

Lace Threads News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group

Web site ~ <http://pittsburghlacegroup.org/>

Fall/Winter 2011

President's Message

Hello Friends,

I hope you'll all join us for our 30th anniversary party on November 4th. We'll have a jumble table, some mystery pictures to identify, commemorative bobbins; and of course we'll have a cake which already sounds delicious! And who knows what other mysterious things might be happening. Read on for further news.

There are a couple of chances for demonstrating bobbin lace coming up in October. Check the calendar for dates. If you're not taking part in the demos, you could come and say hello to those of us that are. If you think you'd like to do some lace demonstrating, let Amy or me know. If you want

to know more about what it's like and what you have to do, just call anyone of us and we'll be happy to talk to you about it. Remember that you would not be by yourself - there is always at least one other person there, sometimes two or three, so you could concentrate on what you're doing. Give it some thought!

By the way, notice that our meetings have now gone back to our usual first Thursday evenings.

LouiseChuha

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Calendar of Future Events

Thursday, September 29, NO CLASS

Saturday, October 1. *National Lace Making Day*

Thursday, October 6, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Saturday, October 15, 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. Monroeville Heritage Fall Festival -demonstrate at the McGinly House

Saturday, October 22, 10:00 - 5:00 Murrysville Colonial Festival

Friday, November 4, 6:00 - 9:30 P.M. *Thirtieth Anniversary Party*

Saturday & Sunday, November 5 & 6, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. **Jewelry Workshop** Churchill Borough

Thursday, November 24 NO CLASS scheduled *Happy Thanksgiving*

Thursday, December 1, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 4, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. Demonstrate at The Nationality Rooms

Thursday, December 22, NO CLASS on Thursday ~ *Merry Christmas*

Thursday, December 29: **6:00** P.M. Lace Christmas Party at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Dues for 2012 are due January 1st

Thursday, January 5, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Thursday, February 2, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Friday, February 24. Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, March 1, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Please call Suzanne or Amy by 5:00 p.m. if you are coming to class on Thursday night, especially if the weather might be bad!

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Spider Infestation at PLG Summer Camp

By Joan Trimble

From what I have heard, summer camp and spiders go hand-in-hand. So what better place to be during the week of July 11th than the PLG Lace Summer Camp at the Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church? This was the week when the group revisited our old friend, the Torchon lace spider. Using the book *A Study of Torchon Spiders*, by Julie Hendricks, seven brave souls studied different patterns for these many-legged motifs so dear to those who love Torchon.

Amy Gibbons served as the official spider wrangler by giving us written directions that set forth a different self-guided task for each day of the four-day camp. On Day One, we breezed through four-legged spiders, forming four basic designs from the basic cloth stitch motif through the beading spider. Day Two saw the coming of the six-legged spider, and the pricking for that day included eight different spider designs ranging from the cloth stitch spider to the wide-eyed spider. On Day Three, we continued to work on our six-legged spiders, and Amy gave us more written directions for the next group of spiders—you guessed it—the eight-legged variety. On Day Four, we tackled the eight-legged spiders, for which we had an incredible thirteen different patterns. Always the leader, our intrepid

Amy even completed five ten-legged spider designs, for the future edification of anyone who is interested in any more arachnid-inspired lace.

Despite some tongue-in-cheek complaints about the amount of writing that this workshop required, the response was enthusiastic, with virtually all of the participants giving it ten out of ten stars. Some comments are as follows:

“What a great summer camp! It is so good to be doing some Torchon again.” -- Louise

“What a great summer camp! I think it helped everyone renew their interest in lacemaking.” -- Amy

“What a great summer camp! I am so glad I learned how to make the half-stitch spiders.” -- Suzanne

“What a great summer camp! It is always good to learn new techniques.” -- Esther

“What a great summer camp! I really love the look of the classic cloth-stitch spiders.” -- Joanne

Thanks again to Amy for helping all of us who were stuck, for her excellent penmanship on the dry-erase board, for bringing in the virtual campfire (if not the s'mores) and for organizing this outstanding workshop for our yearly summer camp.

Addendum by Louise Chuha

Any of you who didn't happen to attend our “summer camp” in July, really missed something—we all went to Spider heaven! Thank goodness these were lace spiders and not live ones (at least I don't think there were any live ones around).

Earlier in the year, we had decided to make our project for summer camp All About Spiders. We used a book by Julie Hendricks. Most of us had learned how to make normal Torchon spiders, and thought we knew all about them. Well, we couldn't be any more wrong!

There were 31 different spiders having 4, 6, 8, or 10 legs. I'm not sure I'm ready for the 10 pair ones, but I'm enjoying all the others. I thought those four evenings were well spent, and I think everybody had a good time and learned a few things. I don't know if anyone finished all 31 of them, I'm about ready to start the second set of the 8 legged spiders. When I looked at the prickings for the 10-legged spiders, I thought they might be out of my league, but maybe I'll work up the nerve to try them after I copy the directions

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Demonstration Opportunities & Future Events

Monroeville Heritage Days (a.k.a. The McGinley House) ~ October 15

The McGinley House in Monroeville has invited us to join them for their celebration of Monroeville Heritage Days from 1:00 to 5:00p.m. It is a nice chance to learn about a local homestead, to meet nice people and to share your craft. If you are able to join us, please contact Gretchen Baudoux for more information.

Murrysville Colonial Festival ~ October 22

The details on this are still firming up. The hours are 10:00 to 5:00 with the official opening at 11:00. It will be at the Murrysville Fire Hall Field, close to the intersection of Old William Penn Highway and Sardis Road. Joan Trimble is working out the details, but save the date. It might be as much fun as when we demonstrated under the Boston Bridge, only easier to find my way home. Better directions are available.

Nationality Rooms ~ December 4

Although we have received no details, don't forget that we usually demonstrate the first Sunday in December (the 4th) at the Nationality Rooms in the Cathedral of Learning. We are usually there from noon until 4:00 P.M. This has been the traditional kick off for the Christmas Season for members of the Pittsburgh Lace Group for many years. There is good food and wonderful craft items from around the world, all of which make great Christmas gifts. We will again put up our Christmas tree and nativity in the Croghan Schenley Room. Come and help us

celebrate the season. It is a fun Sunday afternoon. (Please remember no food is allowed in the room.) You may volunteer at the Anniversary Party in November when Dewi should have more information available.



Christmas Party ~ December 29th

Our Annual Christmas Party will be Thursday evening December 29th at the Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church on Hochburg Road at 6:00 p.m. This year the snow date will be January 5th. We will have a wonderful time singing, eating and playing the re-gifting/white elephant game. If you have questions, ask anyone who was there last year.

Things to bring: your family, some food to share, and a white elephant or two for the game, wrapped or unwrapped. Once again if we are lucky Louise Chuha will read us a story and Gretchen will help us stumble through "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which we forgot last year. This is our one time to get together and laugh with no pressure.

Dues for 2012 Are Due January 1st

The cost of membership is \$15.00. Please complete and mail the form on the last page of the newsletter, with your check, made payable to Pittsburgh Lace Group to: Gretchen Baudoux, 4704 Bert Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

We Had a Party by Amy Gibbons

The arrangements were finally made and Dorothy was moving to Virginia on August 1st. We decided to have a “going away” party for her at the Presbyterian Home on the last Thursday in July, instead of having class. The weather mirrored our sadness as the rains poured from the sky furiously. Being the intrepid travelers



that we are, we still got together. I thought that Dorothy was going to pretend to be a “Rockette” as Gretchen and Esther walked her down the hall. We all sat together in the dining room and laughed and talked. There were presents for Dorothy – who loves presents--and absolutely no lace was made. We will surely miss our friend.



Message from our Library

I know that I was supposed to be here, but between demonstration opportunities, the workshop and the Christmas Party, there was not enough room left. I take up five pages of the newsletter now. You may visit me on the web site to check a title. Here is a list of the books which have been added to the library since the last time the list was included. Amy and Suzanne brought back some wonderful books from convention and we received the Charter Chapter Pattern DVD too. The spring newsletter always has our Constitution, so look for me next summer.

Pochettes 10 Modeles, Centre D'Enseignement de la Dentelle au Fuseau (MX)

I.O.L.I. Charter Chapter Pattern Book 2011 (DVD)

Circles and Squares, The Lace Guild (BB)

Neue Weihnachts-Kloppelmuster, Bridget Bellon (BB)

Threads for Lace Edition5, Brenda Paternoster (BB)

Bobbin Lace Fantasy Flowers, Rosemary Shepherd (MX)

An Early Lace Workbook, Rosemary Shepherd (ID)

Heirloom Knitting, by Sharon Miller (NB)

Kloppeln-hinundher, Claire Burkhard (BB)

Thank You Very Much.

Pittsburgh Lace Group received a generous contribution from the family of Dorothy Kokal, which is to be used to defray the cost of our next workshop. It was most generous of them.

Serendipity by Amy Gibbons

My husband found a reference to bobbin lace selling in a book written by Gunther Prien titled “U-Boat Commander.” It spoke about taking lace that was made in the country to sell to a Millinery Shop. The shop keeper complained about all the lace having the old fashioned “Gods Eye Pattern” and implied that the shopkeeper was cheap. It is an interesting insight into attitudes. I will try to bring the book to our party.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Your Beading Heart by Gretchen Baudoux

Amy, Esther, Joanie and I went to Your Beading Heart in Irwin on Saturday, September 10th. Amy was the driver, I knew the way – to Trafford then 993 to Irwin. Joanie then led us to the shop at 102 Fourth Street. There was a street fair that day so traffic and parking were a bit of a problem on Saturday morning.

The owner, Linda Pence, was glad to see us and she was very helpful. There was a nice selection of beads and findings. Jewelry classes are sometimes held at the shop (724-861-9687), and you can buy items online.

You have probably seen some beautiful bracelets and necklaces that Amy and Joanie have made using a six-inch Kumihimo braiding disk. I bought one of the disks and beads and fasteners. Linda printed out the directions. That will be another project for me, but I love to learn new techniques. This appears to be fairly easy and can be completed in a short time.

Esther met us at Your Beading Heart and Amy and I followed her to her home in Jeannette. Esther had prepared a delicious lunch for us, and Amy brought an elderberry pie. We had a nice visit and, as always, we never ran out of things to talk about.

Passport to Tonder by Susan Hottle

I attended a Tonder workshop in Cortland, OH, on Sat. September 10th. Thanks to Denmark, we have a fine floral style lace in which there is great contrast between the point ground & the cloth stitch areas enclosed by gimp. Suggested threads are YLI 100, Egyptian cotton 120, Brok 140 or Finca 100 to be used with coton a broder 20 gimp. This difference in thread size is what helps make Tonder so distinctive. Other features that set this style apart are the 54 degree angle, Cumberland Edge, Copenhagen holes & gimp fingers. The order of work for this lace is by section or motif rather than row

Would you believe--eight lacemakers working with fine silk or cotton thread managed to make it through the day with no broken threads! Quite an accomplishment, I would say, as we worked our

way through our beginner or advanced patterns. The beginner pattern featured tallies & Copenhagen hole shamrock shapes surrounded by gimp. Beginner students were permitted to use bigger threads: YLI 50, Madeira 80, Finca 80 or Bockens 120. The advanced pattern offered Copenhagen holes, honeycomb fillings, tallies & gimp fingers. Both patterns had double picot 7+1 edges. Working point ground was a new experience for many of us. After having “close the pin” drilled into my brain, it took a little practice to CTTT, pin & go! At the end of the day we each received a copy of the Tonder Lace Festival 1995 edging pattern to try at home. According to their website www.kniplings-festival.dk/, there will be another Tonder Lace Festival June 7-9 2013 so we've got time to practice.

Pillows Available

Pittsburgh lace group has a supply of “One and Only” lace pillows from Snowgoose. It is a 20” round polyethylene pillow with a cardboard base. There is a roller as well as two 5” square blocks and two half blocks. It comes with instructions for covering. The pillows are currently residing at Amy Gibbon’s house. If you are interested in purchasing one, please let her know by the day before class. She will bring it to any Thursday night class. Payment of \$34.00 should be made to the Pittsburgh Lace Group.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

"Amy and Suz's Great Adventure ~ the trip to Bethesda, MD and back in one easy day"

by Suznne Potter

The motto for our little jaunt turned out to be - "God protects fools, children and semi-elderly lacemakers on a mission." Amy and I got on the PA turnpike at 7 a.m. on August 3 and headed to Bethesda for the annual IOLI Conference. She had a Trip-tik from AAA and I had coffee from Mickey D's and it was easy going until we reached the outskirts of Bethesda. The Trip-tik said we were to leave Interstate 270 and get on "Local Loop 270." OH, NO - there were no signs for the Local Loop 270! There was a sign for I495-Bethesda, so we blindly followed it. Amy spotted the buildings for the National Institute for Health, found them on the Trip-tik and said, "Keep going." We weren't lost. We followed the street addresses to the Hyatt Regency. Driving into the entryway, I spotted the sign for the "parking garage." Even the sign over the dark entrance—"Abandon hope all ye who enter here"-- didn't stop us. Bravely, we started our descent. We crept slowly down the very steep, narrow ramp and started to search for the perfect parking spot (near the hotel). We found one and sneaked in the ballroom entrance. We were near the IOLI classrooms and one floor below the registration area. See the above motto to explain how we pulled that one off. After a short interlude shopping, visiting far-flung friends (Robin, Betsy, etc.), eating a delicious vegetarian lunch, visiting the display room, and more shopping, we were ready to head home. It was only 4p.m., but we had a long drive ahead of us. We asked a bellhop how to get back to 495 and he said, "exit the hotel, get in the left lane, turn left, turn left, turn left, then turn right." That sounded easy, but first we had to get out of the parking garage!

Since we were able to park on the first level down near the hotel, it should have been easy to exit. Unfortunately, between the "mysterious tow truck" that followed us, and the moving exit signs, we were in trouble again. We twisted and turned our way

through the maze of parked cars following exit signs that sent us in circles back to where we had parked. All the while the "M.T.T." followed us. I guess we looked like candidates for a tow- but to where? Were we lost or worse? Finally another car pulled out of a space and we (Amy, I and M.T.T.) followed it. Yeah, the driver knew the way, but how did she do it? We had gone around three times and couldn't find the ramp! See motto above. We popped out of the garage and went the wrong way through the entryway as instructed by the bell hop and continued to follow the bellhop's explicit directions. Oh, no - once again we were confused (NOT LOST). Too many lefts, or not enough? Amy boldly said, "Turn right," and there was the hotel to the left. We turned right again and were on 495North at rush hour! The drive home was "rush hour slow" and rainy, but we didn't care. Other than a window sticker for a "Zombie Response Team" that gave us pause, the return trip was uneventful. I dropped Amy at her house at 9:30 p.m. Four hundred twenty-eight miles in one day-not bad! Anyone brave enough to join us next year for the trip to Minnesota is welcome to come.



Pittsburgh Lace Group

The Adventure Continues by Amy Gibbons

What a fun trip it was with Suzanne. I brought wish books (catalogues) to read from and laugh at on the long drive. There are some ridiculous products out there and we wondered about why people would pay those prices for those things. Suzanne is an excellent driver and was very familiar with that end of the state. I went for three reasons: to shop; to see the display room; and to see Robin. We did all that. We started with the shopping. It was nice to see old friends like Kathy Kirchner and Susan Wentsel. Suzanne and I both fell in love with some rings which were made using lace techniques that simply have to be seen. We will wear them for PLG's Anniversary Party November 4th. When it was time for Robin to be done with her morning class, I called her and we met for a brief walk to a nearby restaurant for lunch. We only got to spend a short time with Robin since she had signed up for an afternoon class as well. It was good to have a guide to show us where everything was. She showed us the pillow that she was using in her Polychrome Class (purple, wouldn't you know, with a zillion bobbins).



After Robin returned to class, we went to the Display Room. This is the room where people bring the lace they have entered in the contest that I.O.L.I. has every year. This year's subject was Threads of History. I wish you could have all seen the wonderful lace. There was a christening gown and hat that I photographed for Gretchen; there was a Torchon scarf – a possible project for the future; there was a cornucopia in bright colors; and lots of gorgeous possibilities. It was a room full of inspirations, but not much light, so please forgive the poor photography. Both the contest lace and the Antique lace were not allowed to be photographed and flash was not allowed, but here are some of the other things I especially liked.



Title: Cornucopia
Type of Lace: Cantu
Displayed by: Betty Manfre
Winners of the 2008



Title: Scarf
Type of Lace: Torchon
Displayed by: Margaret Campbell

After a brief return to shop just one more time (I bought the cutest tiny scissors) around the room, we headed back to the car for the ride home. Maybe next year I will be able to go to Convention in Minnesota. It really is an event not to be missed. There will be more and better pictures in the next I.O.L.I. Bulletin.



Pittsburgh Lace Group

You are Invited to attend our Thirtieth Anniversary Party

November 4th from 7 to 9 p.m.

Join us for cake, coffee and conversation at the Churchill Borough Building. Our Christmas tree, its bobbin lace ornaments, the nativity set, and our Easter egg tree will be there for everyone to admire. We hope to engage in a round of "Name that Individual" using pictures from some of our early workshops. A jumble table will be available. Please bring any completed lace to share. Debby Beever will be here to help us celebrate. There will be a jumble table. JoAnne Frey is making the commemorative bobbins, which must be pre-ordered. See form on back page.

Making Jewelry with Debby Beever ~ Saturday and Sunday

When Debby Beever was here last fall, she showed us some beautiful jewelry (pictured below) and we invited her back again to teach us how to make it. Classes will be from 10:00 to

5:00. To register for the class, please complete the form on the final page of the newsletter and send it to Gretchen Baudoux. A supply list will be sent with confirmation of registration.



Please remember to bring a dish to share for lunch.

Directions to the Churchill Borough Building

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 Old Wm. Penn Highway.

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.

Please note that as of this time there will be no vendor available

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Pittsburgh Lace Group Dues are due by January 1, 2012.

\$15.00 checks made out to **Pittsburgh Lace Group**

Name _____

Address _____

e-mail address _____

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

I am available and willing to teach _____ at an afternoon workshop.

I would like to take part in a workshop on _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by e-mail _____ by U.S. Postal Service _____

Please complete and send to Gretchen Baudoux
4704 Bert Drive
Monroeville, PA 15146

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 _____

Phone _____

E Mail _____

Workshop 110.00 members, \$125.00 non-members
(We will refund part of this if our costs permit) \$ _____

Workshop Commemorative bobbins @ \$10.00 number _____ \$ _____

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

Total Enclosed \$ _____