



LACE THREADS

NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

<http://pittsburghlacegroup.org>
pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com

Our new Facebook page is:

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

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is amazing that after 36 years of making lace, I still have projects I want to do and things I want to learn. I sit here with a thumb drive full of Christmas ornaments that I want to work through and patterns from Claire Bonito that I am excited about. I will wait to make the Cupcake and the Lady in Black until after I take her online class through The Lace Museum. I am envious of Sandy going to the I.O.L.I. Convention, where she will make new friends, learn new things, see the teachers' latest creations, and view all kinds of goodies with the vendors. I hope she has a wonderful time.

The workshop with Louise was lots of fun. The "Bucks people" and the "Magnolia people" seemed to be making progress. It was interesting to see the color choices of the ladies making Magnolias. It is always nice to see Louise, whose patience seemingly knows no bounds. I am really glad that she came to Pittsburgh and that so many of us got together to learn some new techniques.

We have moved our class/meeting site to the Churchill Borough Building and meetings have returned to the first Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00. The Borough staff has said they will enjoy seeing our Christmas tree and ornaments in December and our Easter tree in the Spring. It is so good for those to be in a visible place. We have Summer Camp and demonstration opportunities to look forward to. Remember that we are always looking for new demonstration opportunities. New people keep us fresh.

Happy Lacemaking,

Amy Gibbons

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

SUMMER CAMP: Kumihimo/Chinese Knotting, July 17-20, 2023, 1:00-3:00, Churchill Borough Building

DEMONSTRATION: Summer Artisan Market, July 22, 2023, 10:00-5:00, Westmoreland Museum of American Art,
221 N. Main Street, Greensburg, PA, 15601

DEMONSTRATION: Churchill Community Day, Saturday, August 12, 11:00-4:00, Pace School, 2432 Greensburg Pike,
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

BEAD EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP: Friday, October 6, 2023, 10:00-1:00, The Queen's Beads, Rainbow Shopping Center,
1985 Lincoln Way, North Versailles, PA 15131

PLEASE NOTE: No articles appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced without the express permission of the author. No photographs appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced without the permission of the editor. Thank you to those who contributed to this newsletter: Amy Gibbons, Dewi Wong, and Louise Colgan. Your articles are greatly appreciated!

WEEKLY CLASSES AND MEETINGS

All classes/meetings will be held at the **Churchill Borough Building**, unless otherwise noted. Monthly meetings are on the first Thursday of the month. Meetings and classes take place from 1:00-3:00, except for Zoom meetings.

July 6, 13, 27; Zoom July 20 at 7:00 pm

August 3, 10, 17; August 24 and 31-- location to be determined; Zoom August 17 at 7:00 PM

September 7, 14, 21, 28; Zoom September 21 at 7:00 PM

October 6, 12, 19, 26; Zoom October 19 at 7:00 PM

SUMMER CAMP 2023 – July 17-20, 2023 – Churchill Borough Building

This year, the PLG Summer Camp will take place from July 17 through July 20. We will be meeting at the Churchill Borough Building from 1:00 to 3:00 each day, and will be working on Kumihimo and Chinese Knotting. Our instructors will be Joanie (Kumi) and Dewi (Chinese Knotting). Attendants are asked to bring a 6-inch round Kumihimo disk, four colors of embroidery floss (not separated by strands), scissors, and a hefty dose of patience, at least for Joanie's portion of the project instruction. Who knows what wonderful items we may create? If you are planning to attend Summer Camp, please contact Joanie via email.

SUMMER ARTISANS MARKET – July 22, 2023 – Westmoreland Museum of American Art

The PLG has been asked to demonstrate at the Summer Artisans Market taking place at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg, PA. This is a first-time demonstration opportunity for us, and one that we are all looking forward to. The Market will feature many handmade items from local artisans. The event takes place from 10:00 to 5:00; we are permitted to set up our booth at 9:00. If you are interested in demonstrating, please contact Dewi. This should be a great event.

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY DAY – August 12, 2023 – Pace School

In order to help celebrate all the good things that Churchill Borough has to offer, the PLG has been offered the opportunity to demonstrate at the annual Churchill Community Day on August 12, 2023, from 11:00-4:00 at Pace School, 2432 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. This will be an outdoor event; a tent, tables, and chairs will be provided. If you are interested in participating, please email Joanie or Sandy. Let's show Churchill how appreciative we are for their allowing us so much use of their lovely Borough Building!

BEAD EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP – October 6, 2023 – The Queen's Beads

This October, the PLG will take part in a bead embroidery workshop sponsored by Karen Thomas, an award-winning local bead artist, at her shop in the Rainbow Shopping Center, 1985 Lincoln Way, North Versailles, PA. We will be exploring various techniques of beginning bead embroidery and will create a pendant featuring a cabochon. The cost for the workshop is \$45, payable the day of the workshop. All materials will be provided, except for thread and needles, which can be purchased at the shop or borrowed from PLG members. Please bring a pair of scissors--and your own sense of style--to make something truly unique!



Some ideas for bead-embroidered pendants

WHY I.O.L.I. IS IMPORTANT

By Amy Gibbons

The International Organization of Lace – for those who don't recognize the initials -- is a global society of lacemakers. There are many advantages to being a member of IOLI. As a part of a larger organization, you have more exposure to the world than just being one little lonely lacemaker. The Membership Directory allows you to find friends who may live near you who are also lacemakers and encourages others to become lacemakers. When I demonstrate, I bring my Directory along to help people from different areas find a lacemaker near where they live. The directory shows that there are lacemakers everywhere.

By joining IOLI, you gain several things. The quarterly IOLI *Bulletin* features pictures and articles about lace, and a schedule of future events at museums and workshops. IOLI provides online monthly lectures from various museums and private collections. Virtual classes with teachers of several kinds of lace are easy to sign up for. IOLI can provide to any member group a lace study box for the cost of postage and insurance. This can be used for group instruction or can become a program open to the public. IOLI also makes available a library of lace-related magazines and books that can be borrowed by any member for three weeks. Finally, the IOLI Annual Convention offers a chance to meet lacemakers and teachers from around the world. In addition to classes with new and different teachers, it is impossible to name all the wonderful things that happen there. The speakers, displays, and food are amazing.

These are some of the reasons you might want to become a part of IOLI and only some of the reasons that I joined.

A LOOK BACK AT WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

MILANESE AND BUCKS WORKSHOP WITH LOUISE COLGAN—May 19-22, 2023

As always, it is a pleasure to have Louise come to visit and teach us new techniques and tips in Milanese and Bucks Point laces. This year, the Milanese group made her stunning Magnolia pattern in various colors, and the Bucks students learned how to do corners. Louise is an amazing teacher, as we all know, and below are some photos of this wonderful workshop. Thanks again to the organizers and to Lee for hosting Louise! We can hardly wait to see her again next year when she returns on Mother's Day weekend!



Dewi's completed Magnolia



The Bucks Ladies



Magnolia in progress

AN EVENING WITH JAN LETOWSKI – May 20, 2023

By Dewi Wong

The Pittsburgh Lace Group lace weekend consisted of a workshop with Louise Colgan, shopping for lace supplies with Provo Enterprises, and a “Show & Tell” by our long-time friend Jan Letowski on Saturday evening. Jan brought a mannequin wearing a Ukrainian costume and a wonderful selection of embroideries and laces that he collected through the years from places he traveled far and near. The focus of his talk this time was about Eastern European costume. Among our guests were Joe Bielecki, the chairman of the National Council from the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh, and Mary Gido, a lacemaker friend and member of Five Rivers Bobbin Lacemakers. The evening concluded with a great Q & A and a nice visit by all.



Jan Letowski and Dewi



Some of Jan's treasures



Jan's lovely collection of clothing



Some embroidered and lace textiles



Bobbin lace pieces



Bonnets and other small items

I happened to dress in a Regency style gown because I attended a Jane Austen Tea at my church before coming to our lace event. Although the style is not Eastern European, it is fun to dress in costume.



“Lady Dewi of Churchill”



Gorgeous back of Dewi's bodice