



LACE THREADS

News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group –
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FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Lacemakers,

Here it is, time for another bleeping president's letter. Does anyone have any idea where the time has gone?? There will be lots of things to read on the following pages. Pay attention to the changes to our "Christmas Party." Sadly, we can still no longer pour ourselves into Esther's house, nor will that be an option again. Those wanting to drive to the Adirondacks, let me know. I don't think December is quite the time, but, boy, have we had fun at Esther's.

There are some coming dates, and Sandy has been working with the Churchill Borough Building to sort things out. In the meantime, Dewi has arranged places for us to demonstrate. Please remember if you demonstrate making lace anywhere, let me know your hours, including preparation and

transportation time so I can turn them in to IOLI. That way they can keep their non-profit status. I have numbers back to 1999. We do still need to find places to demonstrate even though we are somewhat hampered by wearing masks.

We will be having a Spring Workshop with Louise Colgan. The information about that will be available in the next newsletter.

Healthwise this has been a hard year for me. I am fairly certain that we had a summer, but I mostly missed it. I should be around a bit more now. I am back to making lace and once again excited about my projects. I hope that you are too. Our meetings should be good this year and classes will continue. Remember to pay attention to the weather in case the driving is bad. It is so nice to have daylight meetings. I hope you will all come along.

Amy Gibbons

*****IMPORTANT RECENT MEETING DECISIONS*****

At the October Meeting, the membership voted to ask Maria Provencher to send fewer items for sale to workshops. Instead, we ask members to order from the Etsy shop "ProvoLaceShop," <https://www.etsy.com/search?q=provolaceshop> requesting specific books or items they want to buy. Maria will then send a more limited assortment of tools and threads. Also, it was decided that the workshop scholarship should be funded from money collected at weekly meetings.

At the November meeting, the membership voted to hold a Spring workshop every year and a Fall workshop only in even-numbered years, with a Lace Day in the odd numbered years. Lace Day will be a one-day event with a topic decided upon by the members. **It was also decided by the membership that in future MASKS WILL BE OPTIONAL, but encouraged.**

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

Monthly meetings December 1, February 2, March 2 at the Churchill Borough Building:

Thursday afternoon classes (1:00—3:00) meetings at the Pittsburgh Chinese Church, 398 Hochberg Road, Monroeville 15146: November 10, 17, 24; December 8, 15; January 12, 19, 26; February 9, 16, 23; March 9, 16, 23, 30.

Zoom meetings: (7:00 – 9:00) -- November 17, December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16
University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House: December 4, 2022

PLG Annual Meet & Greet: January 7, 2023, 1:00 PM, Churchill Borough Building

Louise Colgan Workshop: May 19-22, 2023, Churchill Borough Building

*******RECENT HAPPENINGS*******

**THREADS ACROSS TIME:
RUSYN/SLOVAK SPINNING, WEAVING AND BOBBIN LACEMAKING
Zoom Presentation by Mary Gido September 17, 2022**

By: Amy Gibbons

Mary Gido from Five Rivers Lace Group presented a Zoom lecture with many people tuning in. It was sponsored by the Slovak American Society of Washington, DC. The talk was very well organized and covered a wide range of fiber information. After showing pictures of her family, with whom she credits her interest in fiber arts, Mary covered the preparation of both linen and wool, with an emphasis on traditional techniques used in Slovakia. She had excellent pictures of the tools used both for the fiber preparation, as well as for traditional spinning and colorful weaving techniques. She showed some examples of bobbin lace from several countries. It was especially nice to see pictures of the beautiful Spania Dolina, which we will hopefully be able to learn in the future. The highlight of the talk was when Mary showed pictures of Dewi Wong's Skyline Necklace, as well as a picture of Dewi demonstrating lace making. She showed many lovely pieces of lace that she has made and gave the participants ideas of where to purchase lacemaking supplies.

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“BEHIND THE MASK” EXHIBIT
OCTOBER 6- NOVEMBER 2, 2022
FIBERARTS GUILD OF PITTSBURGH
LATROBE ART CENTER, LATROBE, PA
By Amy Gibbons

Our member Dewi Wong was recently honored by having one of her mixed-media lace pieces featured in a juried exhibit presented by the FiberArts Guild of Pittsburgh. Since we wanted to see her work in person, as well as that of others, Mike and I drove to Latrobe one Saturday morning. We had an enjoyable time viewing the pieces in the exhibit, the theme of which centered on the masks that we wear in our lives.

Dewi’s piece, “The Virgin Queen,” was spectacular and quite our favorite of the show. Her piece was created using the techniques of wire looping, beadwork, crochet, and bobbin lace. As always, Dewi impressed us with her fiber virtuosity; her skill and creativity are astounding. Other pieces in the exhibit were notable, and there was something for everyone’s taste.



The Virgin Queen (mask), by Dewi Wong



Virgin Queen detail

**BOBBIN LACE DEMONSTRATION
OCTOBER 1, 2022
CONTEMPORARY CRAFTS IN LAWRENCEVILLE**

On October 1, 2022, the PLG was invited to participate in a community-wide celebration at Contemporary Crafts in the Lawrenceville area of Pittsburgh, sponsored by the Regional Asset District. Members who participated were: Dewi Wong, Sandy Faulk, newest member Sarah Louise, and Joan Trimble. We spent part of that blustery, rainy day fielding some wonderful questions from patrons of the venue, as well as other fiber artists. We were stationed in the Fibers Lab, along with a local papermaker. Many children stopped in with their caregivers to visit us, and all were captivated by the technique of bobbin lacemaking. The venue was lovely and spacious, and well-worth visiting even if one is not participating in a demonstration.

*******FUTURE EVENTS*******

**DEMONSTRATION OPPORTUNITY: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
NATIONALITY ROOMS, CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
DECEMBER 4, 2022**

By: Amy Gibbons

After an absence of two years, the PLG is again going to be welcomed back to the Nationality Rooms at the Cathedral of Learning for their Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House. For over thirty years, this event has signaled the start of the Christmas holidays for me. It is always nice to see our Christmas Tree and again demonstrate lace making for the public. The shopping is good too!

We are scheduled for The Croghan-Schenley Room as usual. Twelve and Four are the significant numbers since we are scheduled from 12:00 to 4:00 and the date is 12/4. It is good to come a bit early since we need to decorate our Christmas lace tree. Also assume we will be a bit late leaving since as we have to take the tree down afterwards.

Our thanks go out to Dewi Wong for setting up this lovely opportunity for us. I hope to see you there!

**HOLIDAY MEET & GREET
CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING
JANUARY 7, 2023**

By: Amy Gibbons

Because we can no longer have our Christmas Party at Esther's home, we have arranged to have a get-together at the Churchill Borough Building to show off our Christmas goodies.

The Borough does not allow parties, so we are having a "Meet & Greet" for all members, especially our new members, from 1:00 to 3:00 on January 7th (with a snow date of January 14th). This will allow the people from out of town, or those who can't be there on Thursday afternoons, to join us. Any food we are bringing must be individually packaged, such as small bags of chips or cookies. Everyone will provide their own drinks. (Hopefully in future years, we will be able to get back to our traditional sharing of cookies and coffee. But not this year yet.)

As always, we will be participating in "The Game." For those who are unfamiliar, we ask that each of you bring a number of things from home, which may or may not be lace related, may or may not be wrapped, and should not be junky. We will put these on a table so we can inspect them prior to the game. Players, all of whom should be members, will be given a set of assorted playing cards; individual cards will be called. Those with that card will pick from the assembled articles. That continues until there is nothing left on the table, and then the fun begins. The person holding the card may then take something from the items that have been amassed by other players. This continues until there are no cards left. Some items are passed through several people before the end of the game and there are occasionally attempts to hide something that is particularly desirable. There is a great deal of laughter involved.

We should try to get there on time and have everything on the table by 1:30 so they can be inspected by everyone before the game begins.

Please be courteous to the other members and do not attend the Meet and Greet if you are not feeling well. Also, wearing masks is optional, but encouraged. The pandemic is not over, and some of our members do have underlying health conditions that place them at risk.

DON'T FORGET TO GIVE THE GROUP ITS DUE(S)!

It's time to pay your dues for 2023!

If you haven't done so already, please mail your check for \$15.00 made payable to "Pittsburgh Lace Group" to:

Sandy Faulk, 414 Hampton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

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!