



LACE THREADS

News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group –
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SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Lacemakers,

I hope you are having a lovely Spring and Summer. We had quite an amazing workshop with Louise Colgan. It was so nice to see our friend after so long. I am still suffering the curse put on me for doing too much, but with Physical Therapy it will be banished. Typing is now a possibility in short spurts. I hope to be back to making lace soon. Of course, it is my right hand. Through all of my issues, my husband, Mike, has proven that not only can he function without me, he can take care of me too. That means that I will be able to go off for lace trips anytime I want. I am especially grateful to Sandy, Suzanne and Joanie for taking over some of the jobs I have been doing for so

many years. Suzanne has been more than willing to drive while my wrist regains its strength. I would be so lost without my lace friends. I hope you all will continue to come on Thursdays when you can. Moving everything to daylight hours seems to help attendance. Now if we can only all get used to it. I forgot to bring up "Make Lace in Public Day" Wednesday, June 22. Emmerling Park is a possibility as is my/or your front porch. We can figure this out at class on Thursdays between now and then. There are lots of things for us to do together. I am so blessed to know all of you.

Amy Gibbons

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

June 22, 2022 --Make Lace in Public

IOLI Convention in Mesa, Arizona -- July 17-23

PLG Summer Camp -- August 8 to 12 from 1:00-3:00 at the Churchill Borough Building; see article in this newsletter

September 9 to 11 -- (Tentative) Spania Dolina Workshop with Dagmar Beckel-Machyckova

Monthly meetings at the Churchill Borough Building July 7, August 4 (tentative), September 1

Zoom meetings: 7:00 – 9:00 PM -- June 16, July 21, August 25, September 15.

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MILANESE AND BUCKS WORKSHOP with LOUISE COLGAN

by Suzanne Potter

It was certainly an interesting workshop!

Members of the Pittsburgh Lace Group have always proven themselves able to handle the unexpected. Our first workshop since the COVID-19 hiatus was for five days (May 13-17), and was taught by our excellent lace teacher, Louise Colgan.

Louise was in town to teach Milanese Lace and Bucks Point Lace. A sunflower, a pansy and a phoenix were the projects started by the Milanese group and a bookmark was struggled over by the Bucks gang. Showing her usual patience, she helped us all make good progress on our projects. She also got plenty of practice in unmaking lace while helping those of us trying to make Bucks!

Because of COVID protocols, we required a change in the usual lunch/snacks/dinner

arrangements, among others. Thanks to the Gibbonses and the Trimbles, our meals were ordered, picked up and delivered to the Churchill Borough Building. The second "adventure" started on Monday after we were told we had to move our stuff. The room we were in was a polling place and was needed that Tuesday. With the help of the poll workers and Mike G., we gathered our equipment and snacks, put away the tables and chairs, moved to another room and resumed class! Nothing can hold back the Pittsburgh Lace Group!

Many, many thanks go to Amy, Mike and John (planning, dealing with sales boxes, etc.), Sandy and Jim (hosting Louise), Joanie and Wayne (ordering and delivering meals).

Below are some photos from what was truly a memorable workshop. Thanks to Louise for her patience and excellent teaching!



PLG with masks



And...PLG without masks



Louise helps Sandy & Theresa



Dewi's completed sunflower



Esther working hard on Bucks

DEWI WONG: Her Immigration Story and a Background on Chinese Knotting

By Joan Trimble

On Wednesday, April 11, 2022, our member Dewi Wong was the featured presenter of a Zoom session sponsored by Jewish Family and Community Services of Pittsburgh. The hour-long presentation featured Dewi sharing her history of immigrating to Pittsburgh and chronicled her lifelong love of needlework, with an emphasis on Chinese Knotting. Several members of the PLG joined the presentation and asked great questions about Chinese Knotting.

Dewi, who was born in Indonesia, shared some lovely vintage pictures of her family, dating all the way to her paternal and maternal great-grandfathers. Coming from a line of seamstresses and needle workers, Dewi described being the youngest child of the family, and learning crochet and other needlecrafts at her mother's knee, starting when she was only five years old. This early experience ignited in her a passion for all things made by hand, and spurred her to become the amazing fiber artist that we know her to be. I was impressed by her statement that all artists use tools, but the most amazing tools that any crafter or knitter has are their hands.

Arriving in Pittsburgh in the 1970s, Dewi earned a master's degree in architecture from Carnegie-Mellon University. She met her husband Karl here, and is the mother of two, as well as the grandmother of a lovely little girl. Dewi worked in the Planning and Construction division of the Facilities Management Department of the University of Pittsburgh, from which she is retired. She is a member of the Fiberarts

Guild of Pittsburgh, as well as the PLG. Her various works, in varied techniques, have been featured not only locally, but in juried shows as far away as Australia. She showed the Zoom participants wearable knotted pieces and a photograph of two of her lace artworks that are showcased at the Pittsburgh Airport as part of the Common Threads Exhibit sponsored by the Fiberarts Guild.

Dewi modeled her wearable shawl, "Catch of the Day," which features a lace background highlighted by several Chinese knotted sea creatures. I haven't described it well, but it is certainly lovely and unique. She also shared some of her knotted creations with us, stressing the importance of passing the technique onto future generations so that the skills stay alive.

Towards the end of her presentation, Dewi demonstrated the technique for completing a basic Chinese knot. Her dexterous hands flew through the procedure, which I have seen several times, but which always amazes me. I am totally in awe of her skill! She graciously repeated the steps several times, and then showed how even the basic knot can be used as an elegant accent or as a component in a piece of jewelry or a home-décor item.

Many thanks to Dewi for sharing this beautiful technique and her exquisite creations with us!

Photos will appear after the following article.

COMMON THREADS EXHIBIT

By Dewi Wong

The exhibit at the Pittsburgh International Airport by the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh was a great success. It attracted people's attention to the artworks which are done using various fiber techniques. It advertised the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh's triennial Fiberart International 2022 that opens on Friday 6/3 at two locations in town. <https://fiberartinternational.org/>

We heard stories about the Common Thread from friends and families as they traveled to and from the Pittsburgh. Here are some of the stories.

The Guild was contacted by a young lady from Boston, whose mother is a historical fashion doll

maker and theatrical costume maker at the Washington & Jefferson College in Washington County. A small group of friends from the Guild visited her and her mother at their home. Her mom has great collections of costume books, patterns, millinery, all kinds of tools, fabrics, lace and trimmings. She is retiring from the business, and looking for an individual or institution to pass on the wealth of resources. If anyone knows a good place to contact, please let Dewi know.

From our own Pittsburgh Lace Group, as I was picking up Louise Colgan who came to teach at our workshop, I showed her some of the display cases on our way to the parking garage. When

Lee's daughter, a Pittsburgh lawyer, saw the exhibit on her way back home from a business meeting, she took one photograph of a display case which intrigued her. She showed the picture to her mom, who happen to know the artist who made the wearables using lace technique.

Last April, while masks were still mandatory at the airport terminal, friends from the First Baptist Church went to see the exhibit.



EXHIBIT: "A LEGACY OF LACE" -- Lacers of the Lake at Trumbull Art Gallery, Warren OH

By Nancy Wellington

Saturday, May 28, was a beautiful day, perfect for a road trip to Warren, Ohio for the "Legacy of Lace" exhibit put on by the Lacers of the Lake and a talk by Allie Marguccio, "Idrija Lace: Preserving a Family Tradition."

What a delight, when I got there, to find that Dewi was a member of that group and had contributed a lot to the exhibit! There were people there from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Minnesota (yours truly).



Dewi and Nancy
Dewi's collar: original bobbin lace
and Chinese knotting
Nancy's collar: adaptation of a
pattern by Brigitte Bellon

People walking by the Trumbull Art Gallery on the courthouse square would be first captivated by the knitted lace wedding dress, made by a member for her daughter, in the outside window. Inside, half of the gallery was dedicated to the "Legacy of Lace". As the photos show, visitors saw traditional bobbin lace in patterns from many different regions and in many styles, and also contemporary designs and interpretations, including pieces in knitted lace, crochet, tatting, needle lace, Armenian lace, Tenerife, netting, hairpin, macramé and hardanger. Pieces were identified by technique as well as by place of origin and style. Many pieces in the exhibit, both traditional and contemporary, had been made by the group's members, including Dewi.

Though I already knew Allie and her story, her presentation taught me much more about Idrija lace, as well as about her own lace story. Particularly striking to me was the photo of a painting in the Church of St. Ann in Cerkno, Slovenia (near Idrija), which shows St. Ann, mother of Mary, with a Slovenian lace pillow at her feet!

The exhibit continues through June 18. The lace is beautiful and interesting, and the exhibit itself is very well laid out. It's worth the trip!

NEW BOOK REVIEWS

By Suzanne Potter, PLG Librarian

Bucks Point Lace Workbook by Louise West gives basic techniques to lacemakers new to this lace. It assumes knowledge of equipment preparation and stitches. It then starts with the techniques peculiar to this traditional English lace. Each pattern adds another technique(s) for a total of 15 projects. The instructions and drawings are clear and large enough for those of us with aging eyes. This workbook is definitely one to have when doing any Bucks Point project.

The PLG library has added two more pamphlets by Claire Burkhard: *White Christmas* and *Multicoloured Bobbin Lace*. The former consists of patterns for stars, angels, and other "Christmasy" designs. The latter consists of colorful 3.5" squares to be used as coasters. The squares could be used as ornaments/decorations on clothing, bags, trees, etc. As always, the instructions are minimal, but the prickings are clear and easy to follow.

Gekloppelte Kloppe by Barbara Corbet is a tour de force. It has 34 patterns from 15 European countries, as well as the various bobbins associated with the different lace styles. The shapes of the bobbins are incorporated into the pattern; for example: a pair of spangled bobbins in the Bedfordshire lace, hooded bobbins in the German Torchon and Maltese bobbins in their traditional lace. The patterns and photos are beautiful, large and clear. Definitely a book to savor.

As usual with a book written by Ulrike Voelcker, *Crossings* is packed with useful techniques and beautifully presented. She illustrates 2-8 pair crossings, as well as several specialized ones (windmill, Venetian plait). The line drawings of the crossings are in black and white and multi-colored. The photos of the finished stitch are, too. After working through all the crossings(!), the lacemaker can go on to one of the star/snowflake prickings at the end of the book.

Pat Read and Lucy Kincaid's two classic books of Milanese braids have long been out of print. *Decorative Braids-Milanese Lace* by Read, Kincaid and Jane Read is a re-issue of the those braids plus nearly 50 not previously published. This is a reference book with step by step directions and the usual line drawings. Another useful lace book paid for by the "Thursday night can," as were all the others reviewed here.

SUMMER CAMP AUGUST 8 – 12, 2022

You will notice that Summer Camp is currently scheduled for an extra day this year. It will still probably only be four days. The people who plan to attend need to decide which days. The project of the camp will be decided at the July 7 meeting. Possibilities for Summer Camp projects are simple Christmas ornaments, bookmarks, or whatever you think you would like to do. While we all have unfinished projects, it is nice to all be working on the same thing during camp. So—NO UFOs THIS YEAR!

THE BKF/PLG SCHOLARSHIP

During the June 2022 meeting, the PLG instituted a new scholarship for deserving members who have gone above and beyond in their service to the Group. This scholarship, named in memory of deceased members Margot Barbour, Dorothy Kokal, and Anna Marie Fiori, will be given once a year to those who apply and will cover the cost of an upcoming workshop. Determination of recipient will be made by the officers. The 2022 recipient, Theresa Troyan, was

awarded the scholarship this year because of her many instances of generosity in housing our lace teachers in past years. Congratulations, Theresa!

PLG LIBRARY ADDITIONS

Armenian Lace, Nouvart Tashjian
Bucks Point Lace Workbook, Louise West
Collecting Antique Linens, Lace and Needlework, Frances Johnson
Crossings, Ulrike Voelcker

Decorative Braids-Milanese Lace, Read & Kincaid
Gekloppelte Kloppel, Barbara Corbet
Mediterranean Knotted Lace, Elana Dickson
Multicoloured Bobbin Lace, Claire Burkhard
The Needle-made Lace of Reticella, Klot
White Christmas, Claire Burkhard

DUES!

If you haven't done so already, please mail your check for \$15.00 made out to Pittsburgh Lace Group to: Sandy Faulk, 414 Hampton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

If you are uncertain as to whether you have paid already, please check with her.

Call for Contributions! Call for Contributions!

As always, any contributions to this newsletter are most welcome. Any news about members, other lacemakers, bobbins, threads, patterns, books, ideas, pictures -- please send!