



LACE THREADS

NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

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SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Dear Lacemakers,

It was a busy Spring! So much has been happening with our group:

We had a visit with the KnitWits from Washington & Jefferson College; a lovely presentation by Dewi Wong for the Women's International Club at the University of Pittsburgh; our Annual Meeting, where Dewi assumed the helm as president; our Milanese and Bucks Lace Workshop with Louise Colgan; several outreach projects with our local Rivers of Steel Heritage Foundation; and a new bobbin lace class taught by Lee Uptegraff. All of this leads us to believe that needlecrafts like bobbin lacemaking are coming back into fashion! And there is so much more to come. Please read on to see what excitement will be happening in the coming months!

Before I forget: **Please report your demonstration hours (along with travel time and preparation time) to Sandy Faulk, who will turn them into IOLI. Her email is: sheepwrecked01@gmail.com**

Joan Trimble, Editor

*****WEEKLY CLASSES, MEETINGS, AND EVENTS*****

All classes/meetings will be held at the Yagel Room in the **Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Pittsburgh, PA 15235**. 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.

The monthly business meeting is designated by an * and Zoom meetings are in parentheses.

June: 6*, 13, 20, 27 (Zoom 7:00-9:00 PM June 20)

July: 4th—no meeting, 11*, 18, 25 (Final Zoom 7:00-9:00 PM on July 25)

August: 1*, 8, 15, 22, 29

September: 5*, 12, 19, 26

October: 3*, 10, 17, 24, 31

November: 7*, 14, 21, 28

Lace Summer Camp: July 15-18, 1:00-3:00 PM

Churchill Community Day Lacemaking Demo: August 10, 11:00 AM -4:00 PM Pace School Campus

Workshop with Elizabeth Peterson: October 18-20, more details TBA soon

Holiday Open House at Nationality Rooms: Sunday, November 17, 2024, noon-4:00 PM

*******UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS*******

BOBBIN LACE CLASSES AT YARN BIT & BOBS

JUNE 15-JULY 20, 2024

By: Lee Uptegraff

A new yarn shop, Yarn Bits and Bobs on Perry Highway in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, is holding beginning and continuing Bobbin Lace classes. The owner, Julie Pasquarelli, took a lace class at Contemporary Crafts in Lawrenceville and decided lacemaking is something fun to explore. Through the Pittsburgh Lace Group, Julie got in touch with local lacemaker Lee Uptegraff, who is teaching the class.

The bobbin lace class is running from June 15 through July 20 on Saturdays at Yarn Bits and Bobs, 8105 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh PA 15237. There will be an additional weekly session on an agreed-upon evening to provide extra help. Please call 412-339-8441 for additional information.

The beginning class will orient new students to the basic moves of cross and twist, tension, switching from one area to another, adding beads, making a sewing edge, and other common Torchon lace skills. The continuing classes will offer more advanced skills branching into Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire lace techniques.

Lee Uptegraff was introduced to lacemaking in the early 1970s. She has studied in England with Barbara Underwood, the Netherlands, with Jeanette Van Oord, and with Ann Marie Verbek Bilet. Lee headed and taught a lacemaking after-school program in the Pittsburgh Public Schools for many years and continues to share her love of lace with children and adults. She has studied many types of lace, with her favorites being Binche, Bucks, and Milanese.

STARRY STARRY PLG SUMMER CAMP

JULY 15-18, 2024 1:00 – 3:00

YAGEL ROOM AT CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING

This July, come join your fellow lacemakers for a four-day star-studded summer camp. We will be working on various star patterns from some of the books in the PLG library. You can work on a pattern of your choice. E Patterns for the stars will come from the following books: *17 Kloppelmuster in Blumenwerk-Techniken* by Elfi Kruger, *Weinachtliche Kloppelmotive* by Brigitte Bellon, *Winter in Bobbin Lace* by Claire Burkhard, and *Heavenly Christmas* by Christine Mirecki. Please bring your lace tools and come have some cool fun during this torrid summer. Hope to see you there!

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY DAY LACE DEMONSTRATION

AUGUST 10, 2024 11:00-4:00

PACE SCHOOL CAMPUS, 2423 GREENSBURG PIKE, PITTSBURGH, PA

The Churchill Recreation Board is hosting its fourth annual Community Day to be held on Saturday, August 10, 2024, on the front lawn of Pace School, located at 2432 Greensburg Pike in Churchill from 11 am – 4 pm. There will be food trucks, musical entertainment, kids' activities, local vendors, fire, police, and EMS presentations. And of course, a demonstration by the Pittsburgh Lace Group! Please come visit us on the lawn of the Pace School campus. If you are interested in demonstrating, please contact Joanie via the Group email. The event will be held rain or shine. Hope to see you there!

**FALL LACE WORKSHOP WITH ELIZABETH PETERSON
OCTOBER 18-20, 2024 - TIMES TBA
YAGEL ROOM – CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING**

Elizabeth Peterson, from Utah, started making lace in 1985 and teaching in 1995. She teaches weekly, and some of the laces include Torchon, Beds, Bucks, Brugge, Russian, Flanders and Binche. She has expansive experience with numerous laces but has studied Bedfordshire extensively with Christine Springett for several years. She has won several awards for her lace at the local, state and international levels. We are excited to welcome her to the Pittsburgh Lace Group for the first time this fall! We are working on details and will have that information shortly.

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

**THE RED DRESS AND CALICO DRESS UPDATE
BY: Dewi Wong**

After the Red Dress left the Frick Museum in Pittsburgh, it was exhibited at the Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, Massachusetts, along with their version of the Calico Dress, from February 17 - May 19, 2024. Two members of the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh, Linda Brown and Karen Krieger, went to the Fuller Craft Museum to deliver the Pittsburgh Calico Dress and hear about the future plans for the Red Dress from Kirstie.

On the last day of the exhibition, the Museum had a special event where their Calico Dress was joined by two other Calico Dresses from the Southern Vermont Art Center and the Frick Museum, Pittsburgh. Kirstie Macleod, the creator of the Red Dress came to present a talk, and after the tour in the United States, the Red Dress will return to the United Kingdom and continue in its journey around the globe.

Linda shared this photo of the trio Calico Dresses, together with the Red Dress. The one in the center is profusely decorated with pieces of lace made by members of the Pittsburgh Lace Group, the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh, as well as other embellishments from other local needlework groups.



**A VISIT WITH THE W&J KNITWITS -- WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON COLLEGE
APRIL 16, 2024**

Last fall, The PLG was contacted by Rowan Angstadt, president of the W&J KnitWits, who have been interested in needlecrafts of all kinds. He asked us if we would do a demonstration and talk about the history of bobbin lace. This past April, Sandy Faulk, Dewi Wong, and Joanie Trimble drove to Washington, PA, to meet these young needleworkers. It was a delightful event. Six members of the KnitWits came to hear Joanie speak about the history of lace and to try their hand at the PLG "Try-it Pillow." They were extremely receptive to and interested in the craft, asking perceptive questions, and we could see that our talk and enthusiasm for lacemaking made an impression on them. We wish the best for these young people, who showed us that interest in fine needlecrafts like bobbin lacemaking, crochet, and knitting is perhaps experiencing a rebirth. It was a meaningful experience for us and hopefully also for them! Photos below.



Sharing info with the KnitWits



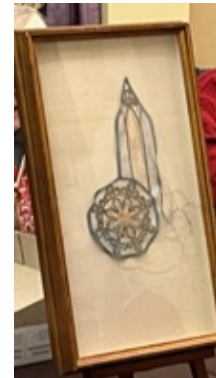
Sandy guiding a potential lacemaker

**PRESENTATION BY DEWI WONG
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH "WOMEN IN..."
APRIL 21, 2024
By: Mary Gido**

On Sunday, April 21st, PLG member Dewi Wong gave a wonderful presentation of traditional as well as contemporary pieces of her artwork for the "Women In ..." series at the Women's International Club of the University of Pittsburgh. The event was held in the Croghan Schenley ballroom inside the Cathedral of Learning. She provided examples of traditional bobbin lace, all of which were worked by Dewi, in several different traditional styles such as Bucks Point, Flanders, Chantilly, and Bedfordshire. She pointed out the characteristics of each of the laces as they were presented. These examples were then passed around so that everyone had an opportunity to enjoy them. Dewi then switched to her more contemporary/mixed media pieces that made good use of her architectural background. These stunning creations showed off Dewi's creativity and skill in combining lace, beads, color, and other objects to make beautiful, functional designs. As she brought each of her pieces forward, you could hear the exclamations of appreciation from her audience.

Once she completed her presentation, Dewi took the time to answer questions and socialize with the audience. Before and after her presentation, both Sandy Faulk and Joan Trimble did a wonderful job working on their bobbin lace, answering questions and explaining the process of making lace. Overall, a very enjoyable

presentation. Below are some photos of the event: Dewi, her “Queens,” her necklaces, some other works, and Sandy at her pillow.



BUCKS/MILANESE WORKSHOP WITH LOUISE COLGAN
MAY 10-13, 2024
By: Joan Trimble

It's getting to be a little hard to write these articles about the workshops with Louise Colgan. Why? Because they are always WONDERFUL! Louise is an amazing teacher who is unfailingly prepared for every eventuality, patient to the extreme, generous to a fault, and well, just Louise! She's incredible. So, here are some of my takeaways from this year's workshop:

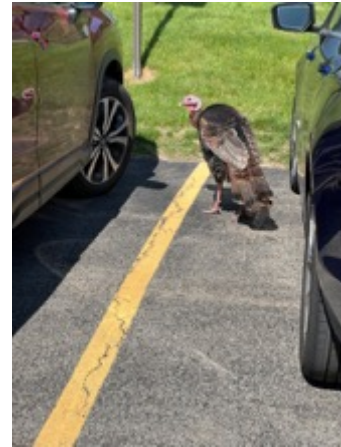
- It was great to meet Marion Warzel, one of our new members. She astounds me with her skill, her kindness, and her great sense of humor. She really enjoyed having Louise as a teacher.
- It was also fun to have Pat DiRienzo, a new-ish member, join us for Bucks 101. I'm so glad she's a part of our Group—she seems to share our sense of silliness!
- I love the Milanese Dogwood project. Which means I should be working on it more than I have, but I kind of hate for it to end. Unless I make another....
- I still don't know how you Bucks ladies do it. I can't even see the pricking for all the pins.

- How does Louise stay on her feet for 6 hours straight and still be able to scoot around to help everyone with such kindness and grace and with such a mellifluous voice? After two hours of working with new students for Rivers of Steel (keep reading), I was exhausted and rather cranky.
- Why was a wild tom turkey attempting to build a nest behind Jodie's car?
- As always, it was a great weekend with good friends, an awesome teacher, and a delightful project.
- Thanks to Lee Uptegraff for being such an excellent hostess for Louise. Not only did she make dinner for her twice, but she took her to Moio's Italian Pastry Shop—that's above and beyond!
- Here are the photos:





Yet another example why the PLG was once referred to as “earthy.”



New member—we might invite him for dinner

**LACE DETECTIVES VISIT LANTERN COURT MANSION!
KIRTLAND, OHIO – MAY 2024
By: Dewi Wong**

It all started when Jean from the Lacers of the Lake was contacted by Molly, who was looking for assistance in identifying the laces that she found in her office closet, located in the mansion of the Lantern Court Estate in Kirtland, Ohio. Jean, Dewi and others played detective to solve the mysteries of the type of laces. Some types of lace were quite obvious to us, but others were not. We thought that it was best to see the actual laces in person. Jean contacted Katherine, who lives close to the estate, and she arranged for the visit in May. Three lacemakers from Pittsburgh: Lee, Sandy and Dewi, joined by Ohio lacemakers Katherine and Sue, visited the mansion.

We saw and photographed over a dozen framed handkerchiefs, all of which were in excellent condition. These probably are of European origin; the photos will help us study them better. We hope to one day identify all of them!

Below are some photographs of these exquisite pieces.





**COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE PLG AND RIVERS OF STEEL HERITAGE FOUNDATION
JUNE 2024
MONONGAHELA AREA LIBRARY
By: Joan Trimble**

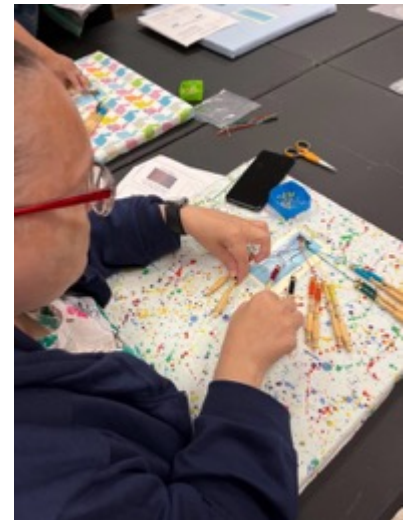
As lacemakers, we are always aware that our craft is one which transcends boundaries between countries and regions. Never has this been truer than this spring, when Jon Engel, Heritage Arts Coordinator of Rivers of Steel Heritage Foundation of Homestead PA, approached the PLG and asked that we participate in a collaborative project with a fiber artist who has worked with his group. This is how we met the lovely Jennie Reyes, a weaving instructor who specializes in making decorative crafts with natural fibers from the Philippines. Jon proposed that the PLG take part in a three-part workshop. The first part would involve Jennie teaching the craft of weaving abacá, a Filipino plant related to the banana, the leaves of which can be processed into an extremely strong fiber sometimes called “Manila hemp.” Students in her workshop, which would take place in the Monongahela Area Library, would craft a trivet or coaster from abacá. The second installment of the workshop would involve the PLG, with Sandy Faulk (assisted by Dewi Wong and me) instructing the students in the art of bobbin lacemaking. The third installment would synthesize the two crafts of abacá weaving and bobbin lace. This sounded like quite an intriguing challenge to the three of us, and one we were eager to attempt. So off to Monongahela (a/k/a “Mon City”) we went.

Our first class was on June 3rd. We met with Jennie and six people from Monongahela who have taken previous classes from Rivers of Steel. Jennie is an amazing, engaging teacher whose family is steeped in the tradition of abacá weaving, even producing goods for sale internationally. The three of us lacemakers tackled the challenge, which was quite different from any needlework we had done before. The students had never

done it either, and it was fun meeting with new crafters and laughing along with them as we did something new to all of us. We ended the first session with some reasonable-looking coasters (ok, so mine was kind of wonky) and an appreciation of the difficulty and possibilities of learning a new craft. Dewi even took home some of the abacá fiber to attempt a design of her own—I can't wait to see it!

Our second class took place on June 10th. I started with a short presentation on the history of bobbin lacemaking, and then we were off to the races. Pillows were made of construction foam covered in fabric, bobbins were universal square bobbins, and the thread was size 10 crochet cotton in black and rainbow colors—perfectly chosen by Sandy to complete the first project in the IOLI workbook. Sandy was extremely well-prepared, thinking of everything down to making origami pin holders for each student. At the end of the two-and-a-half-hour session, almost every student had completed the project, although several were having eye problems and did not finish. One student, upon finishing her project, burst into happy tears, excited that she was able to achieve something that she did not think she could do. We were touched by her excitement.

We have not yet completed the third leg of the collaborative workshop, but we know that Jennie has a plan, and we do as well. It may or may not involve the Torchon fish pattern we received from the Lacemakers of Puget Sound via the Chesapeake Region Lace Guild, but either way, it has definitely been a fabulous learning experience working with Jennie, our Mon City students, and Jon Engel. Photos appear below: students working on their lace, along with my wonky coaster.



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: Mary Gido, Lee Uptegraff, Dewi Wong. Your articles and photos are greatly appreciated!