



# LACE THREADS

## NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

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Our new Facebook page is:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/408890647627886>

### FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Hello to my lace friends,

Time seems to fly past faster and faster. I hope everyone is doing well and has had a great summer. I decided to take a Milanese class through the Lace Museum. The teacher was the lady who designed the Iris pattern. The class project was a beginner's pattern and I learned humility. The meander braid, which is tricky when it is going straight, is very difficult when it is curving to the right and then to the left. On the second one that I made after class, I managed to get the number of holes on each side right; I forgot to keep the braid looking nice. I learned especially that if you make a mistake at the beginning of a piece of lace, it can mess you up for the rest of the pattern unless you correct it somehow. Lace lessons, life lessons--same thing. Please just keep that horse moving as you look.

Claire Bonito was patient and gave everyone help. Because everyone has a camera on their pillow, we can see the teacher demonstrate a technique or help with a correction without having to crane over anyone's shoulders. Classes are filmed and viewable for a few weeks. That way they can be watched repeatedly, as slowly or as often as needed to understand it.

The Lace Museum has classes on a number of different kinds of lace, not just bobbin lace, at different levels. Karen Hanson Thompson's beginner's bobbin lace classes are doing really well. I have signed up for another set of Milanese classes on Tuesdays and hope to be ready for Louise by Mother's Day.

Be sure to check out the schedule for what is going on with the group. The beading workshop should be fun. Now that we are consistently at the Borough Building, we need to work out some plans to move our things from the Church to some other place. I hope you have had a productive summer and enjoyed my little adventure in lace.

*Amy Gibbons*



**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, Nancy Razzino, Nancy Wellington, Jodie Stevenson, Dewi Wong, and Lee Uptegraff. Your articles are greatly appreciated!**

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS

**DEMONSTRATION:** September 30, 2023, Contemporary Craft, 5645 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201.

10:00 – 4:00. Demonstrators needed—please contact Dewi Wong for more details.

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

**DEMONSTRATION:** December 3, 2023, Holiday Open House, Nationality Rooms, Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh. More information will be provided closer to the date.

## WEEKLY CLASSES AND MEETINGS

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

**September** 7\*, 14, 21, 28; Zoom September 21 at 7:00 PM (\*designates monthly business meeting)

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

**November** 2\*, 9, 16, 30; Zoom November 16 at 7:00 PM -- (No meeting on Thanksgiving Day, of course)

**December** 7\*, 14, others TBA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**COMMUNITY DAY LACEMAKING DEMONSTRATION – Sept. 30, 2023, 10:00AM to 4:00PM**  
**Contemporary Craft, 5645 Butler Street (Lawrenceville), Pittsburgh 15201**

Last year, several of our members participated in this demonstration. The demo was such a hit that we have been invited back to the venue to share our love of lacemaking. If you are interested in attending, please contact us via email.

**BEAD EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP – October 6, 2023 – The Queen's Beads, White Oak, PA**

Since this is the year for trying something new, on Friday, October 6, the PLG will take part in a bead embroidery workshop taught by Karen Thomas, an award-winning local bead artist, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at her shop in the Rainbow Shopping Center, 1985 Lincoln Way, White Oak, PA 15131. We will be exploring various techniques of beginning bead embroidery and will create a pendant featuring a central 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! If you plan to come to the workshop, please let Joanie know by September 28<sup>th</sup>.



Some ideas for bead-embroidered pendants

**NATIONALITY ROOMS HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – Dec. 3, 2023, University of Pittsburgh**

As always, the PLG will participate in the yearly kickoff to the holiday season by making lace from noon to 4:00 PM in the breathtaking Croghan-Schenley Room in the Nationality Rooms at Pitt. The festivities will feature not only our lovely Lace Christmas Tree, but ethnic foods, music, and dancing. This event is always one of our favorites!

## SO, WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING? – LOTS OF THINGS!

### SUMMER CAMP 2023 by Jodie Stevenson

On July 17-20 the PLG ladies held our annual Summer Camp at the Churchill Borough Bldg. This is an opportunity to get together, learn something new, and most importantly – have fun and fellowship. This year we had two wonderful teachers, Joanie and Dewi, who taught us Kumihimo braiding and Chinese Knotting.

On Days 1 and 2, Joanie took us through the steps to make a basic four-strand, 2- or 4-colored Kumihimo braid called Kongo-Gumi, which is made on a round disk with 32 slots and a hole in the center. The threads are manipulated back and forth around the disk with the braid being formed within the hole in the center of the disk. A small weight suspended from the braid maintains the tension. The result is an intricately braided cord in a decorative pattern.

During the final two days of camp, Dewi showed us how to incorporate the Kumihimo braid we made into a series of Chinese double-coin knots using two additional rattail cords. One cord is used to form a pretzel shape, with the end of the cord then woven, over-under, through the pretzel. Once this basic shape is formed, the next two cords are woven through the pretzel knot in the same manner, following the path of the original cord. Finally, the cords are carefully tightened to form the shape of the double coin. After forming several knots in a row, we joined the ends together with another double-coin knot to form a wreath shape.

We learned a lot in four days, and it was a great experience to go outside of our comfort zone and share in some of our members' other crafting hobbies.



Dewi demos for Barb



Nancy working on Kumihimo



Suzanne blended Kumi and Knotting



Dewi's projects



Dewi's Chinese Knotted Wreath



Sandy, Suzanne, Jodie, and their projects

## ARTISAN MARKET – Westmoreland Museum of Modern Art – July 22, 2023

By: Nancy Wellington and Dewi Wong

Lee Uptegraff, Jodie Stevenson, Dewi Wong, and Nancy Wellington spent a delightful day demonstrating bobbin lacemaking during the Artisan Summer Market at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art on July 22, 2023! The event was a shopping opportunity to buy handmade items from jewelry to ceramic to textiles, all while visiting the museum. The artists were at their tables explaining about their creations and their inspiration. Since we were right in the main lobby, people coming for the Artisan Market saw us immediately. And people were very interested: we were busy almost every minute. Both Lee and Nancy had “try-it” pillows set up so people could learn how to do it — and many were eager to learn. We all had different kinds of lace on our own pillows. With our work, Lee’s extensive notebook of samples, and Dewi’s more recent creations on exhibit, visitors saw the amazing variety of possibilities in bobbin lacemaking. (Jodie, is the angel finished??)



Jodie and Lee wow the onlookers



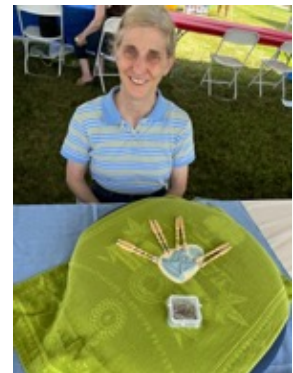
Nancy's try-it experience.



Dewi's treasures & a friend

## CHURCHILL COMMUNITY DAY --- August 12, 2023

On August 12, Jodie Stevenson, Lee Uptegraff, and Joanie Trimble demonstrated lacemaking for the annual Churchill Community Day. Since the Borough is so kind in allowing us to hold our meetings in their lovely Borough Building, we were happy to participate. The day was sunny and bright, though very windy. We had much enthusiastic interest in our craft. Jodie pointed out that after watching our lace demonstration, many people exclaimed, “This isn’t as hard as I thought. I could make lace, too!” We have been invited back for this annual Churchill event, and we will be sure to attend in the future. Thank you to the Borough for including us in the celebration! Photos are below.



## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LACE, INC., 2023 CONVENTION A Report from Nancy Razzino

The 2023 International Organization of Lace, Inc. (IOLI) convention was held in Sparks, Nevada. My Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday morning class choice was Idrija Lace with Allie Marguccio. Elizabeth Peterson's "Think Outside the Box" class was my Wednesday selection. I chose to keep my afternoons free to work on my lace and relax.

A couple of years ago I decided to try my hand at Idrija lace. I took an online class from Allie and fell in love with this lace. While many may think it is not a challenging lace because it only uses 5 or 6 pairs, that is not true. There are different corners and techniques. Allie has compiled a cheat sheet that helps the lacemaker with the steps necessary to make these corners correctly. Allie allowed the students to choose from several of her projects or to bring a project they wished to work on. I had an angel pattern that I had purchased and wanted to work on so that was my project. (picture) I thoroughly enjoyed seeing the many different pieces being made. Allie gave us lots of handouts and patterns.

The Wednesday class was with Elizabeth. I found her to be a very easy-going yet thorough teacher. Our project was making lace to cover a 2" box. There were six squares, each with a different Torchon ground. As with most classes and because I am not a speed demon lacemaker, I only got part of one square done (picture below). Elizabeth showed us how to transition between the squares so that they would fold around the box. I am looking forward to finishing this project and refreshing my Torchon ground knowledge.

Maybe one of the highlights of attending convention is the shopping. As we all know, you can never have too much "stuff." Below is a photo of several of the treasures I acquired. I also won a \$50 gift certificate to Tom Marguccio's booth and added to my Idrija lacemaking supplies.

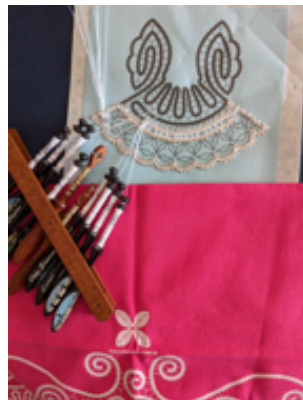
At our closing banquet, we had a speaker who educated us on the silver rush and mining in the Reno/Sparks area. For those interested, there was a tour on Wednesday of The Silver Collection Keck Museum. Wednesday evening was the Teacher Showcase. Seeing all the projects available makes me wonder if I will ever have enough time to do it all.

Over the years of attending IOLI conventions, I have found that there is a great deal to be learned there. All the teachers are generous with their time and their resources. I have made new lace friends and learned that we all bring different strengths to the classes.

If you have never attended or it's been a while since you attended a convention, I highly recommend going. IOLI even offers a scholarship for members; you can find information about this in our handbook or by contacting me (treasurer@internationalorganizationoflace.org) If you are not a member of IOLI, I hope you will consider joining as the organization has a lot to offer. Just check out the website at <https://internationalorganizationoflace.org/> Next year's convention is in Nashville, Tennessee. I hope to see you there!



Some of Nancy's IOLI treasures.



Nancy's Thinking Outside the Box Project



Nancy's Idrija Lace in progress

## The Red Dress & the Calico #3 Pittsburgh Dress

By Dewi Wong

The Red Dress is a collaborative worldwide embroidery project started by Kirstie Macleod, a British artist. 380 embroiderers from 51 countries participated in this project from 2009 - 2023. A 360-degree image of the Red Dress can be found at this link:

<https://sketchfab.com/models/8028c520388e4964a3add25f1a4fd1ec/embed?autostart=1>

The Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh and the Frick Museum are collaborating to create Calico Dress #3, a community project to accompany the Red Dress. Our dress is made from unbleached white muslin, a blank canvas for individuals to express their own identity and cultural heritage, bringing Pittsburgh communities and people together. Participants are applying embellishments using different fiber techniques. The process about the inspiration, design choice, technique and participation in the project will be documented.

I was excited when I learned about this project and shared this opportunity with our Pittsburgh Lace Group members, suggesting that they participate. Several members agreed to donate pieces of lace and needlework to embellish the dress.

The first photo shows the right front bodice panel embellished on the left by Joanie Trimble's red beaded star, Tenerife pink heart, orange circle and ribbon embroidery heart. Amy Gibbon's purple flower with green stem is on the right, Nancy Wellington's dimensional flower is in the middle, and my red Chinese knot and ecru Milanese heart are in the middle of the panel. Also on the right side are Sandy Faulk's blue Tenerife circle, red flower with stem and leaf, and a maroon Chrysanthemum. The rest of the embellishments on this panel were done by people from different groups.



Right Front Bodice Panel



Center Panel of the dress

The second photo is the center panel of the dress. Lee Uptegraff's Milanese sunflower and purple pansy are shown on the lower left. For the Calico Dress project, I was inspired to make a bobbin lace facade of the Frick Museum surrounded by ribbon roses representing the Victorian era when the Frick family lived in the Clayton mansion on the grounds of the museum complex. I applied the museum's facade above the red heart on the center, under the embroidered image of

one of Pittsburgh's "Three Sisters" Bridges and the V-neck representing Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle (see photo below). Other embroideries on this panel are by members of the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh.



The Frick Museum and Dewi's Bobbin Lace Interpretation



Dewi's lace applied to the dress center panel

These dress panels were circulated to Fiberarts Guild members and community groups including JFCS Turkish and Ukrainian Groups, who are part of the ongoing Guild's outreach effort.

Special thanks to Pittsburgh Lace Group members Sandy, Amy, Joanie, Nancy, and Lee, for giving their laces for the dress project. We plan to visit the exhibition and perhaps will be able to add more to the Calico Dress #3.

### DUES ARE DUE!!

Please be sure to send your check for \$20.00, made payable to *Pittsburgh Lace Group*, to our treasurer, Sandy Faulk, at 414 Hampton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. As you recall, the yearly dues amount has increased from \$15.00 to \$20.00. This change was accepted via unanimous vote at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Thank you for renewing!

You may use this form:

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