



Latimer's Loose Threads

January/February 2024

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Kudos to Kathy Park and Marilyn Anderson for 13 years (!) of editing and proofreading the newsletter. These two are stepping down from these roles now (although Dick Park will remain the official Latimer photographer). Your new editor is Marilyn Roossinck; you can reach her at mjr25@psu.edu with news stories and photos. Sofie Skein-Hall will be the new proofreader.

THE 52 CARD CHALLENGE



BOARD MEMBERS

- Carol Weber/President
- Rhoda DeGiovanni/VP
- Kathy Park/ Secretary
- Arlene Sachitano
- Jon Rodriguez
- Linda Machuta
- Marilyn Roossinck
- LaRayne Woodward
- Mgr. Jennifer Lawrence



The 10 of spades, a hookers interpretation by Candy Allen

Over the summer Latimer members drew cards from a standard deck of 52, and then created their own interpretations. The rules were simple: any medium was allowed, and the maximum size allowed was 18 x 24 inches. The interpretations include weavings, embroidery, paintings, quilts, tapestries, and other inventive ideas.

These will be on display for the Januray/ February exhibit.

Open House Sunday January 14
12:00—4:00 pm

A Message from our President

The following article came to me from a fellow member. The article was written by Zaria Gorvett. I have taken excerpts from her article; it is quite lengthy, but fascinating.

The ancient fabric that no one knows how to make.

Nearly 200 years ago, Dhaka muslin was the most valuable fabric on the planet. Then it was lost altogether.

In late 18th century Europe, a new fashion led to an international scandal. In fact, an entire social class was accused of appearing in public naked. The culprit was DHAKA MUSLIN, a fabric previously imported from the city of the same name in what is now Bangladesh (then Bengal). It was not like the muslin of today. Made via an elaborate 16-step process with a rare cotton that only grew along the banks of the Meghna River, the cloth was considered one of the great treasures of the age. There were many different types, but the finest were honored with evocative names meaning "woven air". Dhaka muslin was more than a little transparent.

Traditionally, these fabrics were used to make saris. Not only were these endowed with a racy gauzy quality, they were in the style of what was previously considered underwear.

Still, Dhaka muslin was a hit with those that could afford it. It was the expensive fabric of the era, for royalty. But as quickly as this wonder cloth struck "Enlightened" Europe, it vanished.

By the 20th Century, Dhaka muslin had disappeared from every corner of the globe, with the only surviving examples in private collections and museums.

The full process of making Dhaka muslin involved 16 steps so specialized each was carried out by a different village around Dhaka. It was a true community effort, involving the young and old, men and women.

First, the balls of cotton were cleaned with the tiny, spine-like teeth on the jawbone of the boal catfish. The cotton fibers required high levels of humidity to stretch them, this stage was performed on boats. Next came the spinning. Older people generally couldn't spin the yarn, because they couldn't see the threads. Finally, there was the weaving. This part could take months to complete.

But while Victorian Londoners were fawning over the fabric, those who produced it were being pushed into debt and financial ruin.

As the generations passed, the knowledge of how to make Dhaka muslin was forgotten. And with no one to spin its silky threads, the phuti karpas plant, which had always been hard to tame (no one had been able to grow it away from the Meghna river) retreated back into wild obscurity. The legend of the loom was no more.

Come into Latimer and see the new consignor items, and have a visit with Jennifer.

Til next time..... Carol



Friends of Latimer Recognition Corner



Jane Wise
Grace Mick
Eileen Fitzsimons
Lisa Dunning
Jane Jones
April Thede

Library News—New Books

- "Miniature Bobbin Lacy" by Roz Snowden
- "Dutch Bobbin Lace Patterns" by Withof and Duchesse
- "The Myth and Magic of Embroidery" by Helen M. Stevens
- "Beginners Guide to Goldwork" by Ruth Chamberlin
- "The Complete Encyclopedia of Needlework"



October/November Visitors



Local 297
State 270
National 211
International 18
Total 767

REPORTS FROM THE GUILDS

Greetings from the **Latimer's Weavers!** In the spirit of the season, Marilyn R. is weaving cozy wool blankets on our Glimakra loom using a rosepath twill weave structure. Speaking of cozy, If you'd like to see how rag rugs are made, come visit soon because Liz weaves them super fast on our Ullman counterbalance loom. As of this writing she's using re-purposed cotton tablecloths for the weft. On our Oregon Trail loom, Stephanie is weaving Roman shades (yes, Roman shades!) that she designed to dress an office window. She's using a white woven rayon tape for the warp and blue cotton yarn for the weft. Marilyn A. is weaving a striped cotton twill table runner on our Loomcraft loom that she designed to use up colors in her stash. Notice that the weft she's using has a slightly different tone than the main warp color and it gives the whole piece a lovely golden sheen. Joyce just finished a kitchen towel project on one of our 4-harness Gilmore looms and is currently considering what to weave next. We can't wait to find out! Kathy is weaving fine cotton towels on our 8-harness Gilmore loom using a white warp and different color wefts for each towel. The weave structure creates a fascinating ornate pattern. If you need a break from the gloomy weather come see the Bronson Lace towels that Tamara's weaving on our Fireside loom. She challenged herself to use an abandoned linen warp that was donated to us and has designed delightful towels in a rainbow of spring colors. Sofie is already dreaming of summertime and warping the Macomber loom for a summer-weight scarf that she designed using an unusual fine Italian yarn made from 60% cotton and 40% silk. She'll be using an undulating twill weave structure with a pale green warp and a muted turquoise weft. You can see all of these projects in progress anytime and our weavers in action most Tuesdays and Fridays.



Tamara and Sofie wove thirteen beautiful towels on a single warp.

Report from the **Rug Krafters**

We've been quite busy sharing and enjoying our craft. Several from our guild attended a camping gathering at Silver Falls State Park. Two women we met there have started coming to Latimer and are hooking rugs with us.

A few of us went to a Friday-Saturday hook-in at the Kiwanis park in Battleground WA. It was exciting to see what everyone was doing, and we are re-energized to keep working!

Libby is preparing to teach a dyeing class at her home for a group of us so that we can dye our own wools for our projects. At least two of us are participating in the Card Challenge. The guild meets on Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm.



Beautiful pictorial hooked item of sea otters.

From the **Quilters Guild**

Tillamook County Quilt Guild has had a busy year. Yearly we donate quilts to Oregon Youth Authority and this year we were able to finish 8 quilts to give them. We will finish out the year with our Christmas party and block exchange. We welcome anyone to join our group. We meet at Latimer on the third Thursday of the month at 10:30.



A sampling of quilts for the Oregon Youth Authority.

Cordelia's knitters are busy making a variety of projects. Several people are making baby blankets while others are doing color work hats. There are socks being created as well as three sweaters destined for great nieces and nephews in Germany. We have at least one scarf in the works, too. Knitters of all skill levels are welcome to join us, Thursdays from 1-3 and 5:30-7:30. And remember...knit happens!

The Oregon Coast Fiber Artisans Guild meets on Tuesdays from 10 to 4. We are an eclectic group, with members doing knitting, crocheting, spinning, weaving (including Inkle loom weaving), quilting, and tapestry. In the summer (usually August) we do both Natural and Fiber-reactive dyeing in the back yard.



Weaving from the community loom. This loom was warped by Stephany with instructions for visitors to try their hands at weaving. It will become table runners.

UPCOMING CLASSES

Beginning sewing: Feb. 17 and Feb. 24, 10 am to noon. Limited to 8 students

Cost \$25

Marie-Lise Best

Inkle Loom Weaving March 11-13, 10am -3pm. Limited to 10 students

Cost TBA

Phoebe McAfee

Tapestry Weaving April 6-8, 10am -3pm Limited to 10 students

Phoebe McAfee

Cost TBA

Crow Women Quilt

1st class May 18, 10am -4pm Limit 12 students \$50 for members/ \$60 for non-members + kit

Totem section, June 8, 10am -4pm for totem part of class Limit 12 students \$50 for member/\$60 non-member + kit

Borders, June 9, 12noon -4pm Limit 12 students \$35 members/ \$45 non member

Helen Knott

Artist Tiles August 10, 10-4 12 students \$50 for members \$60 non-members + kit

Call the Latimer for more information or email LatimerClasses@gmail.com

In our November/December exhibit we displayed a tapestry by Althea Lee Jordan. She created this beautiful piece with one hand! Here is her story:

I had a stroke in 2008, and it left me one-handed, left instead of right (and I was right handed). My right arm just sits at my side and won't do anything else. It also took me out of my profession; I was a lawyer/mediator who often served as a judge. Without an ability to write, I could not work.

I spent two years at home learning to talk and walk, the stroke was that bad. When things were acceptable, I needed people. First, I joined Backstrokes at the beginning of their efforts. They were a group of stroke and other brain injured survivors in Portland. That was wonderful. It's going on thirteen years and we're still singing (although now, and during the pandemic, it is on Zoom; we will be together face to face soon). It gave me the courage to try other things.

Then I followed an inclination to weave, which had always been a dream of mine, but work had gotten in the way. Now, I had nothing but time. I found out a great deal about Damascus School of Fiber Arts. Terry Olson, an instructor there, reassured me that she would help me when needed. She helped me with some of the first steps, weaving small birds, and was enthusiastic about my progress with one hand. I am so grateful to Terry and to the other weavers who have helped me.

Someone has to warp the loom for me. I tell whoever is doing it the width of the weaving I want, and they do it along with the half hitches, a line of thread that makes both ends (the start and the finish) hard to unravel. I then weave. When I finish, and someone has done the half-hitches along the end of my weaving, I cut the weaving off the loom. Someone has to cut off the fibers on the back of the piece if they are too long. Then if I want to mount the piece, I will search for wool to match the piece, and give it to Terry. She will mount it, which involves choosing a "frame" of the right size and hammering it together, then sewing the sides to the wool which has been stretched around the frame. So, really, I get to do the best of the weaving process, the creative part, and everyone else does the "work." I didn't ask to have the use of my right hand taken away, but there is some compensation.

I am a bit slower than other weavers. I have a hard time keeping the right side of the weaving straight (it gets smaller and smaller), and I have to rely on other people to do the "work" of weaving, but it brings me a lot of joy, and it is still worth devoting 10 hours a week at Damascus.



Lee's tapestry interpretation of a dress form.

New Members October and November

Karla Allbritton
Lynne Beck
Kathy Bower
Jacque Corey
Karen E.Duey
Stephani Hoper
Ginnie Johnson
Trishe Kauffman
Karen Kraus

Jennifer Lawrence
Char Moody
Norma Jean Siverson
Karen P. Petersen
Jeanine Rumble
Ruth Ellen Saarinen
Lynda Sherman
Constance Shimek



EXHIBITS

Jan/Feb Latimer Challenge
Mar/Apr Audrey Moore Weaving
May/June Tillamook County Quilters
July/Aug Vintage and Antique Quilts



Wish List

Clean the Parking lot!



Tillamook Chamber of Commerce
Largest source of Tourist information in the county,
Calendar of local events
Active Business Directory



Stacks of Stash
 etsy.com/shop/stacksofstash

Fabric
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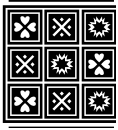
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Latimer Quilt & Textile Center

2105 Wilson River Loop Road

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Hours for the fall and winter months

Open to the public Tuesday thru Saturday 10-4

Please inform us of any different address
for any period of time you will be away.
Thank You.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

<p><i>Open House</i> Sunday, Jan. 7 12:00—4:00</p>	<p>Board Meetings Wednesdays Jan. 17 Feb. 21</p>	<p>Oregon Coast Fiber Artisans Every Tuesday 10:00— 4:00</p>
<p>Cordelia's Knitters meet every Thursday 1:00-3:00 and 5:30—7:30 pm</p>	<p>Ocean Breeze Rugrafters Every Friday 10:00—2:00</p>	<p>Weavers meet every Friday 10:00—4:00</p>
<p>Needlework Bring your project and join the fun.</p>	<p>Tillamook County Quilt Guild 3rd Thursdays 10:30—12:30</p>	<p>Volunteers are always need- ed for a variety of tasks. Call Latimer to find out more.</p>