

LACE THREADS

News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group - Spring 2014

<http://pittsburghlacegroup.org>
pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, you lovely lacemakers,

Anyone who comes in contact with a lacemaker talking about “UFO’s” probably thinks we’re all nuts. We may all be nuts, but it’s not because of “UFO’s”! To a lacemaker a UFO is an *UnFinished Object*. Most of us have them at one time or another. Bring all your UFO’s to the annual meeting on April 5, and you’ll have a chance to finish, or at least make progress on them after the official meeting. For some reason, I don’t have any this year, except for the pillow I like to use for demos, so I’ll work on that. It hasn’t seen much activity during the winter, so I guess it would be good to start working on again.

If you’ve not attended an annual meeting, you’re missing some very good lunch food. Even if you don’t have any unfinished objects to work on, come anyway so you can vote in our annual election. This year we’ll be electing the president and secretary. Come and help us decide who’ll be running the show for the next couple of years. After lunch, when we all get out our pillows, it’s fun to see who’s doing what. You might get inspired to try something you haven’t tried before.

I don’t usually mind the winter, but this year it has lasted entirely too long! I’m tired of wearing warm winter clothes; of not being able to open the windows for more than a few seconds; and of freezing outside because I forgot my fluffy scarf! According to today’s weather, we’re supposed to have temperatures in the 60’s and maybe even 70 for at least the rest of this week. Maybe our annual meeting will be held on a lovely spring day, a good time for everybody to come to the Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church to enjoy a little “food and fellowship” after we get through with the official business. I’ll see you all at 10:00 on April 5th at the church.

~ Louise Chuha

Please note: no articles appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced without the express permission of the author. No photographs appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced without the permission of the editor. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed articles to this newsletter!

THE SPRING WORKSHOP IS COMING UP!

Isn't it great to hear the word "spring"?

Come join us on

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2014, 5:30-9:00 PM

**FRIDAY NIGHT PRE-WORKSHOP GET-TOGETHER
AND SHOPPING**

WITH KATHY KIRCHNER

Psst!----The perfect chance to shop for some unusual items that are not available locally.

All are welcome, whether you are taking the workshop or not!

PRESENTATION BY AMY GIBBONS

"Decorative Knitted Lace Edgings"

Admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members

Coffee and tea will be provided. Donations of finger foods for Friday night will be greatly appreciated.

There will be a door prize raffle and a jumble table.

Donations of items for the raffle are always welcome and appreciated.

BEGINNING BEADED KNITTING WORKSHOP

WITH KATHY KIRCHNER

"ADDING BLING WITH STICKS AND STRING"

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MAY 3 AND 4, 2014

CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING



Come join us as nationally renowned knitter, lacemaker, and supplier Kathy Kirchner presents a workshop in which students will learn several ways of adding beads to their knitting while completing a sampler suitable for use as a bookmark or "page weight." Kathy will describe how to read bead charts and diagrams, and will work with students on applying those bead diagrams to their work. Students will also draft their own bead chart for a beaded bag of their own design.

Hours for the workshop will be from 10:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 9:00 to 4:00 on Sunday. To register for the class, please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and send it to Gretchen Baudoux. A supply list and email will be sent with confirmation of registration.

Please remember to bring a dish to share for lunch.

Directions to the Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

From Monroeville: Parkway East (I-376) to the Churchill Exit (Exit 10-A). Exit from left lane. Turn left at first intersection and immediate right into Borough Bldg. parking lot.

From Pittsburgh: Parkway East (I-376) to Churchill Exit (Exit 10-A); right at bottom of ramp to “Y” intersection with Beulah Rd. (Rt. 130-W); take the right branch and immediately get into left lane. Turn left at the light (left turn signal) onto Penn Avenue Borough Bldg. is on the left; entrance to parking lot is just beyond the building.

You may use either parking lot, but if you use the lower lot, please park away from the building so the police can park close to the building. Enter through the side doors.

SO WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE PLG?

MCGINLEY HOUSE DEMONSTRATION

OCTOBER 12, 2013

by Amy Gibbons

In the middle weekend of October, I headed solo to the McGinley House in Monroeville for our annual fall demonstration. Because Gretchen and many of the usual helpers had gone to a D.A.R. meeting, I was greeted very enthusiastically by the McGinley House staff. The day started out brilliantly, a perfect fall day full of sunshine and crisp air. I thought it would be lovely to sit outside like lacemakers of old to make lace in the sunshine. The staff provided me with a small table and a chair—perfect!

As soon as I had everything settled nicely, however, the clouds arrived. Fearing rain, I moved to the porch and so had a roof over my head and good lighting. I was very visible and many people approached me to ask about lace, although most folks, especially the children (thank you), were more interested in the pumpkin painting and the opportunity to build scarecrows to take home. The McGinley House staff provided me with lovely fresh bread baked in their outdoor oven. There was popcorn, hot dogs and cider available as well. The staff could not have been any nicer or accommodating. It was the perfect venue for lace demonstrating: I could make lace while there was no one around and talk to people when they were there. I am looking forward to going again in 2014. Really, if you have never demonstrated there, it is a wonderful experience.

WIRE LACE WORKSHOP WITH KIM DAVIS

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2013

By Amy Gibbons

What a lovely time! We were introduced to Californian Kim Davis, for the first time, and were so happy to welcome her to our Friday night pre-workshop gathering. I feel like I can only repeat the same things about this Friday night as have been written about other Friday nights when we gather together. Good food, great vendor, lots of chatting with friends and a very interesting talk by Kim about early lace. Kathy Timmons was thrilled to win the moss green shawl and I was pleased with the books that I won. It was, as always, lovely to see our lace friends. In addition, we were awed by the beautiful antique laces that Kim brought, as well as her

stunning wire lace. Those of us taking the workshop were loaned special bobbins and given instructions about how to wind them so we would be ready for Saturday morning.

Saturday classes started right on time. Kim is a very efficient and very generous teacher. Everyone progressed at her own speed through a basic pattern. We all admired Kim's beautiful examples, and appreciated her tips and insight as we made lace with a new and exciting material. We did find, however, that some habits of a lifetime making lace were hard to unlearn, but Kim was always there with support and gentle reminders of how to work with wire.

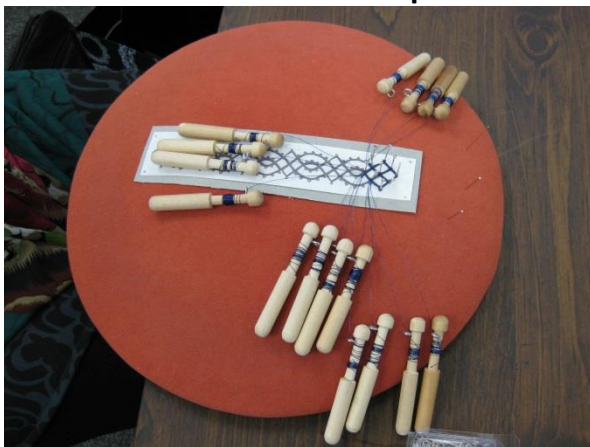
During our lunch break, we were visited by some ladies who wanted to ask some questions about a vintage lace dress from the early 1900s that had belonged to one of their mothers. They left with as much information as we could give them, and we referred them to some other local sources that might be of help in understanding how the dress was made. After a lively lunch, we all worked as hard as we could in the afternoon before we broke for dinner.

On Sunday, each of us was at a different place in our lace. Everyone proceeded at her own pace, choosing different patterns and working on learning to master the wire lace techniques. It was easy for us to see where the wire should go, but not always so easy to make it go there. Dewi brought in her latest necklace, which is amazing, as well as a half dozen beaded Christmas ornaments that she had completed since Summer Camp. It was wonderful to see how Dewi had taken a basic bead netting pattern and transformed it to create some elegant works of art.

Before we knew it, the vacuum was running and it was time for Kim to go back to the airport and Kathy and Nancy to go back to Virginia. It is always so nice to have them join us.

Thanks go out to Barb for arranging the scheduling of the workshop at the Borough Building, and for setting up and cleaning up before and after the workshop. Thank you to Tim Trimble for his assistance with the video set up. (It is amazing to see how our kids have matured!) Thank you to Theresa for housing Trudy, and to Suzanne for picking her up from the airport. She is a wonderful vendor, even if her supplies tempt me way too much. The group purchased a number of books from Trudy, which are listed below in this newsletter. What a delightful weekend—we can hardly wait until Kim comes back to teach us again.

Some pictures from the Wire Lace Workshop





**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH NATIONALITY ROOMS OPEN HOUSE
DECEMBER 8, 2013**

If you have never visited the Nationality Rooms during the Christmas season, you are missing a real treat--and it is one treat the PLG never passes up! Our yearly demonstration at the Nationality Rooms Open House is one of the highlights of the Christmas season. Amy, Dewi, Suzanne, Barb and Joanie were lucky enough to demonstrate bobbin lacemaking in the glittering and glorious Croghan-Schenley Ballroom on the afternoon of December 8, 2013. Outside the weather was blustery and snowy; inside, the atmosphere was exuberant as Pittsburgh's ethnic performers showed off meticulous folk dance steps, their supporters tempted the visitors with delicacies from many nations, and the members of Pitt's Quo Vadis fraternity showcased the lovely Nationality Rooms. Many visitors stopped in to ask some great questions, a few showed interest in coming to upcoming PLG gatherings, and we all had fun gathering around the Group's lace Christmas tree. Even though the past winter was such a long and miserable one, I am looking forward to our next demonstration at the Nationality Rooms Open House this coming December.

**PLG CHRISTMAS PARTY
JANUARY 3, 2014**

Perhaps the best way to tell you about what took place at the Pittsburgh Lace Group Christmas Party would be through the following Christmas tale.

One cold Christmas season, there was a lively, lacy Elf:



And two Enchanting Empresses, one in her beaded finery:



And a kindhearted Lady who made sure no one went hungry:



And a couple of stalwart Knights in Shining Armor (only one is in this picture):



And a LOT of Presents from Christmases Past, which the good people could win with a Game of Chance:



And they all got together and talked and ate and played, and much hilarity, good will, and fun ensued!

~The End~

NEW BOOKS IN THE PLG LIBRARY

Dentelles de Valenciennes, Sophie Houpeurt-Mollaret

Kunterbunte Kloppel-Ostereier, Annelies Kirsten

Mailander Spitze & Co

Orenburg Knitting (DVD)

NEWS FROM OUR ROVING REPORTER, ROBIN PANZA

I just came upon this site and had to share it with the Group. These amazing eggs are drilled by hand by an artist. They look like they are made of lace! Check out more pictures at:

<http://www.flipflipmeheidi.com/article/fragile-beauty-franc-grom>



DID YOU PAY YOUR 2014 DUES? (THEY WERE DUE IN JANUARY)

REMEMBER: YOU CAN ALWAYS ACCESS OUR NEWSLETTERS AT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://pittsburghlacegroup.org>

Email us at pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com

FUTURE EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sat. April 5, 2014 – Annual Meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church 10-2
Thursday, April 17 and May 1, 2014 – No Thursday class at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church
Friday, May 2, 2014 5:30-9 – Meeting, greeting, shopping and talk by Amy Gibbons “Knitted Lace Edgings”
Saturday-Sunday, May 3-4, 2014 – Spring Workshop with Kathy Kirchner “Beginning Beaded Knitting”
Thursday, June 5, 2014 7-9 – Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church
June or July 2014 – Lace Summer Camp at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church – dates/times to be announced
Thursday, July 3, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church
Thursday, August 7, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church
Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church
Friday, October 3, 2014 – Meeting, greeting and shopping – pre-workshop get-together; Slovakian Lace
Saturday-Sunday October 4-5, 2014 – Fall Workshop with Debby Beever “Color Tricks in Torchon”
Thursday, November 6, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church
Thursday, December 4, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church
April 17-19, 2015 – Spring Workshop with Louise Colgan

BEGINNING BEADED KNITTING WORKSHOP WITH KATHY KIRCHNER SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MAY 3 AND 4, 2014

Workshop Registration Form

Return this form with check payable to **Pittsburgh Lace Group** to:
Gretchen Baudoux, 4704 Bert Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146 (phone 412-372-8956)

Name _____

Address _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Workshop \$50 members, \$60 non-members \$ _____

Number of dinner reservations for Saturday (not included in cost) _____