

LACE THREADS

News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group - Fall 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Lacemakers,

It is finally Fall. Yippee!! Soon there will be no more yard work to keep me outside and make my hands too dirty to make lace because of the soil seemingly permanently lodged under my nails in spite of gloves. You can only imagine how glad I am to not have to go outside in the heat and dirt.

It has been an eventful summer for the group, what with trips and visits, as well as hospitalizations. Hopefully we are all back on an even keel and will continue to chug along at a good rate of speed, making lace as we go. Summer camp went well, although several members initially struggled to understand the moebius cast on. But once they understood and completed the cast-on, they proceeded to make their own moebius cowl.

October is going to be a busy month for the PLG. October 1st has been declared by IOLI as the annual "Make Lace in Public Day." Yarns By Design in Oakmont, PA, has graciously agreed to provide a venue for us, since there needs to be a public place for the demonstration to actually be "in public." The store will be open for its normal hours on the first from 10:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. Our October meeting will follow on the heels of the demonstration. The store will be closed at that time, but we will stay late. I hope to see you all there.

In addition, our yearly demonstration at the McGinley House in Monroeville, PA, is Saturday the 10th; we will need a volunteer for this demonstration. Finally, our Beaded Bobbin Lace Workshop with Kathy Kirchner is the 16th, 17th and 18th at the Churchill Borough Building. After that we can take a breath and get ready for the holidays!

I look forward to seeing all of you at one or more of these events.

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. Many thanks to Amy, Dewi, and Suzanne, who sent articles and photos for the newsletter.

*****RECENT PLG HAPPENINGS*****

LACE SUMMER CAMP: AROUND AND AROUND WE GO!

By Amy Gibbons

On June 22, seven members of the PLG met at the Churchill Borough Building to learn how to make Moebius cowls. We all struggled with the cast on, which is the only part of the knitting that makes a Moebius more than just a cowl that accidentally ended up with a twist in it. We worked from several copies of the *Skacel* magazine, which has excellent directions.

Eventually we mastered the cast on, sorted out how many stitches we should have, and began to knit. After the initial struggle, we began to have fun. We played with different stitches to alleviate the boredom of just knitting every row; we looked at different patterns of moebius cowls; we ate Klondikes while watching the ineffectual camp fire that didn't want to work; and we exchanged "flour" recipes. Flour recipes are the ones where you throw flour on your face to make it appear that you struggled to produce something that in reality was easy—much like the cowl. Most of all we laughed a bunch!

Below is a picture of incomplete cowls from Louise Chuha, Adrian Flink, Amy Gibbons, Barb Lis, Suzanne Potter, and Theresa Troyan.



**MORE SUMMER HAPPENINGS:
DEMONSTRATING ON THE BOULEVARD
By Amy Gibbons and Suzanne Potter**

This summer, the Pittsburgh Lace Group was happily welcomed by Yarns By Design in Oakmont, PA, to demonstrate and talk about bobbin lace. During the second and fourth Saturdays in May, June and July, lace items were put on display and the “try it” pillow was put to use by people who in many cases had not seen bobbin lace being made before. It was a nice way to start out a Saturday and was very much appreciated by the people who came to see us. There were an exceptionally large number of people who stopped to chat on our last day, which coincided with Oakmont’s Sidewalk Sale; in order to meet with them, we were able to sit outside with our pillows.

Thank you so very much to those who demonstrated and to Yarns by Design for providing a site where we could be seen by different people.

**PITTSBURGH FOLK FESTIVAL 2015
By Gretchen Baudoux**

Louise, Dewi, Sonja and I demonstrated lace making at the Folk Festival one Friday in mid-May. There were not as many vendors this year, so the festival was held in just one room at the Monroeville Convention Center. Louise and I arrived early and found our way to our assigned table. We had to maneuver through a small opening in a row of tables with Preston, our pillows and our demonstration materials. When Amy, Barbara and Suzanne came on Saturday, they managed to move to a more accessible location.

Friday was Senior Citizens Day. Although many of our visitors were not very eager to make lace on our “try it pillow,” some of the vendors were interested and seemed pleased as they learned to make the stitches. As always, people, young or old, are attracted to the lace that we bring to show, and always seem to be fascinated by lace being made on a pillow with many bobbins.

A SPECIAL THURSDAY NIGHT VISITOR

On Thursday, September 3, the PLG had a visit from a charming new member, Nancy Wellington, a lacemaker from Minnesota. Nancy was in town visiting her children, spotted the PLG website, and asked whether she could attend our meeting. Our philosophy is: “the more the merrier”—and we had a merry time with Nancy. She shared information about the group to which she belongs, the Minnesota Lace Society,

which is located in St. Paul. Nancy has been active in the Society, and enjoys not only making bobbin lace, but also needle lace, knitting, crochet and tatting.

Nancy told us about her group's most recent project, which is a round robin challenge involving seven members and a variety of techniques. The projects encompass the techniques of shuttle tatting, needle lace, bobbin lace, or crochet. In each case, one member begins the project and then passes it onto another member to continue. After the others complete their portion of the project, it returns to the first needleworker, who adds the finishing touches. Nancy says that she has learned a lot about the techniques as she works on the round robin, and has even re-discovered how much she likes techniques that she has not used in a while.

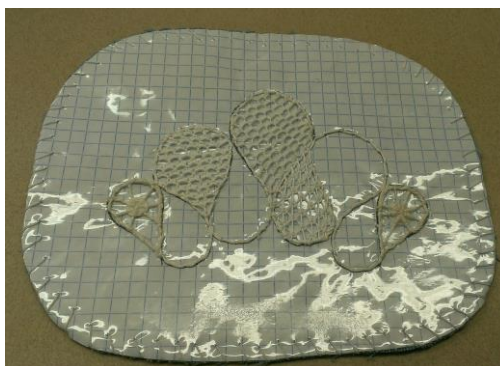
Nancy brought samples of the project to share with us, and we were very amazed at the intricacy of the samples. (In addition, she offered several times to teach us how to shuttle tat, and one member was interested, but, sadly, the tools were unavailable.) Pictures of three projects Nancy shared with us are below.



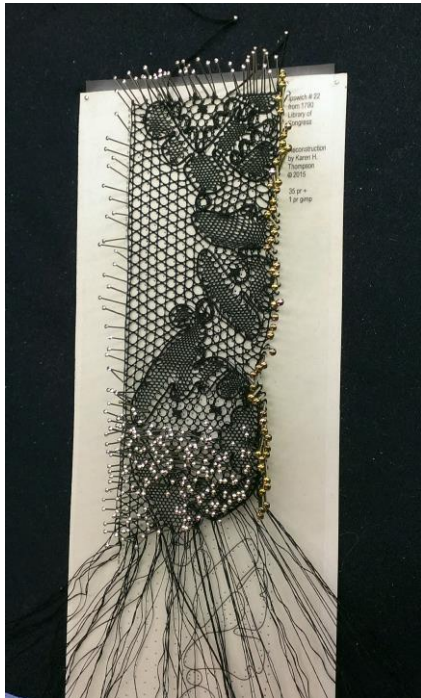
Round Robin Tatting Project 1



Round Robin Tatting 2



Round Robin Needle Lace



I.O.L.I. CONVENTION 2015

By Dewi Wong

This year I got the chance to attend the 62nd IOLI convention in Coralville, Iowa, sponsored by the Doris Southard Lace Guild, with a theme "Lace in the Prairie."

During the mornings, I took the Quilt Split Ring tatting class with Karen Bovard. I know how to tat but haven't done much of it. There are techniques to learn in tatting, such as the split ring, the take-off ring and the padded tatting, using one, two, and three shuttles at the same time. All are new for me and I found it very interesting. We worked on original patterns created by Karen Bovard.

The Ipswich lace with Karen Thompson (seen above) was my class in the afternoon. Ipswich lace is unique because while it has some elements of the English and continental lace, it is worked differently. Karen Thompson did much research, re-worked, and diagrammed the working patterns of this American lace based on the original snippets from the samples preserved at the Library of Congress.

I took a tour of the Slovakian Museum and the Hoover Presidential Library. Both places have rich histories, as well as lace on display.

The hotel was very nice and huge. We did a lot of walking to the classes, vending and exhibit halls, luncheons and dinners. We were entertained by a lady who collects historical hats during the closing banquet.

So much lace, so little time. One week of Convention went by so fast that I didn't have much time to visit and catch up with Susan Hottle, my roommate, because we were busy doing our homework every night. It was a nice experience that I enjoyed every minute of it, but like any fun time it must end. I hope to attend another lace convention in the future.

On the next page are some of my pictures from this year's Convention.



From the Hoover Archive



From the Czech and Slovak Museum



*****UPCOMING EVENTS*****

LACE WORKSHOP with KATHY KIRCHNER--BEADED BOBBIN LACE

October 17 and 18, 2015

Meet-and-Greet Friday, October 16

One of our favorite instructors, Kathy Kirchner, will be coming to visit us on the weekend of October 16th. Kathy will be working with us on a newly designed project that incorporates seed beads, round beads, and gemstone ovals into bobbin lace. The project, a bracelet, is modified from one of Doris Southard's lovely Torchon designs. Kathy, who will also be our vendor, will bring supplies including bracelet findings and threads. A selection of materials will be available for purchase. Those taking the workshop should be able to complete their bracelets during the two-day event.

The workshop will be held at the Churchill Borough Building. Workshop times are from 10AM to 5PM on Saturday and 9AM to 4PM on Sunday. Please bring a luncheon item to share for our potluck lunch. Friday night's event will be a Meet-and-Greet and shopping with Kathy. Coffee, tea, and cake will be provided. There will also be the customary door prize and jumble table. Donations of items for the raffle/door prize are always welcome and appreciated.

Please fill out the registration form below by October 10th and send it to Gretchen Baudoux. An email to those participating in the workshop will be sent prior to the event. As always, priority will be given to active members of the Group.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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.

Workshop Registration Form

Return this form with a check payable to **Pittsburgh Lace Group** to:

Gretchen Baudoux, 4704 Bert Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146, by Oct. 10, 2015.

Name _____

Address _____

Home phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Workshop \$90.00 members, \$105.00 non-members \$ _____

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

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

FUTURE EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Thursday, October 1, 2015 -- 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Yarns BY Design, Oakmont, PA

Saturday, October 10, 2015 -- McGinley House Demonstration

October 16, 2015 7-9 -- Meet-and-Greet at the Churchill Borough Building

October 17-18 Lace Workshop Weekend—Beaded Bobbin Lace with Kathy Kirchner 10-5 on Saturday; 9-4 on Sunday

Thursday, November 5, 2015 -- 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Thursday, November 26, 2015 -- Thanksgiving. Stay home and eat turkey.

Thursday, December 3, 2015 -- 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 6, 2015 12-4 -- U. of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House; Croghan-Schenley Ballroom

Saturday, December 26, 2015 -- 5PM-?? Annual Lace Group Christmas Party at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Thursday, January 7, 2016 7-9 Monthly meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Thursday, February 4, 2016 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

April 15-17, 2016 -- Spring Workshop: Knitting with Edie Van Dyke at Yarns By Design, Oakmont, PA

October 15-17, 2016 -- Fall Workshop: Bedfordshire Lace with Debby Beever at Churchill Borough Building

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

<http://pittsburghlacegroup.org>

Contact us by email at pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com



Future Lacemaker?