

THE

MOTHER OF ALL

Newsletter of the Arizona Desert Weavers & Spinners Guild, Inc.

APRIL 2026

Volume 54, Issue 7

From the President Desk Merlyn Heck

adwsg.president@gmail.com

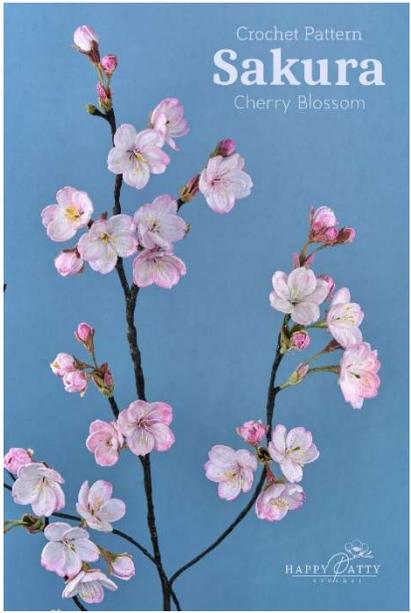
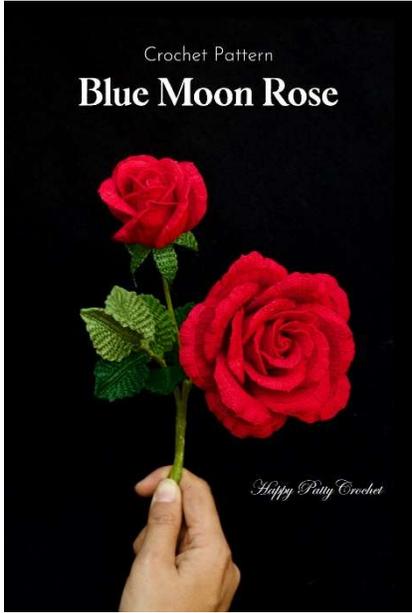
My roommate and I have been spending our evenings lately watching "Is It Cake?" It's a game show where bakers compete to create hyper-realistic cakes that look like other objects, which a panel of judges then has to try and pick out from a set of the real objects. Things like this crab, which is, in fact, a cake made by the talented Liz Marek:



The cast iron skillet, lettuce, and lemon are also cake!

It's a fun show. While it inevitably makes me think about cake and how much I would like to eat some, it also got me thinking about using other art forms to make one object seem like another. Are there any hyper-realistic fiber artists out there? I took to the internet to find some!

I started my journey into the world of realistic fiber art with crochet. It's generally pretty easy to tell when something is made of yarn, given the texture and visible stitch pattern, so I was curious whether I would find anything that could fool someone into believing it was real. It turns out that flowers are a pretty good subject if that is your goal! Happy Patty Crochet has made some particularly impressive examples.



In the world of needle felting, Tracey Turner creates incredibly detailed and lifelike animal sculptures:



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adwsg.president@gmail.com

And I could frankly spend hours browsing the quilts from the Road to California Quilters Conference and Showcase. Here is the best in show from 2025, by Kestrel Michaud!



Needless to say, there are thousands of extremely cool people

out in the world making extremely cool art, and this was a fun rabbit hole to spend an afternoon diving into! I did have to play a challenging game of “Is It Art?” in the process, in order to find the real art pieces made by actual humans amongst the AI generated images that comprised a frustrating amount of the search results. Covering that topic would take way more time and writing than I can devote to this little blurb, but fortunately other people have put in the effort to explain it, and I will happily share the links to those videos. In the meantime, join me in laughing at this clearly fake “DIY Raccoon Crochet Kit” that Etsy served up to me.

Realistic or not, I hope you’ve all been enjoying some time with your favorite art forms! I’ve thoroughly enjoyed seeing the many talents of our Guild on display over the past several months, and I’m looking forward to seeing what our Education Grant winner and our interest groups have been up to as we wrap up this year.

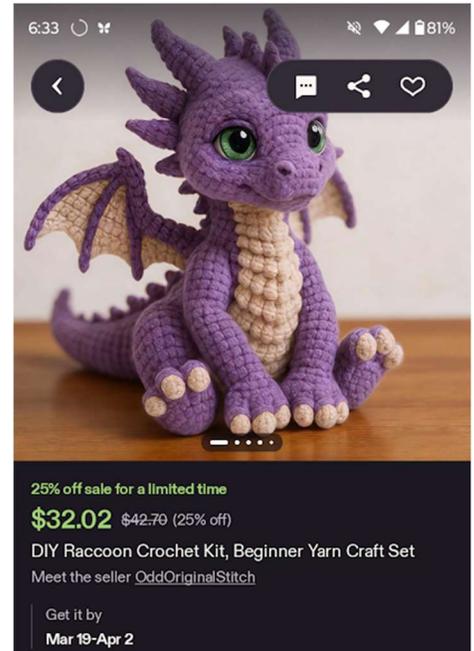
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adwsg.president@gmail.com

Links mentioned above:

- Happy Patty Crochet: <https://happypattycrochet.com>
- Tracey Turner: https://www.instagram.com/birdie_and_blossom
- Road to California: <https://online.roadtocalifornia.com>

How to spot AI crochet: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KH2Ivb3fQSS>



See you at the meeting! Merlyn, *President*

NOMINATING AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

adwsg.secretary@gmail.com

Slate of nominees for 2026-2027 election

President- Mary Rooney
VP of Workshops- Roberta Perpich
VP of Programs- Deborah Gross
Secretary- Roxanne Eklund
Treasurer- Sue Carneal

Nominations from the floor for any additional candidates will be taken at the April 5th meeting.

The election for Board officers for the 2025-26 Guild year will be held electronically, using ElectionBuddy, which is the same platform as we used last year.

After the April 5th Guild meeting, you will get an email with details about how to vote and a link for casting your vote so be sure to check your email and spam folder. Please be sure to vote as soon as possible after you receive the email.

APRIL 4, 2026 Presentation
ADWSG Program for April 4th

Presenter: Megan Feldt, our Education Grant Winner - 2025.

Title: Quiet Texture: An exploration of wearable art yarn inspired by archival boucle.

Learn about Megan's exploration of making art yarn, samples that inspired and examples of what Megan has made.

WORKSHOPS

Roberta Perpich

adwsg.workshops@gmail.com

By the time you read this several members will have attended, Bag It, Sewing you're your Handwoven Fabric, taught by Beki Welsh. I am looking forward to see what they accomplished and learned in the workshop. The Rigid Heddle Weaving workshop is coming up soon! It will be April 25th This will be a fun workshop for those who are interested in weaving and may be a complete novice or have some experience and want to freshen up on or learn new techniques for using a rigid heddle loom. The workshop will be taught by Roxanne Eklund and participants will learn the basic of working on a rigid heddle loom such as dressing the loom, hem stitching, including the sumac stitch maintaining tension, and learn several different techniques for creating patterns with your fiber.

If you are interested, sign up before we run out of space. You can contact me if you would like additional information for registering and paying for the workshop online or you can pay the registration fee at the April meeting. The cost of this workshop is \$60, and it will be a great time as well as a fun learning experience. I can be reached at ADWSG.workshops@gmail.com

Website

Anna Akridge

adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com

Suggestion Box Open!

Over the summer, I am planning on sprucing up the Guild website a little and I could use everyone's help. Is there something you'd love to see on the website? Something that is already there that you find confusing?

Do you reference our website often, or rarely? Please send any feedback/suggestions/requests to rarely? Please send any feedback/suggestions/requests to adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com so that I can incorporate these ideas into my research plan and workflow.

Lost-and-Found

I found a pair of white-handled scissors after the broom making session following the February meeting. If anyone is missing their scissors, please contact Anna Akridge to get them back. Thanks!

WAYS & MEANS

Riley McInnis & Colette Hogue

adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com

Hello to our lovely guild!

We, Colette and Riley both, will be stepping down from our roles as Ways and Means co-chairs after this summer, which means we'll need to appoint new co-chairs beginning in October. Velvet has already volunteered, but we feel confident that this role truly requires at least two people to be sustainable. Riley will remain involved over the summer to provide continuity and help train the new co-chairs. While we hope to continue attending guild meetings, we're just no longer able to commit the additional time required for the Ways and Means co-chair responsibilities. If you're considering being on the committee, we've listed such responsibilities for you to review:

The Ways and Means committee is responsible for the storage unit, organizing materials for raffles at Guild meetings, and coordinating communication and donations to the Guild as they are sent to the Ways and Means email address or gifted in person. This committee also coordinates the rental of Guild equipment.

The primary responsibilities for this position take place on the days our guild meets in person. For example, we arrive at the storage unit at approximately 8:30am, pull from the donations (not rental equipment) for the raffle, load the sound equipment, and arrive at the Northtown Community Center at 9am.

WAYS & MEANS

Riley McInnis & Colette Hogue

adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com

Once there:

1. Bring in the raffle items and organize them on the raffle table.
2. Set up raffle cups (kept in the library cabinet) and coordinate the sale of raffle tickets.
3. Collect and record proceeds from the raffle and give them to the Treasurer (with documentation)

After the meeting:

1. Return materials to the library.
2. Return donation and excess materials to the Guild storage unit.
3. (optional) Sometimes we'll take the time to set aside the next month's raffle materials if we have time. This makes the next month a little easier and smoother in the morning.

Communication via email does occur year-round. It is common for individuals outside the Guild community to have materials to donate to the Guild on behalf of a family member who is no longer active in textiles. These types of pickups (or helpful hints on how they can sell or donate their holdings) occurred a handful of times over the last Summer as well.

Serving on the Ways and Means Committee has been genuinely rewarding. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with members and to play a meaningful role in supporting the guild's financial health. It's work that feels both impactful and fulfilling. 😊

If you're interested in getting involved once we've stepped down (or even earlier, so we can help you learn the ropes), please don't hesitate to reach out. Our goal is to transition out in a way that continues to serve the Guild well, while also allowing us to attend to our own personal needs.

Thank you so much for your understanding and support. We truly appreciate this community and look forward to hearing from you.

Now, for a few general reminders that we have in each MOA:

- We will continue to have a raffle each meeting! Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5.
- We're always accepting donations! Be it fiber for the guild or other art/crafting materials for Riley to take to the Art Resource Center.
- Fiber stored with mothballs cannot be accepted for donation.
- The rental fee for equipment is \$20/month. The current list for equipment available for rental or sale can be found on our website: <https://adwsg.org/rentals-and-sales> Sincerely,

Ways and Means co-chairs, Colette and Riley Reach us at adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com

Demonstrations

Jody Dozer

adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com

April is Maricopa County fair time. We need demonstrators for Friday April 3rd and Saturday April 11th. Both days are from 11:00 am to 4 pm in the Home Arts area.

If interested, please let Jody know - Thank You

Demonstrating at the Glendale event - Music and merriment at Sahuaro Park today

Lindy Isenberg & Sandy Brown ----->



HOSPITALITY

Julie Cattaneo

adwsg.hospitality@gmail.com

Remember to label any treats donated with the major ingredients, i.e. flour, eggs, nuts, & dairy products, for those guild members that have allergies. Thank you in advance.

LIBRARY

Beki Welsch

adwsg.librarian@gmail.com

The publishers of Ply and Weft Magazines are coming out with a new knitting magazine called **Purl**. I have ordered a subscription for it and we should get the first issue this fall. If you haven't checked out **Ply** (for spinners) or **Weft** (for weavers) let me assure you they are quality magazines. Each issue goes in depth into a topic, be it breeds of fiber animals, making novelty yarn, drape of woven fabric or all the variations of plain weave. I am sure **Purl** will be fabulous, too. Check out these magazines plus **Handwoven** and **Shuttle Spindle and Dyepot** from the Guild library. We also have long runs of other magazines that are no longer publishes such as **Interweave**, **Weavers Journal**, **Weavers Craft** and **Prairie Wool Companion**.

FEDERATION

Helene Hall

adwsg.federation@gmail.com

This is the last newsletter before the AZ Fiber Arts Festival!!!

Thank you to all who signed up to help with the guild booth. Your willingness to help is greatly appreciated.

There are still spots open for every time frame.

However help is most needed

>set up on Friday April 10 anytime from 8-3:30. Items will be there ready to display.

The booth needs to be ready to go by 3:30 at the official start of the festival. Please let me know if you can help out.

>Saturday April 11 from 9-11 and 3-5

>Sunday April 12 from 11-1 and after 3 to tear down

Please let me know if you are available for any or parts of those times.

Thank you in Advance!

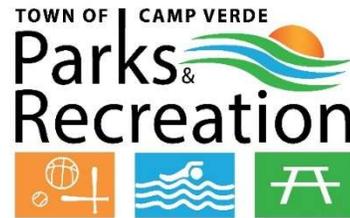
There are also opportunities to volunteer with the Federation through "Sign up Genius" on the AZFED.ORG website. It's super easy to navigate and pick a time and activity.

This is going to be a terrific festival! All classes are a "go" Please make every effort to attend to support the vendors, other guilds and the Federation. This has been over a year in the making. Take some time to thank the subcommittee board members who really dedicated so much time and effort into creating a high quality and hopefully successful event!

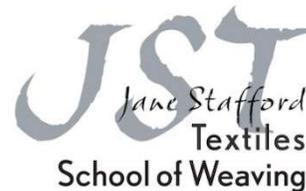
Helene - ADWSG FEDERATION REP

FESTIVAL-CLASS-BROCHURE

Festival Sponsors –



THE
Handweaving
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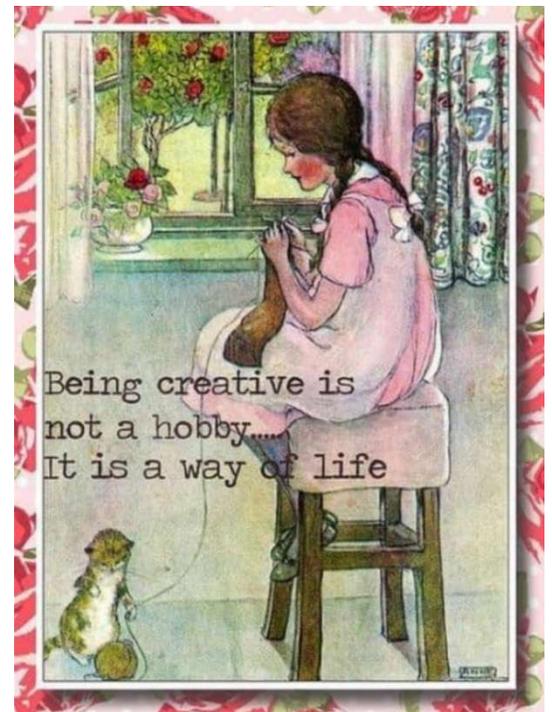
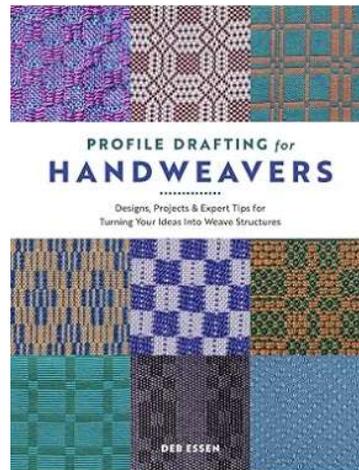
Fiber Arts Center

WONDERFUL WEAVERS STUDY GROUP

Ann Ormiston

adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com

The Wonderful Weavers Study Group is starting a new study – using a new book by Deb Essen “Profile Drafting for Handweavers”. This appears to be a well written book detailing profile drafting and how to use profile drafts with various weave structures, (4 to 8 shafts) We meet on Zoom the 3rd Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm. If you are interested and a Guild member, email me and I’ll add you to our Zoom invitation list. Our next meeting is April 19th.



OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

President	Merlyn Heck	adwsg.president@gmail.com
Vice President Programs	Vacant	adwsg.programs@gmail.com
Vice President Workshops	Roberta Perpich	adwsg.workshops@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sue Carneal	adwsg.treasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Velvet Dishon	adwsg.secretary@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2025-2026

Demonstrations/Publicity	Jody Dozer	adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com
Federation Representative	Helene Hall	adwsg.federation@gmail.com
Historian	Jamie Krauss	adwsg.historian@gmail.com
Hospitality	Julie Cattaneo	adwsg.hospitality@gmail.com
Interest Groups		
Spinning/Fiber Group	Paula Rudnick	adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com
Wonderful Weavers	Ann Ormiston	adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com
In Person Spinning Group	Sue Garber	adwsg.programs@gmail.com
Librarian	Beki Welsch	adwsg.librarian@gmail.com
Membership	Trish Boone	adwsg.membership@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Ann Ormiston	adwsg.editor@gmail.com
Ways & Means		adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com
Web Site	Anna Akridge	adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com

Next Meeting:

APRIL 4TH will be in person and on Zoom

At
Northtown Community Center
Meeting starts at 10 am

**MOA Submission
Deadline**
The 15th of each month
September through May
adwsg.editor@gmail.com

INTEREST GROUPS

SPINNING/FIBER GROUP ZOOM MEETINGS

Meets the third Wednesday of the month (all year long). FOR THE PRESENT TIME WE ARE MEETING ON ZOOM-(please be sure you are on the group email list so you get the email invite) We love to chat, learn what events are happening online, see what everyone is working on, and exchange ideas and get help with questions or problems we might be having with our projects. Our Zoom starts at 9:30--so join us and start chatting. We love to talk and work while we are still at home so join us for the talk and fun. We also try to have field trips a few time a year.

The group chair is **Paula Rudnick** - adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com

WONDERFUL WEAVERS STUDY GROUP

Currently Meeting as a ZOOM Group - Meets the Third Sunday of each month, all year long. Currently we are meeting from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm as a Zoom Group. We discuss Hand Weaving structures, ideas, problems, and solutions and enjoy our show and tell. Come and join our group. The group chair is **Ann Ormiston** adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com

THE DROP IN SPINNERS GROUP

The Drop In Spinners meet at the North Town Center 2202 E Waltann Ln, Phoenix on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00 to 2:00 pm. If you want an email reminder, contact me and I will add you to the email list. We always leave having fulfilled our laughter quota!! Join us.

From the front door, proceed to the library in the far back left corner. Anyone with an interest in spinning may join in, even if you are currently working on something else. The group chair is Sue Garber adwsg.programs@gmail.com

ADWSG WEBSITE

<http://www.adwsg.org>

Follow us on

[FACEBOOK](#)

Join Us for Our Monthly Meetings:

10 am In Person

Northtown Community Center 2202 E.
Waltann Lane,

Phoenix, AZ

Doors Open at 9 am

Come Early and Mingle!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 4, 2026

May 2, 2026
October 3, 2026

BRING YOUR OWN CUP

Thank you for bringing your reusable cups,
mugs, and utensils to the meetings.

Let us take care of Our Earth

CALENDAR

September 2025 – September 2026 – Phoenix Art Museum - Flowers of the Punjab

April 10, 11 & 12, 2026 - AZ FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL, CAMP VERDE AZ



June 12-14, 2026 – Complex Weavers Seminars 2026, Westminster, CO

August 11-17, 2026 – HGA Convergence Fiber Arts Conference, New Orleans, LA

July 6-10, 2027 - Intermountain Weavers Conference (IWC), Colorado Springs, CO

CLASSIFIED

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Did you know - Classified Ads are free to current ADWSG Members - Just send your ad to adwsg.editor@gmail.com and it will be included in the next MOA