



FEB 2024
NEWSLETTER

Each One, Teach One

THANK YOU!

**Fiber Friends, you are caring
and generous!**

Thank you for your donations to Central Church's ministry Sent to Serve. Your gifts in the studio donation bin of blankets, hygiene items and warm clothes are appreciated more than you can imagine. We are establishing a good rapport with Central Church. Let's continue the good work that is so much needed especially in such a cold winter season.

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!
The poor will always be among us.
Keep up the good work!**

Susan Schmieman

THANK YOU!



STUDY GROUP CALENDAR

Feb 1 Sticks & Hooks 10-12 DFA
Feb 1 Handcrafting 7-8:30 Zoom
Feb 3 Great Wheels 6:30-8:30 Rich Libr
Feb 5 Basketry 1-4 DFA
Feb 7 Great Wheels 1-3 Travellers
Feb 8 Sticks & Hooks 10-12 DFA
Feb 8 Felting 1-3 DFA
Feb 8 Handcrafting 7-8:30 Zoom
Feb 9 Evening Weavers 6-8 DFA
Feb 12 Rigid Heddle 12:30-3:30 DFA
Feb 13 Drawloom 10-12 DFA
Feb 14 Great Wheels 1-3 Travellers
Feb 14 Band Weaving 6-8 DFA
Feb 15 Sticks & Hooks 10-12 DFA
Feb 19 Basketry 1-4 DFA
Feb 20 4-6-8 Weaving 10:30-12:30 DFA
Feb 20 Bythebook Knitters 6-8 Rich Library
Feb 21 Great Wheels Spin 1-3 Travellers
Feb 22 Sticks & Hooks 10-12 DFA
Feb 22 Felting 1-3 DFA
Feb 22 Handcrafting 7-8:30 Zoom
Feb 23 Evening Weavers 6-8 DFA
Feb 26 Rigid Heddle 12:30-3:30 DFA
Feb 28 Great Wheels Spin 1-3 Travellers
Feb 28 Band Weaving 6-8pm DFA
Feb 29 Sticks & Hooks 10-12 DFA
Feb 29 Handcrafting 7-8:30 ZOOM



**DON'T FORGET!
DFA
BOARD MEETING
FEB 9
10-12
DFA**

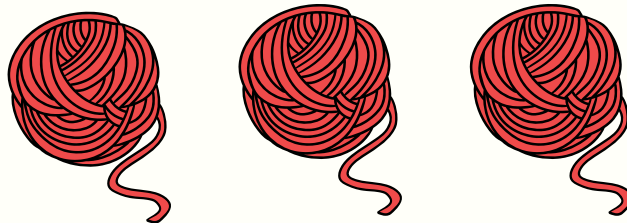
FEBRUARY SPOTLIGHT



Niel Kierulff was born and raised in Portland, OR. He studied at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and Uppsala Universitet in Sweden. After graduation he returned to the Pacific Northwest and moved to the Tri Cities 35 years ago.

Currently a member of the Band Weaving study group, Niel has participated in numerous workshops and study groups over the years since joining Desert Fiber Arts. His fascinating beginning with the fiber arts started when his wife, Cheryle decided to go back to school to finish her degree at Portland State University. He needed to find something to do that was quiet in the evenings so she could study. The next four or five years, he spent knitting after being taught by a friend, until other hobbies got in the way. “After a 20-year hiatus from knitting, the fur trade era rendezvousing got me interested in knitting French Canadian voyager toques. In 1969 I bought 4-ounce skeins of wool yarn from the Oregon Worsted Mill End Store for \$0.88, but by then the yarn was costing \$7-8 per skein, and I decided to learn how to spin my own yarn. That put me on the slippery-slope to weaving and nålbinding.”

Aside from fiber arts (spinning, knitting, nålbinding and weaving), he has engaged in the hobbies of hunting, fishing, camping, muzzle loading, archery and historical reenactment of the Oregon Trail period. He also plays the guitar and ukulele. We’re so glad he’s willing so share his talents with us as part of DFA!



REMEMBER!

MEETING REMINDERS

FEB 2 DFA MEMBER ORIENTATION 1-2 DFA
FEB 2 LENDING LIBRARY ORIENTATION 1-2 DFA
FEB 3 DFA WEBSITE MEETING 11-1 DFA
FEB 9 DFA BOARD MEETING 10-12 DFA
**FEB 10 REACH DEMO RIGID HEDDLE & PORTABLE
LOOMS 10-4 KENNEWICK LIBRARY**
FEB 17 DFA GENERAL MEETING 1-3 KENNEWICK LIBRARY
FEB 24 REACH DEMO BASKETRY 10-4 KENNEWICK LIBRARY

SMALL-SCALE CHALLENGE

(Like HGA's Small Expressions)

Our 50th Anniversary Challenge comes from HGA's biennial Small Expressions juried exhibit. <https://weavespindye.org/calls-for-entry>.

Create a small-scale piece using fiber art techniques in any media/material. Techniques include interlaced, felted, stitched, dyed, coiled, knotted, pulled, spun, knitted, crocheted, tatted, etc.

The size of the finished work may not exceed 15 inches in any direction, including any mounting, framing, and/or display devices.

Works must be suitable for display at the Gallery at the Park, Richland. Works must be completed before the Fall Market of 2024 so we can plan the display at the Gallery for January, 2025.

As you complete your work, bring it to a DFA meeting or study group to encourage the rest of us to finish our own.

Cheryl Reed



A NEW YEAR, A NEW CHALLENGE

The bedspring challenge was a huge success last year so we're going to do it again.... but this year instead of bedsprings we'll be creating on cones, you know those things weaving fibers come on. And not to worry, if you don't have any empty cones, we will have some available at the studio. Any questions, contact Kathy Myers @ kbmyers@gmail.com.

HERE'S ARE SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED:



STICKS & HOOKS

The Sticks and Hooks study group has planned a knit a long (KAL) for February. Two patterns by Andrea Mowry have been selected for the KAL: a cowl, The Shift, and a hat, Shiftalong. Both patterns include the mosaic technique which is color work that only requires one color of yarn on each row. All DFA members are invited to join in the fun of this KAL. Below is Jeanette Mendell, Nancy Klotz, and Cindy Jewel wearing some of their beautiful hand knits. Also, new member, Jeanne Cozad is modeling her Butterfly Shawl. Sue DeMarchant



RIGID HEDDLE

The holidays have come and gone and most of you probably have your decorations packed away! Did you make any New Year resolutions? I gave them up a long time ago since I never seemed to succeed at keeping them. Tien Chiu, co-founder and teacher of the online weaving school, The Handweaving Academy shared the following in a recent email:

“Many weavers make “New Year Resolutions”. Weave more, buy less yarn, learn more, etc. We prefer to “plant seeds” instead of making resolutions. Why?

Because resolutions have an “all or nothing” connotation, but seeds grow when they are ready, at different rates. Maybe you aren’t ready to jump into designing from scratch, but your “design plant” can grow a new leaf when you change one small thing in a project!”

Let’s plant seeds to challenge ourselves to learn something new this year!

The latest group project for the RHSG is collapse weave, we will have a discussion at our next meeting on how to make collapse weaves happen.

Kathy Myers



Weaver, Pam Root

DRAWLOOM STUDY GROUP

At our January meeting we reviewed the threading pattern. There was discussion of many possibilities in design from simple to elaborate. Sign up at the studio to weave. Warp cost is 25 cent per inch + 10%. If you need a bit of coaching to refamiliarize yourself with the loom, contact Susan Schmieman, weaveyourartout@gmail.com. There is still about 15 yards of cottolin warp on the loom with a 22" weaving width. Good for pillows, handbags, table runners or aprons.

We also spent time catching up since we had not met together since late last summer. Anita Osterhaug and Sarah Shippen shared the exciting adventures of creating the new book "Nordic Hands". Anita generously donated a copy to our library. Thank you, Anita!

All are welcome to the drawloom study group. If you have woven at all, you can weave on the drawloom. Don't let its size intimidate you. It really isn't as complicated as it might appear. Planning out your design is probably the most difficult part.

We tentatively plan to meet at Susan Schmieman's house for our next meeting. The purpose is to try out the Julia drawloom. So, if she gets her loom threaded in time.....that's the plan.

**Until then, stay safe and warm.
Susan Schmieman**

4-6-8 WEAVING STUDY GROUP

Tuesday, February 27, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

DFA Studio, 101 N Union St, Suite 208, Kennewick

Everyone is welcome.

Topic: Shadow Weave with the Powell Method

DFA Library Books that explain this technique:

Handweavers Pattern Directory, by Anne Dixon

Shadow Weave & Corkscrew Weave, by Clotilde Barrett

1000+ patterns in 4,6, & 8 Harness

Shadow Weave, by Marian Powell

Parallel Shadow Weave, by Elisabeth Lang

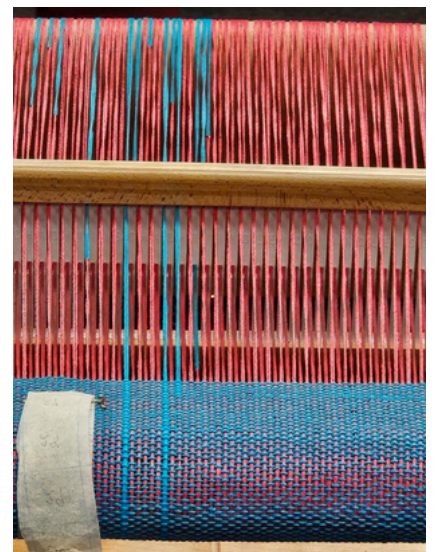
Bring:

Examples of shadow weave, Atwater or Powell techniques.

Any fiber art project you want to share.

Your questions.

What you've discovered in weaving or fiber art lately, techniques, new resources.



2025 ANWG Conference in Yakima

**Save the dates: June 16-21, 2025.
It's rare to have this conference so
close to home! The website is up.
Keep checking back for information.
When it's available, sign up for
email updates.**

<https://anwgconference.org>

Cheryl Reed



**Our oldest and youngest
DFA members, Sharon Ofsthun
and Valerie O'Hare**



IN MEMORIAM

Paula Ard passed away January 13, 2024, at the age of 92.

**She was the President of DFA for the years: 1995-96 and again in 1998-99
and 1999-2000.**

**She was born in Spokane, WA. In 1952 she graduated with a bachelor's
degree in nursing.**

**After retiring she pursued her interests including oil painting, restoring
antique furniture and weaving.**

Submitted by Chris Simonen



A BRIEF HISTORY OF KNITTING

Submitted by Julia Murphy

Before there was knitting...

- **Nalbinding (aka nalebinding, nalbindning, nalebinding, nailbinding, needlebinding, etc.) was a precursor to knitting.**
- **Nalbinding originated as a Scandinavian stitching method using a single eyed-needle to loop, knot and split the fabric like sewing. It was sometimes known as “knotless netting”, “looped needle netting”, or “single needle knitting”. The needles look like an oversized sewing needle and are traditionally made from wood or bone.**
- **Pieces created using either nalbinding or knitted stitches create similar looking fabric.**

Origins of knitting...

- **In most recorded works, knitting originated in the Middle East and spread via trade routes throughout the world.**
- **In Arabic areas, knitting is traced back to anglers using the technique to create fishing nets.**
- **The English word “knit” is derived from the word “knot.”**
- **The oldest surviving knitted pieces come from Egypt—socks from circa 3rd century CE.**
- **Everywhere knitting was introduced it took on a distinctive local flair (Irish, Scandinavian, Latvian, Japanese, etc).**

Silk stockings, men’s knitting guilds, and the Industrial Revolution...

- **Because Queen Elizabeth I was a great fan of knitted silk stockings, their popularity and demand increased.**
- **The first known printed knitting pattern written in English was published in 1655. It was an instruction manual on how to make a pair of hose (stockings).**
- **Men’s knitting guilds flourished during the Middle Ages from the 1200s to 1700s. Women couldn’t be guild members unless their husband, previously a member, had passed away.**
- **The mechanical knitting machine, or stocking frame, was created in 1589. This led to the next invention: portable circular knitting machines.**
- **Steam-powered machinery moved knitting to factories.**
- **The development of machine knitwear on a massive scale caused the hand knitting industry to decline and put many hand knitters out of business.**
- **Hand knitting was downgraded from a basic necessity to a hobby.**

“Knit Your Bit” for the cause...

- **During the World Wars there were shortages of socks and clothing for the armed forces. Governments encouraged those on “The Home Front” to reuse old knitted items and spare wool for knitted clothes for the troops.**
- **The American Red Cross handed out Knit Kits which included a simple sock pattern, knitting needles, and wool to create a pair of socks to be sent overseas.**
- **During World War II (WW2), the British Ministry of Information published a handout – Make, Do, and Mend. Wool was limited, and the booklet encouraged people to unpick old woolen garments to re-use. Patterns were issued so men and women could make these for the army and navy and show their support.**

Fast forward...

- **1950s & 1960s...**
 - o **After the war years, the British bred specific sheep to produce high-quality yarn.**
 - o **New colors and yarn types were introduced—including synthetic fibers. Thousands of patterns fed the market. Folks were hungry for new designs in bright colors.**
 - o **Kids learned to knit in schools. Magazines had patterns for clothing, blankets, toys, bags, curtains, and other items.**
 - o **Argyle sweaters and socks became popular. Dozens of patterns were featured in women’s magazines.**
- **1980s & 1990s**
 - o **Knitting’s popularity suffered a sharp decline in the 1980s and 1990s and was thought of as old-fashioned.**
 - o **Kids were no longer taught to knit in schools.**
 - o **Commercial companies now produced readily available, low-cost machine knitted items. People’s attitudes toward hand knits changed; it was seen as “uncool”.**

The “Comeback Kid” of crafting...

- **The 21st century brought a strong knitting revival. Terms like “handmade revolution” and “heirloom skills” were being used.**
- **Natural fibers became more accessible and cheaper: alpaca, angora, merino, mohair, qiviut, silk, and yak. Also, plant fibers like cotton, bamboo, and hemp are popular.**
- **Novelty yarns blending natural and synthetic fibers sparked creativity and new designs.**

Where will the next wave of hand knitting take us? It’s only limited by our ingenuity and creativity. This ancient-modern skill is truly the Comeback Kid of crafting. Hand knitting may be replicated but never replaced.

**LYN BACKE AND NANCY KLOTZ
MODELING THEIR BEAUTIFUL
HAND KNITS**

DFA AT THE REACH MUSEUM

DFA is featured in the gallery at the REACH from January 9 to mid-March, 2024.

This is the kick-off to our 50th Anniversary year!

Thanks to everyone who is donating items for the display, helping with planning and set up. It takes a crowd of DFA members to make this happen.

We plan to have demonstrations at least weekly in the gallery. We hope to have a few make-and-take classes in our time there. Contact Cheryl Reed to sign up to demonstrate or teach. cheryldavisreed@gmail.com

This is an opportunity to introduce DFA to a portion of the public who may not know we exist. The REACH will help advertise our display, demonstrations and classes. We may have the chance to do a special presentation for high school students. This is one of DFA's goals, to lead the next generation into the fiber arts. Another way to implement our motto: Each one teach one.

REACH hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10am-4:30pm.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

My husband and I are trying to be snowbirds in sunny Arizona. We'll be gone for a couple months. Being gone definitely has its pros and cons. Instead of knitting by the fire, I'm knitting by the pool in the 75 degree weather! But I do miss all of my DFA friends!

I'll still be doing the newsletter while I'm gone so keep sending articles. See you in the spring and fiber on!

**Denice Lovejoy
509-539-9413
dfanewsletter@desertfiberarts.org**

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CHOCOLATE
 CIVIL RIGHTS
 CUPID
 GROUNDHOG
 HEART
 LINCOLN
 LOVE
 PENNSYLVANIA
 PINK
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 ROMANCE
 ROSA PARKS
 ROSES
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 VALENTINE
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