was with her, grounded by the fiber of her hair. As her time drew near, the brush became less important to me, and it felt right, more natural even, to forego the medium and use my fingers to move through her soft, thick hair, which was an assortment of all the colors it had been throughout her life: reddish-brown, gray, and white.

This wasn't a task, it was an intentional textile bonding that spanned weeks, bridging memories with the present. I thought vividly of her brushing my hair, the sponge curls she placed for kindergarten, and the painful untangling of my "rat's nest" after chlorinated swimming lessons. It struck me that she would never brush or braid my hair again and I cried and it became even more important to me to continue to be there with her and to play with her hair. Through my ugly snot cries, I remembered her teaching me to braid, and all the times I've braided my own daughters' hair. I was oddly aware that this multi-generational line of hair work was a living archive in my hands as I worked slowly through her strands.

In global traditions, hair is often seen as a sacred vessel for one's soul, history, and memories. It connects us to ancestors and acts as a spiritual antenna. Specific lengths and styles can hold special meaning. The folk belief of sympathetic magic, for example, includes the Native American cultural philosophy that three-strand braids represent the mind, body, and spirit, which offer protection when woven together. Many cultures hold beliefs about intentionally weaving prayers, protection, and peace into braids, similar to the lore of stitching protective sigils into textile clothing for loved ones. Each cross of the strands strengthens the intention; and tying off a braid "binds" the act into place. Indigenous peoples also believe that hair holds memory and can be a portal, which gives significant meaning to cutting hair in honor of loss or to separate oneself from trauma stored within it after upsetting events.

In Victorian and even ancient times, people believed hair outlasted the body. It wasn't unusual for locks of hair to be kept as keepsakes or used to create dolls in memory of loved ones.

The Maasai people of East Africa often use intricate hairstyles and adornments to signify age, status, and warriorhood within their community. These are just a few examples, but the connection is that hair goes far beyond aesthetics and is considered part of a social, cultural and spiritual fabric.

For me, the love and protection I wished for my mother were woven into her hair. Brushing it was my way of honoring all the insane things her body had carried through her life and long-term illness. I held onto her hair as I held onto her—my love for her, hers for me, and my gratitude for being her daughter. I held her close and felt really grounded through physical connection and the tactile rhythm. Rather than bind her braids to "seal" any protection or intentions, in the end, it felt right to gently loosen the braids, letting my fingers slip freely through her hair, allowing it to fall loose.

I think of Penelope undoing her weaving each evening, delaying the suitors as she waited for Odysseus. I think of the imperfect lines of crochet I've pulled out and redone, or my first hemstitching that didn't hold. We often become our own worst critics, undoing parts of projects to "do it better." Sometimes, what seems important really isn't; it's simply part of the process.

Loosening my mother's hair didn't feel like frustration or upset, unlike those unfinished projects. It felt like a literal and physical symbol of her breaking free from a failing body that had constrained her. I knew she would want to leave this world exactly as she came into it—wild, unburdened, and fully free. And she did, with me by her side, marveling at the beauty of her hair. So, as you use fiber arts to tell of your own lives with whatever medium you choose or choose to forgo, remember the power held in every stitch, every color, and every story you create is in you and the fiber, not the medium.



Ashford Table Loom For Sale

16" weaving width
Like new with double the heddles
2 Reeds 10 and 12

\$450
(over \$1000 value)



If interested, contact Karen Lamar

Email: Karen.lamar@gmail.com

Phone: 509-551-6327

FALL MARKET DOOR PRIZE BASKET DONATIONS

Items do not have to be handmade. Think beauty products, gourmet food or beverages, gift cards, books/magazines as well as craft, fiber, or handmade gifts.

Deliver your items to the studio by October 25.

Fall Market, November 6-7, 2026





September Birthdays

Denice Lovejoy

Gayle Kerr

Karen Dodson

Kim Simmons

Laurie Blessing

Susan Rosenthal

Wishing each of you a very happy birthday!

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