



This article about one of our members was originally published in the “Reno Gazette Journal,” March 19, 2007, and has been edited substantially to fit in the ElderCollege Newsletter

Artist Leaves her Stamp on the Card-Design World

Beth Larson, 72, has been making cards using rubber stamps for her friends and family for six years. Her work was featured inside and on the cover of the December issue of “Rubber Stamper” magazine.

Larson sent in a series of cards months ago that all featured an African mask stamp and hoped maybe the magazine would use one. In addition to putting a card on the cover, they used three other cards of hers on a two-page spread inside the magazine.

Larson, despite not being able to do some things because of arthritis, works every day in her workshop, filled with about 25 cabinet drawers full of stamps, beads, stickers, fabric, glue, sponges, paint, embossing powder, and hole punchers that cut out a variety of shapes.

“My world is full of the most fascinating

materials,” she said.

Larson was a psychiatric worker for 25 years.

“I believe creativity itself has almost a healing power,” she said. “It takes you away. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night and start worrying about something and, instead, I’ll design a card in my head and then I’m asleep and not worrying anymore.”

She didn’t have a lot of time for crafts while working and raising her three children Jacqueline, Kathleen and Doug.

Larson has made cards that have secret compartments, pop-up elements when you open them, folded boxes that hold paper treasures and cards that play music.

The cards that were featured in the magazine are special because their glittering eyes seem to follow you.

If anyone is interested in learning the craft, you can look for classes at craft stores.

(Edited by E. Louise Smith)

