

# LACE THREADS

*News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group - Fall 2014*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everybody,

This has been an amazing summer, hasn't it? The Summer Camp project didn't turn out to be as easy as I thought it would be, but a challenge is good for all of us, even me. Demonstrating at the Verona Historical Society gave us a chance to meet people who were interested in the history of lace. Joanie gave an excellent presentation. Dewi organized demonstrating at the Pittsburgh Creative Arts Festival, which was absolutely amazing. The Try-It Pillow got a good workout. There were lots of people who were local to our group and who were actually interested in learning to make lace. The only person who asked if it was tatting was a friend of Tracy Jackson's, who knew better. I think everyone who demonstrated had an amazing time and we may have some new people coming for help. Thank you Dewi, Joanie, Theresa, and Louise for demonstrating.

Ahead of us is the Debby Beever Workshop. (Special note if you are going to use the same pillow you used at Summer Camp--it takes longer to do the sewings than you think it will). Debby is such fun, and brushing up on Torchon techniques is a good way to improve the appearance of the lace that we make. Trudy will be along to provide lots of goodies for sale, and Jan Letowski will be bringing along some Eastern European Lace on Friday night. They both mean that you should try to bring a fat wallet. Jan's things, which we saw last December at the Nationality Rooms, were exquisite and I am glad that he can come when Debby is here. Even if you can't come to the workshop, you want to be there Friday night.

After years of putting together the newsletter, I thought I was being really good when I wrote something about the festival and sent it to Joanie right away. I have to thank her not only for doing the newsletter, but for the gentle nudge she gave me when I initially forgot to write a president's letter. I now understand better. I don't know where I would be without my lace friends. We have supported each other for years. If I say, "Well you know how Theresa is," or any of us – we really *do* know. We have laughed, cried, prayed and supported each other in so many ways. For your understanding, forgiveness and kindness, thank you all. Now let's go make some lace!

*Amy Gibbons*

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. Thanks to all who sent articles for the newsletter, especially Amy. I couldn't do it without you!

**\*\*\* RECENT P.L.G. HAPPENINGS \*\*\***

**VERONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION**

**By Amy Gibbons**

A few months ago, Rhoda Gemellas-Worf of the Verona Historical Society approached the Group about doing a demonstration and lecture about the history and technique of lacemaking. On June 19, a lovely spring night, Dewi, Suzanne, Joanie and I visited the VHS during their monthly meeting. It was a pleasure to meet Rhoda and the rest of the members of the group. They could not have been nicer (although the first thing I think of when I hear Verona is the “two gentlemen,” who were not present). The Society conducted a short meeting as we set up for our demonstration. They certainly are a very active group; it sounds like they had some wonderful activities planned. It was interesting to see them conduct business, especially with the way that they recruited people who were not present to do things. (This might be a good idea for the PLG; it would certainly increase attendance at our meetings!)

Joanie began her masterful presentation on the history of lacemaking, as well as a brief account of what our group does, while Dewi, Suzanne and I worked on our demonstration pieces. The VHS members were extremely intrigued and asked some wonderful, insightful questions. When our presentation was over, some VHS members came up closer to see what we were doing, to examine what we had all brought along, and to ask questions. The Society seemed very interested and invited us back again next year. All in all, it was a very positive evening.



Photos by Dewi Wong

## **SUMMER CAMP JULY 2014: FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL By Barb Lis**

They toll for the little old (?) lacemakers--that's us. At Summer Camp this year, we made bells based on egg-cup patterns from *Lace Express*. Each lacemaker had the choice of one of twelve patterns, all of which were enlarged from their original size, and most of which required at least thirty-one pairs of bobbins. Amy Gibbons did an excellent job as our teacher, even though she had to endure a lot of whining and complaining about the patterns, which were a little challenging at the beginning. She was very patient as she helped us. We all enjoyed our time at summer camp, especially when we had a special visit from our friend Kathy Kirchner. Kathy brought some wonderful new lace books to sell, and we all splurged on a few titles we couldn't pass up. Summer Camp participants were Louise Chuha, Suzanne Potter, Joanie Trimble, Theresa Troyan, Barb Lis and Dewi Wong.



Hell's Bells by Joanie Trimble

## **PITTSBURGH CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL by Amy Gibbons**

What a day! The PLG had been asked to participate in the first ever Pittsburgh Creative Arts Festival, held on August 22 and 23, 2014, in Cranberry at the Four Points by Sheraton North. Dewi and Joanie demonstrated lacemaking when the Festival opened on Friday, and I reported early Saturday morning to demonstrate. I talked until I was hoarse and I was only there from 8:30 until 1:00. Joanie told me there were many people there Friday night, and remarked that many asked great questions and seemed very interested in bobbin lace. I can say that I was really glad to be able to quit talking when Theresa and Louise arrived at 1:00. There were lots of people who used the Try-It Pillow; I even had to rewind two bobbins. I spent more time showing onlookers that it was not hard to make lace than I did actually making lace on my own pillow!

The Festival was refreshingly different from the usual craft fairs since it actually drew people who were interested in making things. In addition, there were lots of people from Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. We handed out lots of flyers; hopefully we may have some new members coming.

Not only did we meet new people, but we also encountered old friends. Tracy Jackson, formerly of The Lacemaker, was there. There was also an online company that imports bobbin lace supplies from France (<http://www.bagsmith.com/categories/Sajou/>) as well as a gentleman from Kreiniks, who provided lots of beautiful threads, some of which can be found at local shop Needle Point Breeze (<http://needlepointbreeze.com>). There was some wonderful shopping available. It was a really nice day.



Dewi at the PLG table at the Pittsburgh Creative Arts Festival

## **IT'S BEEN A BUSY SUMMER: PLG ADVENTURES AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **THE STEEL VALLEY YARN CRAWL: A PRICY ADVENTURE**

**By Amy Gibbons**

I first heard about yarn crawls from Robin Panza, who spoke about going on one with her mother, visiting several yarn shops in California. It sounded like fun so I signed up for this one right away. There were seven stores to be visited in ten days. Each store provided the participants with a cowl pattern which could be worked separately or as a part of a single cowl. There were tickets to be drawn for three prize baskets at each store. Ten tickets came with the original bag and passport. Tickets could also be earned by purchasing \$25.00 or more at each store. The stamped passport was also entered in a drawing. I didn't win a basket, but I had fun.

Here is a brief rundown of the stores in the order that I visited them.

Kathy's Kreations - Ligonier - easy to find - metered street parking.  
Natural Stitches - East Liberty - easy to find - free adjacent parking  
Yarns By Design - Oakmont - free on-street parking or a nearby lot  
Kid Ewe Knot - Bridgeville - hard to find - free adjacent parking  
Dyed in the Wool - North Hills - easy to find - free adjacent parking



Yarns Unlimited - Sewickley – easy to find - metered street parking  
Wolf Creek Yarns - Grove City - easy to find - free adjacent parking  
(The last two were easy to find because I had figured out how to use the GPS in my phone.)

The shops were all full of people who were pleasant and available to help if you needed it, with feasts of colors and fibers for the eyes and fingers. Many of them had visiting trunk shows too. Of course I was already familiar with Yarns By Design and Natural Stitches. But of the remaining 5 shops, I would probably visit Dyed in the Wool, because I sometimes go out that way, or Wolf Creek Yarns if I were going to Grove City. The only shop that I would make a special trip to is Kid Ewe Knot, which says a lot, since it involves going through the merge from hell in downtown Pittsburgh. I know where the shop is, so would no longer miss the little driveway between the two large buildings that leads to a whole set of shops.

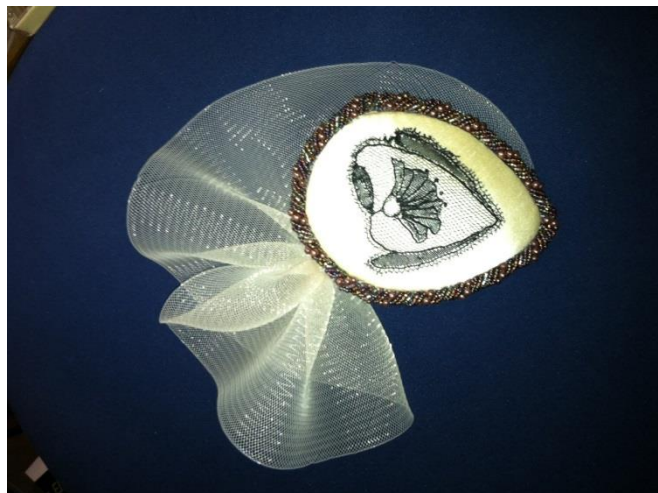
While I was in Ligonier I discovered that there is a difference between lace knitting and knitting lace - as bad as lacemakers defining point ground. In Sewickley, I met the president and newsletter editor of the Pittsburgh Knitting Guild.

I think the only other important question is: would I do it again? You bet. Can't wait for next year.

### **CHANTILLY FASCINATOR** **By Dewi Wong**

Not too long ago, I took a millinery workshop with some friends from the Fiberarts Guild. We learned about making a bonnet, cap and fascinator. Each one in the workshop made a unique design and executed it meticulously, properly constructing this head gear, which has experienced a fashion rebirth. The fascinator is a small cap that is decorated for a special occasion; you probably remember them being worn by many women who attended the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

All the stitching in my fascinator was done by hand, using millinery techniques and materials. I wanted to add a touch of lace to my millinery piece. I finished and attached the Chantilly lace flower from Ulrike's workshop to a cream silk fabric and made a one-of-a-kind Chantilly fascinator.



Dewi's spectacular fascinator

## **TOUR DE FRANCE**

### **By Gretchen Baudoux**

On a boat in the River Seine, drifting under bridges and past Notre Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower, I thought that this is really a dream come true. Paris had always been on my list of “want to go there” places. I thought that my traveling days were over, but when the opportunity came to accompany my girls (daughter-in-law Judy, granddaughter Lindsay, and daughter Renee) to France, I couldn’t resist. Lindsay, a world traveler, made our itinerary and all the arrangements.

We stayed three days in Paris and walked many miles, seeing Notre Dame, the Eiffel Tower at night, having lunch at Tuileries Gardens, and enjoying the excitement of Paris. When we went to the D’Orsay museum, we were delighted to learn that the feature was impressionist and post- impressionist paintings.

We flew to Nice on the Riviera, rented a car, saw Monaco and Monte Carlo, and spent most of the day at a beautiful beach in Antibes. We then drove to the old walled city of St. Paul in the French Alps. St. Paul was built on a mountaintop, where staircases and cobbled streets lead past shops and restaurants to a beautiful church at the top of the mount. Our balcony in the villa where we stayed overlooked olive trees and a vineyard.

Lindsay did well driving on the narrow mountain roads with “S” curves and roundabouts. We toured a perfumery on the way to our next hotel in St. Remy de Provence. There was a museum there that showed a film of the places nearby where Van Gogh painted, and then overlaid them with his sketches and paintings to show his inspiration and how true to life his colors were. We were in St. Remy for the weekly “market day.” On the train from Avignon back to Paris, we marveled at the sunflowers and the awesomely beautiful lavender fields.

Always on the lookout for lace, especially on the altar cloths in the many churches we visited, I am including a picture of one edging that was made entirely of spiders.

Renee and I spent all of our last day in Paris at the Louvre. What a joy it was to share that time with her! My dream of Paris is now a wealth of beautiful memories.



**LACE WEEKEND 2014:**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2014 6:00-9:00 PM**  
**Lecture by Jan Letowski: EASTERN EUROPEAN LACE**  
**CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING**

Jan is a collector and dealer of this lovely lace. He will share examples and will talk about his experiences as well as lace history. His talk will begin at 7:30, leaving time for shopping, visiting, and eating before, and questions after.

**Admission is \$5.00 for members and \$7.00 for non-members**  
**Our vendor will be Trudy Scholten of Lacy Susan.**

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.

**COLOR TRICKS IN TORCHON**  
**WORKSHOP with DEBBIE BEEVER**  
**OCTOBER 4 and 5, 2014**  
**CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING**

This course will provide the student with the skills to create personalized pieces of lace using color tricks. Class will cover color effects, placement of color, gimp work, adding and eliminating color pairs, use of beads, layering, how to add color tallies and carrying color pairs. This course is suitable for intermediate-level students of Torchon.

Supply list:

- 14 pairs of bobbins, any type, DMC #80 special dentelles tatting cotton (small ball) or equivalent
- 4 pairs with contrasting color thread same size
- 1 pair gimp thread
- 3 small seed beads, #10 or 11 (Debbie will bring some with her)
- Cookie pillow
- #14 crochet hook
- Other basic supplies: scissors, paper scissors, pricker, pins suitable for Torchon or tape lace, lighting (if needed), extension cord for lighting (if needed)

**Examples of workshop projects:**



Classes 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 below and send it to Gretchen Baudoux.

An email will be sent with confirmation of registration.

As always, priority will be given to active members of the Group.

**Please remember to bring a dish to share for lunch.**

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## **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 \$100.00 members, \$115.00 non-members \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop commemorative bobbins @ \$10.00 number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



**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. The 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.

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## **FUTURE EVENTS AT A GLANCE**

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014 -- 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

Friday, October 3, 2014 – 6-9 Pre-workshop get-together and displays of Eastern European Lace by Jan Letowski

Saturday-Sunday October 4-5, 2014 – Fall Workshop with Debby Beever “Color Tricks in Torchon”

Saturday, October 18, 2015 (tentative) – Demonstration at First Baptist Church, 159 N. Bellefield Street, Oakland

October ? – McGlinley House demonstration – to be announced.

Thursday, November 6, 2014 -- 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

Thursday November 27<sup>th</sup> no class - Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday, December 4, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 7, 2014 – Noon-4:00 -- Demonstration at University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms

Thursday December 18 and 25, 2014 – No class—Merry Christmas!

December 27, 2014 (tentative) – Annual Christmas party at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church (snow date January 3, 2015)

Thursday, January 8, 2015 -- 7-9 --Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

Thursday February 5, 2015 -- 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

April 18-19, 2015 – Spring Workshop with Louise Colgan: Bucks and Torchon; Churchill Borough Bldg.

**Don't forget that 2015 dues of \$15.00 are due January 1, 2015.  
Send checks payable to “Pittsburgh Lace Group” to Gretchen Baudoux.**

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

**<http://pittsburghlacegroup.org>**

**Email us at [pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com](mailto:pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com)**

And, speaking of achievements, we leave you with a picture of Barb Lis's exquisite Torchon fan:

