



LACE THREADS

News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group –
<http://pittsburghlacegroup.org>
pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com
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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

President’s Message

Hello Everyone,

Another boring newsletter with one or two pieces of information that should be seen right away. Oh and a couple of things you might find interesting. At least it is short. There is no definite news about the Annual Meeting. I know you are shocked. I am thinking maybe the first weekend in June, but we will have to watch the weather since it is probably going to be an outdoor meeting. Watch your email for information. I am hopeful that Suzanne Potter will continue as Secretary and Theresa Troyan will continue as Vice President. If anyone wants to stage a coup and replace them, I am sure they would be willing to let you.

Being President seems to take some time every week keeping in touch with everyone and organizing anything that might be of interest to you all. Having talked with the manager at the Borough Building and emailed with Louise Colgan her workshop is postponed for another year. It is however possible that we might be able to extend the number of days she can teach. We just have to wait and see how things work out with the Borough.

In the meantime I have organized a virtual presentation with a lady from England, just for us. I have very much enjoyed the presentations that IOLI has had on line and think that this smaller presentation will be interesting to us. (article later) I have included a membership form for IOLI in case any of you want to take advantage of their talks. You have to be a member to watch. They are simple to get to if zoom is downloaded on your device. As I do for our meetings, they send you an e-mail with a link that you click which will take you right to the meeting or talk. I do the same thing for our Thursday evening get togethers.

I am sure that you survived Christmas, one way or another. My life has really gone to the cats. It has been joy and heartbreak but now we are a household of 5 cats. One is recovering from surgery and has staples in his belly. There is nothing like a cat walking around with a Victorian Collar swinging his head from side to side to see everything. But he will heal.

My lace pillow has been sitting on the table waiting for me but I never seem to have two minutes to rub together. At first I was unsure how to do a particular technique and then my time seemed to vanish. It becomes dinner time and I don’t know where the day went. Really I am not just sitting and staring into space, but where did I ever find the time to have a job? This will be brief. All mistakes in this newsletter are strictly my own. You need to receive this in time to reserve the time to listen to Ann Day’s talk and see her pictures.

Amy Gibbons

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Upcoming Events

March 13th 3:00p.m. Talk by Ann Day about Stourbridge Museum

Regular Zoom meetings March 11th and 25th.and every other Thursday till further notice.

June 5th Annual Meeting (very tentative) Location and time to be determined.

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!

It Worked

I never thought that Margot's little blurb would work, but Dewi sent this along from IOLI. Some of you who actually make lace might be interesting in sharing. Otherwise everyone can go to their site and see what other people have been making. The last page of this newsletter will have a membership application for IOLI in case you are interested in joining. Yesterday I watched a presentation about the dress on the cover of the Santini Levy book. I think it was recorded and members can view it on IOLI's web site. You can also join IOLI on line at the web site.

So from IOLI:

Any member can send a series of pictures and a short bio of themselves to post on that page. The pics and info would be sent to Pam and she will post it there you can see a few entries that are there right now.

Pam can be reached at webeditor@internationalorganizationoflace.org.

The Web page can be reached here <https://sites.google.com/internationalorganizationoflace.org/ioliorganization/lace-photos>

The Annual Meeting,

As I said 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. I have arbitrarily moved the meeting to June 5th, in complete violation of our constitution. It still may be a bit chilly for a meeting or it could be raining so the decision will be made Wednesday of that week and we will move it forward Saturdays until we get decent weather. Expect emails to confirm the date.

Web Sites You Might like

I have been following three or four sites based in England with bobbin lace as their focus. If you are interested I can "invite" you to join.

The first is **The Lace Exchange** – Several people sign up to make Christmas ornaments or bookmarks for each other. They are given names of people to send to and they receive ornaments or bookmarks back. After they receive them they post pictures and you can see everyone's work. I have been involved for three or four years.

The next is **Bobbin Lace Makers**. There is always something interesting there. There are beginners asking questions and experienced lacemakers showing their lace. It is interesting to see how different lace makers with different experiences do something that you have always done one way. There are pretty pictures of completed lace too.

The **Bobbin Lace Market** where people sell things. It might be bobbins or books or whatever that they no longer use.

Last but not least is the very dangerous **Lace Suppliers Spotlight**. This site was started by Louise West. It has offerings from different vendors for only a short time each day. They start in late afternoon and are gone by 1:00 p.m. the next day..

Stourbridge Museum, March 11 Ann Day

At one of those sites that I visit, I came across Ann Day who said she had just done a talk on the establishing of a local museum with lots of lace. She offered to give the talk to any interested lace group. So we will have an opportunity to see and hear her talk. After consulting with the people who live out of state who actually attend the zoom meetings we decided that a Saturday was best and that if it started at 8:00 there it would start at 3:00 p.m. here and noon in CA. She has promised lots of lace pictures. This is what she wrote about her talk.

My talk will tell you how we became a Museum, where our lace comes from, about our exhibitions and what we do for members and the public. We are in Stourbridge in the Black Country, so called because it had iron ore, coal and limestone so an iron industry grew up which was very important in the Industrial Revolution. Now it is a matter of geographical inertia as the coal and iron ore were dug out years ago. Stourbridge itself is a glass making town though, with an international glass festival. I don't actually live there, although I was born about 12 miles to the East in Birmingham, Britain's second city. I live about 100 miles away, about 30 miles west of London and am daft enough to drive up there about every six weeks although I haven't been since my husband developed dementia in October 2019. However, he is now so ill he is in a specialist home so I could if it were not for COVID which has closed all museums at the moment. We have been busy meeting on Zoom, planning our re-opening for which we have been given two grants. One from Arts Council England (a Government organization) for hand sanitizer, signage etc and the other from an environmental charity to improve a path round the building to make it easier to go in one way and out the other.

It is most generous of her to offer to give us her time and her knowledge I hope you will all take the time to join us on your phone, iPad or computer. I am not sure that I will be able to record the session. Please keep your eyes open for an invitation with the link on the 9th.

COMMEMORATIVE BOBBINS

I have made arrangements with Margaret Wall in England to supply us with commemorative bobbins for the 40th Anniversary of the Pittsburgh Lace Group. I am thinking that the spangles may be a bit different but essentially these will be what we will receive. Between the postage and the exchange rate I am afraid to suggest they will cost less than \$20.00 each. They will all be mailed to me and I will deliver them to you. I would like that to be at the Annual meeting in May. Please mail your check made payable to the Pittsburgh Lace Group to Amy Gibbons, 214 Central Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. by **April 15th**. That will hopefully give them time to make and mail them. The mail can always be iffy.



Dues are due!!!

Dues are \$15.00. Checks made payable to Pittsburgh Lace Group should be sent to Sandy Faulk, 414 Hampton Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221