

LACE THREADS

News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group –
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CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

President’s Message

Hi Everyone,

I surely do miss seeing all of you. I am trying to put together a plan for this coming year. My thought is that we won’t all have received our first vaccine until the middle of January and then 3 weeks for the second one and 3 more weeks for the immunity to kick in. So late March or early April – maybe. The Borough is not rushing things and I don’t think we should either. I would not want to be the one that made any of you sick. That means that our immediate future schedule is pretty bare.

It is going to be a different kind of holiday. I wanted to put this together so that you would be able to see the Nationality Days program that has replaced our first Sunday in December visit to the Croghan Schenley Ballroom. There is an article later. The video may only be available through December.

A big “thank you” to Suzanne Potter, Sandy Faulk and Dewi Wong who have written articles for us. Dewi’s handkerchiefs are beautiful. It was so nice to see them at the park this fall. Be sure to look at the pictures of them later. She is such a talented lacemaker.

To celebrate the New Year please join us New Year’s Eve for a Zoom meeting. Bring your party hats and cocktails or tea. It should be fun. Besides, we can’t really go anywhere. At most of the Zoom sessions we just keep track of how everyone is doing and what they are making. It is especially nice to be able to see our members who live out of state, as well as Louise Colgan. I try to get a consensus about what we should be doing. I know that we discuss many things at the Zoom meetings that should be considered by everyone who is a member. If you want to have input you can also telephone, e-mail or write to me. I hope to see you soon. Don’t forget your dues are due. Form on the last page. Last of all I want to wish you a **very Merry Christmas**. I hope you get great presents and have a healthy, **Happy New Year**.

Amy Gibbons

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Upcoming Events

December 31st Zoom New Year's Eve Party from 7:00 to 9:00 unless you want it later.
Regular Zoom meetings January 14th and 28th, February 11th and 25th, March 11th and 25th.
And so on... All from 7:00 to 9:00. You will get an invitation.
April 10th Annual Meeting hopefully (article on the next page)

Call for Contributions! Call for Contributions!

As always, any and all contributions to this newsletter are most welcome. Any news about members, other lacemakers, bobbins, threads, patterns, books, ideas pictures send 'em and keep 'em coming!

Library Updates - Suzanne Potter

The library has acquired five new books- 3 purchased by the Thursday night "can" and 2 donated. Two of them are by Jana Novak and complete her Perfect Lace Technique series. Number 4-Effects covers picots, plaits, tallies, gimps and more and how to use them to make the lace more interesting. The illustrations are, as usual, excellent. Number 5-Finish shows a variety of invisible finishes. The whole series is an indispensable addition to any lace maker's library.

Kloskant in DreiDimensies by Annelies de Kort-van Zijderveld contains small projects ranging from small boxes to baby booties to lace clothed dolls. Bobbins of Belgium: a Book of Lace, Lace-makers, Lace- schools and Lace-villages by Charlotte Kellogg describes lace making during and after World War I. Lastly is Radical Lace and Subversive Knitting by David R. McFadden which highlights lace and knitted installation art. The lamp shade of plastic tubing bobbin lace is especially interesting.

Finally, if you have a book from the library, would you please return it to me. There are about a half dozen out(I e-mailed you earlier in the year) and we would like them in the library for the new year. The book can be mailed to me (658 13th. St., Oakmont, PA 15139) or we can make arrangements to meet at the church for a drop-off (call me at 412-828-2810). Thanks

Churchill Borough Building Use

I spoke with Alex Graziani, The Borough manager about when we will be able to use the Yagle room. He is unsure when it will be available, but does not think until some time in the summer. So probably no Spring Workshop. We also talked about the possibility of having the room for more than the days that we have been having with Louise. He was most understanding and has said that he will be in touch with me. I suspect that that will mean we have to move the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for April 10th.

The Annual Meeting,

This year we need to elect a Secretary and Vice President. I am hopeful that Suzanne and Theresa will continue in their current office. I am doubtful that we will be able to meet at the Borough Building, but think it is possible that we could meet outside either at the church or at a park. That would mean everyone would have to bring their own folding chairs. The problem with that is that April 10th may be a bit chilly for a meeting or it could be raining I think we may be looking for a date and a rain date. So I would like you to put on your thinking caps and see what you can come up with.

The Nationality Rooms at the Cathedral of Learning by Amy Gibbons

This summer in the middle of our pandemic adventures Sandy and I did it. We made a video. You can see it by going to <https://globalhub.pitt.edu/holiday-open-house/December-10-Holiday-Crafts>. To see all the programs about the rooms link to <https://www.globalhub.pitt.edu/holiday-open-house> They will run the videos through the end of December. We did not get to edit it, nor did we see it in time to redo it.

The day we did it was pretty windy. I spent the morning carrying things out to the porch and arranging them. Sandy came and after some discussion and planning. I began to talk and she began to film. I can probably talk forever about lace as you may notice. Nothing we all haven't heard before, but it will be new to some.

After she left I put everything back where it belongs. It was a lot of carrying. Who knew I had so much lace related stuff. I really want to thank Sandy for what she did. I couldn't have done it without her. I hope you enjoy.

Wedding Lace by Dewi Wong

(pictures on the following page)

Handkerchiefs for weddings are a beautiful keepsake to make. The bridal handkerchief is part of many wedding traditions, but for a lacemaker like me, it is something that I wanted to make for my daughter, and later be an heirloom as a remembrance of her wedding day.

Last February, I bought two vintage handkerchiefs: one was embroidered with "D", my initial, and the other with "A", the initial for Angeline, my daughter. I took mine to Bobbi Donnelly's Tonder workshop in March, sponsored by the Five Rivers Bobbin Lacemakers. This Danish point ground is one of my favorite laces. In the past, I took workshops from Karen Trend Nissen (of Denmark), sponsored by the Finger Lakes Lace Guild, and from the late Gunvor Jorgensen (of New Jersey, but originally also from Denmark), sponsored by the Pittsburgh Lace Group.

Tonder lace is traditionally done as a continuous straight lace. Any turned corners are done by gathering the straight lace into ruffles and sewing onto the fabric, whether it is a collar, a bonnet, or a handkerchief. At Bobbi's workshop, I worked on two patterns. One of them is pattern #11, found in her book "Galslag of lopper" on page 62. At the workshop, Bobbi had the pattern with a corner, and the diagram. She showed me how to custom fit the lace to border the existing handkerchief without gathering the lace at the corners. I left the workshop with two

swatches of lace that I continued to finish at home. Then the lockdown for COVID-19 began.

Angeline got engaged to William D. Scott at the end of March and wanted to get married in October. The time was rather short to plan for a wedding and businesses were closed due to the pandemic, but I didn't think about starting the lace borders for the wedding handkerchiefs early. Instead, while sheltering at home, I worked on some laces for Easter and on one for the US presentation board for the 2020 OI DFA Congress.

In June, churches and businesses started to open again and things seemed to return to normal. I started to work on the lace edgings for my handkerchief on June 1, 2020. I thought it would be a good idea to practice working on the handkerchief for the mother of the bride. I corresponded with Bobbi while working on my hanky, who encouraged my efforts.

Meanwhile, Bobbi worked on the corner and the mirrored image center for the second pattern, making the actual lace and drafting the diagram. I worked and finished my hanky for the entire month of June. Then Bobbi mailed me the second pattern, the lace edging for the bride's handkerchief. She also reminded me how to fit the pattern to the second hanky, as she did the first one. I am very grateful that she accommodated my need to have the diagram ready when I was about to finish the first hanky.

While the first project took a month, the second pattern is more involved, with many tallies. I started making the lace on July 1st. After I turned the first corner, I calculated that it would take approximately three times more hours to work this pattern than the first. There are 24 repeats in the pattern (including the corners) with six square tallies each, which meant 144 tallies to make. That would considerably slow my progress. To make the task more enjoyable, I pulled out my bobbins that I have collected through the years, including my very first ebony bobbins made

by David Springett, and wood bobbins by Stuart Johnson, Eric Stevenson, John Aebi, Mike Hrotic, Ken van Dieren, Malcolm Fielding, Richard Worthen, and others bobbin turners. I did not use the Tonder style bobbins with the beaded ball ends, because I do not have enough pairs to make this pattern. I used the spangled English bobbins, and to add to the fun, I selected the “mother & babe”, the “twins” and the “groom” bobbins, as well as the hand painted and the commemorative bobbins.

Dewi's pictures

With nowhere to go during the stay-at-home order, I spent my waking hours on making the lace. My husband, Karl, knew that I would disappear to my cozy spot making lace, and not to disturb me after every meal. I finished the lace for the bride's handkerchief a few weeks before the wedding, on August 21st, which gave me enough time to sew the bridal veil & mask, and my lace shrug & mask. I made a loop with an elastic thread and fastened the handkerchief onto Angeline's bracelet, tied with a small blue ribbon. It served a dual purpose for the bride's “something old and something blue”.



On the bright and early morning of October 3rd, I helped Angeline to put on her wedding gown and veil, and to wear her bracelet with the handkerchief. The hanky was as important a bridal accessory as the veil, the mask and the bouquet. It was with her during the procession down the aisle, throughout the ceremony, and recession out of the church. Karl and I took our vows in this same church many years ago.

Our handkerchiefs were photographed together. They signify the mother and daughter bonds, yet we have our own individuality. I thank my sister and my lace friends, who became my cheerleaders when I undertook these ambitious and serious wedding projects, but most of all, I thank Bobbi for her guidance and her patience as a teacher. Writing this article made me more

appreciative of the creative people who meticulously turned the wood bobbins and to think fondly of my talented Tonder teachers.



Possible Outdoor Meeting Places

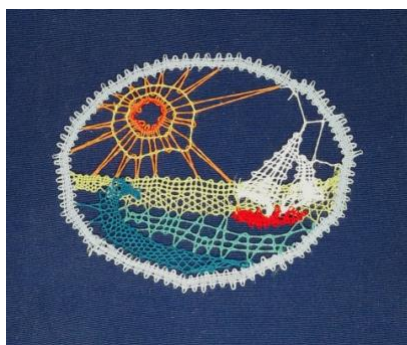
When good weather returns there are two places we could possibly meet until we can meet inside. Both would require meeting during the day.

GRCPC aka PECC

I spoke with both churches and we could meet outside in the parking lot or on the lawn, bringing our own chairs. I specifically asked about the Annual meeting. We would be able to access our library and use the bathroom while still maintaining social distance. We would have to bring our own folding chairs and whatever pillow stands or tables we need. While the church would probably let us use chairs from inside, I am not up for bringing them outside and then putting them back.

Emmerling Park

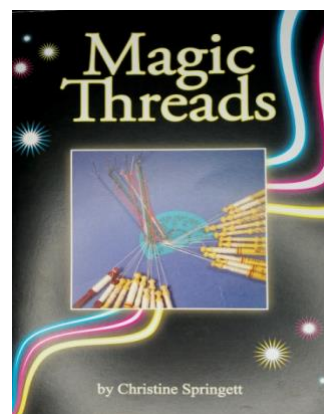
When it opens, it is not quite 4 miles west of Route 28 on Route 910. Coming from 28 you should make a right turn onto Cove Run Road. If you miss Cove Run, you will pass Pizza Roma and an ice cream stand. You can then turn right onto Cove Run Extension which runs into Cove Run. The park is down a hill on the right side. Last fall we decided that we prefer the very first pavilion which is the first right turn and almost a "u turn". Whenever county parks open it should be available.



Dusting Off Cobwebs: by Sandy Faulk

I finally finished a project that I started during the spring of 2019. It's from one of my favorite 'go to' pattern books: 100 New Bobbin Lace Patterns by Yusai Fukuyama, called 'Summer'. I've never tried a picture pricking before. The beginning went pretty fast but I quickly got bogged down so I handled it like I normally do with problems: set it aside. Meanwhile I took Dagmar's November 2019 Contemporary Lace workshop which helped put me in a better mindset for non-traditional lace. Still wasn't ready to finish the project.

Then COVID hit. I started to work through 2 Schneberger Lace booklets by Lia Baumeister-Jonker. Those 2 booklets have really taught me a lot about starts and endings and I started to look at the 'Summer' pricking differently. I realized I made a major mistake on the ship. I started from the top down and I should have started from the bottom to the top -- it seems so obvious now. So despite my major mistakes, I picked up the project again and continued working on it. The sun was the very last component I did. I've always been anxious to try 'Magic Threads' for a start -- its something that was never taught to me. I had recently purchased Christine Springett's book, Magic Threads and decided to try the technique on the sun. I was happy to see how detailed her instructions are. I guess it's pretty simple but sometimes written instructions are a challenge for me. She presents it mini step by mini step and I had no problems when I came to the end of the sun. The magic threads were magical! I recommend this booklet if you've never done magic threads for a start. OK, so bottom line is that technically my 'Summer' lace project was not particularly well executed, but I feel like I really learned a lot making it. It has been a good COVID project and I'm glad I dusted off the cobwebs!



PLG dues \$15.00 Annually

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