



# LACE THREADS

News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group –

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Our new Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/408890647627886>

## SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Lacemakers,

I know some of you will think this is a bit early, but I have a date with Dr. Whelan on the 27<sup>th</sup> and I don't know how long it will take to get over spending time with that handsome young man. I am hopeful it will be short. I always like to give you a month's notice before the Annual Meeting, which is scheduled for the first Saturday in April. It falls on April Fools' Day this year. We should have fun. Dewi is in the process of figuring out the program for after the meeting. Officers to be elected are Vice President and Secretary. Any volunteers?

As some of you will remember, last year we got through a lot of business quickly, as I began the task of shifting responsibility for things to other members. My health had deteriorated, and I was worried that I was the only person who knew which person to contact for what. I am trying hard to allow the people who took over the jobs to do them. I am very grateful to Sandy, Suzanne, and Joanie, who have really stepped up. There are still a couple of jobs that I would like to share with someone, not because I don't want to do them or they are difficult, but because someone else should

know where to look. Some of us remember when Margot Barbour got sick in England and then died. She was the newsletter editor and treasurer. Her loss was devastating, not only because we all loved her, but because she had such important positions in the Group.

I have felt really supported by you all, as my health improves, but I continue to forget dates. I have the day of the week down, but sometimes the third Thursday Zoom slips by. For years I have scheduled my life around Thursdays, the first Saturday in April, and whenever workshops are scheduled. I am surprised when people who have been members for years don't seem to know when things are happening. I know that many of you have stopped coming on Thursdays, and we miss you. I know this is not a very cheery letter, but I seem to be less patient than I used to be. At least I thought I was patient in the past. I hope you all are making lace at home; I have been. A difficult project is a good way to improve your skills.

*Amy Gibbons*

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**\*\*\*\*\*UPCOMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*\***

**Annual Meeting:** April 1, 10AM, Churchill Borough Building; bring UFOs to work on after meeting

**Monthly meetings:** March 2, May 4, June 1, July 6 at Churchill Borough Building.

**Thursday afternoon classes** (1:00—3:00) meetings at Pittsburgh Chinese Church, 398 Hochberg Road, Monroeville 15146: March 9, 16, 23, 30; April 6, 13, 20, 27; May 11, 25; June 8, 15, 22, 29. **In the event of inclement weather, please check with Sandy Faulk before coming to be sure that we are meeting. If too few people are attending, we will cancel.**

**Zoom meetings:** (7:00 – 9:00PM) – March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15

**Festival of the Egg Demonstration:** March 19, 2023, Alumni Hall, U. of Pittsburgh

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

**Churchill Community Day:** August 12, 2023: more information will follow

**\*\*\*\*\*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 her 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.**

**\*\*\*\*\*RECENT HAPPENINGS\*\*\*\*\***

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH NATIONALITY ROOMS**

By Dewi Wong

The Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Program of the University of Pittsburgh sponsors its annual Holiday Open House on the first Sunday in December, except during the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021. The in-person event resumed on December 4, 2022, with all the Nationality Rooms decorated for the holidays, and music performances. The Director of the Nationality Rooms said that this year’s emphasis was educational outreach through intercultural learning and intergenerational connections.

For many years, along with the Pittsburgh Lace Group, I demonstrated bobbin lacemaking in the Croghan Schenley Room at the Cathedral of Learning. The group displayed many different styles of lace and needlecraft that relate to the traditions of the Nationality Rooms.

This year I was at the Chinese Room displaying some of the decorative Chinese Knotting that I made. During the open house, I periodically demonstrated how the knots were made.

There was also a display of some garments from different countries represented by the Nationality Rooms. Shown in these pictures are the Philippines men's working clothes; Syria-Lebanese woman traditional costume with gold embroideries; Ukrainian embroidered folk dress with floral head ornaments; an African men's garment with matching head gear; Armenian women's dress with a headscarf; Lithuanian folk dress with red embroidered headdress, sleeves and apron.

The displays and craft demonstrations in many of the Nationality Rooms were delightful. It was certainly an event not to be missed.



Dewi's Chinese Knotting demonstration in the Chinese Room

### **P.L.G. DEMONSTRATION -- HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, DECEMBER 4, 2022**

By Amy Gibbons

On December 4, 2022, the PLG once again demonstrated at the Nationality Rooms Holiday Open House at the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. Another year of forgetfulness on our part. We brought the tree, but the stand stayed in my attic, after having been repaired earlier. Thanks to everyone's heroic efforts, we managed to prop the tree up using water bottles and other things; the bottom was discreetly hidden by a red cloth. Although it leaned precariously several times while we decorated it, the tree made it through the demonstration, and was a marvel to all who came to visit. The star remained at the church, but no one really noticed other than us.

We talked with several people who seemed interested in lacemaking, as well as out-of-towners who wanted to know if there was anyone who made lace near where they live (thank you to the IOLI Directory for providing that info). We were pleased to meet Kati Csoman, the new Director of the Nationality Rooms, who took over after Maxine Bruhn's passing. Although we will surely miss Maxine, Kati seems certain that we will be in the Croghan-Schenley room for Christmas until there

are cobwebs hanging off us. It is nice to know. There were many welcome improvements to the room, including new chairs.

Several members participated in the demonstration. Lee Uptegraff allowed people to try making lace on her pillow. Jodie at one end of the table and Joanie and Sandy at the other talked almost continuously as people asked questions or commented on our lace. Always good to have knowledgeable demonstrators. Several times I heard, "Oh, that is too hard." We assured the visitors that it is not tedious, nor is it too hard on the eyes. Suzanne worked diligently at her bookmark, and I just sat and gossiped with old friends and listened to the Christmas Carols in the other room. We were happy to see our friend Jan Letowski, who had at least two very lacy, beautiful bonnets for sale, along with his other goodies. It was an exciting, stimulating day. We left tired, but happy.



### **FIRST ANNUAL MEET & GREET – JANUARY 7, 2023**

The PLG rang in the new year with a first-time event, the Meet & Greet, held at the Churchill Borough Building. We were all excited to meet the newest members of the Group and to greet old friends after the holidays. We talked, laughed, played the White Elephant Game, and generally had a great time. Thanks to all the members who attended!

### **\*\*\*\*\*FUTURE EVENTS\*\*\*\*\***

#### **FIBERARTS GUILD—MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**March 11- April 2, North Hills Art Center, 3432 Babcock Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

A piece of work by our esteemed member Dewi Wong has been selected to be displayed as part of this prestigious exhibit. Her stunning mask, "Queen of Sheba," which incorporates lace and other needlework techniques, will be featured along with works by other Pittsburgh artists. The

opening reception for the exhibit will take place on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. For more information, see <https://fiberartspgh.org>

As Dewi describes in her artist statement, the story of the Queen of Sheba inspired this lace piece. She was a renowned queen who set out on a long journey to personally witness the wisdom of King Solomon. Her expedition is recorded in the Bible, the Qur'ān and other texts such as the Talmud, Midrash, and Ethiopian literature. Dewi goes on to say, "The use of various fibers and ancient techniques allows me to communicate through my artwork in a nonverbal way. The process of creating my visual arts pieces brings me joy and affirms my faith in my Creator."

Her glorious mask does indeed bring joy to all of us, and we treasure both the piece of art and



the talented artist who created it.

Queen of Sheba, designed and worked by Dewi Wong

### **WORKSHOP WITH LOUISE COLGAN, MAY 19-22, 2023 CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING**

Once again, the PLG is honored to host a workshop taught by one of our favorite teachers, Louise Colgan. The four-day workshop will include classes in either Milanese or Buckinghamshire Point Lace.

Cost for the workshop is \$150.00 for members or \$170.00 for non-members, and is payable at the time of registration—please see the registration form at the end of this newsletter.

Louise will be sending several patterns for you to choose from, along with thread color suggestions.

Decisions about masks/vaccinations and food will be made at the Annual Meeting, but we think that instead of having a pot luck, boxed or take-out lunches can be ordered. Of course, people may bring their own sandwiches, but the Group will not be providing food or drinks.



Class hours will also be discussed at the Annual Meeting. The evening of Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> will include shopping and a brief meet & greet. Maria Provencher of Provo Enterprises will be sending a few books and goodies for sale. This is a chance for you to buy any odds and ends you might need and to see what new books are available. Please read the paragraph about shopping and pre-ordering found earlier in this newsletter, and check out Maria's Etsy shop at <https://www.etsy.com/search?q=provolaceshop> for supplies and books you would like to purchase.

### **COMMEMORATIVE BOBBINS FOR MAY 2023 WORKSHOP**

As always, commemorative Midlands bobbins for the workshop may be ordered from Sandy Faulk at a cost of \$15.00 each. If you want to pick them up at the time of the workshop, they need to be paid for in advance.

### **PRESENTATION BY JAN LETOWSKI MAY 20, 2023, 6:30 – 9:00 PM**

On the evening of May 20<sup>th</sup>, the PLG will also host a presentation by Jan Letowski, our globe-trotting friend who is an expert in ethnic laces and needlework. Besides being a wealth of information about laces from various European regions, Jan will offer some wonderful items for sale. Admission will be \$5.00, and there will be a raffle. If you would like to donate items for the raffle, please bring them that night. Details will be discussed at the Annual Meeting, but hours for the talk are tentatively from 6:30-9:00. We ask that anyone attending bring individually wrapped cookies and other snacks, as well as your own beverage. Food and drinks will **not** be provided by the Group.

### **AND THEN THERE'S THE WEATHER**

In all honesty, the weather in Pittsburgh this winter has been...different. There has not been much snow (although we did get some at Christmastime), it has not been very cold (except for a brief spell, again at Christmas), and generally, it's just been gray and...well, more gray. However, considering what is happening in other places in the country, we are lucky.

Here are some pictures from our member Robin Panza, who lives in the Los Angeles area. Not only has her pool filled, from containing about 9 inches of water in December and now containing four feet of water, but it SNOWED in her area. To quote Robin, "Who says it doesn't rain in SoCal? And those who claim it doesn't snow here? Check out this morning's view from my back yard. Okay, it's not lace, but it's pretty." Enjoy that snow, Robin!

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

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. Copies of the membership list are available upon request; please contact Sandy.

## 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!

**Special thanks to Dewi, Robin, and Amy for the great articles in this newsletter, and for keeping us up-to-date on lace happenings.**

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### **WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM – MILANESE AND BUCKS POINT LACE with LOUISE COLGAN MAY 19-22, 2023**

Please send your checks made payable to “Pittsburgh Lace Group” to our Treasurer, Sandy Faulk, at 414 Hampton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Members \$150.00 ..... \$\_\_\_\_\_

Non-members \$170.00 ..... \$\_\_\_\_\_

Workshop commemorative bobbins \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed**