



LACE THREADS

NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

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WINTER 2024 - 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dear Lacemakers,

It has certainly been a busy summer and fall for the Pittsburgh Lace Group! We introduced new lacemakers to our craft, and some even became new members; we had a wonderful workshop with Elizabeth Peterson; and we celebrated the coming holiday season early at the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh. Please be sure to read about our upcoming Meet & Greet on December 5th! We have even more exciting plans for the new year ahead. Please keep reading to find out what has been happening and what will be happening soon! My best wishes to all of you for a serene, joyful Holiday Season!

Joan Trimble, Editor

*****WEEKLY CLASSES, MEETINGS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS***** BIG CHANGES AHEAD!

As usual, we will be holding our afternoon meetings at the Yagel Room in the **Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Pittsburgh, PA 15235**. Monthly business meetings will still be held on the first Thursday of the month. Afternoon meetings and classes will take place from 1:00-3:00. However, In addition to the afternoon meetings, on the first and third Thursdays of each month, beginning in January 2025, we will be holding evening meetings from 7:00-9:00 PM. This change is being made so that our new younger lacemakers, most of whom work, will be able to attend.

Therefore, the schedule for the upcoming months will be as follows.

The monthly business meetings are designated by an asterisk (*)

DECEMBER 5* (Meet & Greet), 12, 19 – Winter Break – Happy Holidays!

JANUARY: 2025: 2*, 9, 16, 23, 30; evening meetings January 2 and 16

FEBRUARY: 6*, 13, 20, 27; evening meetings February 6 and 20

MARCH: 6*, 13, 20, 27; evening meetings March 6 and 20

APRIL: 3*, 10, (no meeting on Holy Thursday), 24; evening meetings April 3 and 24

MAY: 1*, 15, 22, 29; evening meetings May 1 and 15

Meet & Greet – December 5, 2024, 6:00-8:30 PM – Yagel Room (details below)

Workshop with Louise Colgan – May 9 - 12th, 2025. More details TBA

Romanian Point Lace Workshop with Karen Bouvard-Sayre - Fall 2025 – date TBA

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

**IT'S A PLG MEET & GREET
DECEMBER 5TH, 2024 - 6:00-8:30
Yagel Room, Churchill Borough Building**

All members, both old and new, are invited to our annual Meet and Greet at the Churchill Borough Building's Yagel Room on December 5, 2024. We will be meeting from 6:00 PM to 8:30-ish. Come meet your fellow PLG members! Come meet our new lacemakers! Come share what you have been doing! Come share news of your family, your completed projects, your upcoming projects, and any good memories of the Group!

We will of course be participating in the traditional PLG Christmas White Elephant Game, so if you plan to attend, please bring some gently-used things that you no longer need, but may be useful to someone else. Cards will be dealt; someone will choose something from the items brought; someone else will take it from that person; and we promise that you will never see it again unless you change your mind and "steal" it from someone else. The Game is a lot of fun, a great icebreaker and a thoughtful way to recycle some "treasures" that turned out not to be.

We hope that you will be able to attend. This will be a good chance to re-connect with old friends, meet some new lacemakers, and generally have a good time. Please feel free to bring a spouse or friend. Hope to see you there!

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

**BRUGGE/BEDFORDSHIRE WORKSHOP
WITH ELIZABETH PETERSON
OCTOBER 18-20, 2024**

The PLG was privileged to host a three-day workshop with Elizabeth Peterson this October. This was the first time (but surely not the last) that Elizabeth came to us from Utah to share her enthusiasm, expertise, kindness, and amazing bobbin lace "tips and tricks" with our members. We had the choice of a plethora of her lace patterns in both Bedfordshire and Brugge techniques. The offerings were as plentiful as a Thanksgiving menu, and as satisfying as well!

Besides finally mastering some basic Brugge techniques, what I will take away most from the workshop is the new skills and tips that Elizabeth shared with us. These included using magic threads, a new way to work leaves, a different way to do a scroll, and much, much more. Elizabeth was unfailingly patient, encouraging, and helpful. You can tell that she loves lacemaking and is excited to share it with others! It was a pleasure to learn from her. Everyone enjoyed the workshop, and some of

us (Sandy, Amy, and Dewi—I'm looking at you) even completed more than one project. Below are pictures from the workshop. What fun!



Elizabeth Peterson



Elizabeth and Marion



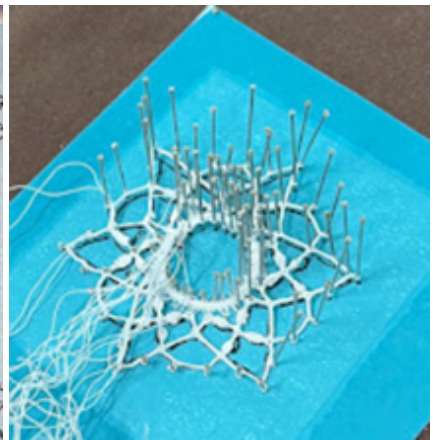
Sandy and her Brugge project



The PLG & Elizabeth



Amy's Beds Motif



Pat's delicate Beds Motif



Marion's exquisite Beds bookmark

INTRODUCTION TO BOBBIN LACE CLASS

October 1,8,15,22,29, 2024

This October, for the first time ever, the PLG offered classes teaching the basics of bobbin lacemaking. Sandy Faulk, who has over 40 years of lacemaking experience, was the instructor; Dewi Wong and I assisted with the class. We had five eager students, all of whom had some prior experience with the fiber arts. The students completed five projects each, based on the Beginner's Booklet from IOLI. These projects included a bookmark, a Torchon sampler, a sampler of grounds, and a whimsical fish designed by the Puget Sound lacemakers (thank you to Kathy for passing that pattern on). What a lovely group of young women! I know that I had a fun time with them; they were positive about accepting a challenge and encouraged one another as well. We had so much fun that we added an extra week to the class schedule! Since everyone had such a good time learning how to make bobbin lace, the PLG has decided to add two evening classes each month to accommodate the schedules of these working women. We will begin those evening classes in January, and I can't wait to see all our new lacemakers again!

Below are some pictures of the group working and showing off their projects.



What a great group of budding lacemakers!

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH NATIONALITY ROOMS NOVEMBER 17, 2024

It's the perfect start to the holiday season for the members of the Pittsburgh Lace Group! I am speaking, of course, of the Holiday Open House at Pitt's Nationality Rooms. Although the event was held several weeks early this year, there were still many attendees, and much interest in our Group. A number of members were present, each of whom demonstrated their bobbin lace skills and displayed works they have done in the past. As always, members decorated our PLG Christmas Tree, which is full of handmade bobbin lace and lace-related ornaments. The tree is a festive addition to the room and sparkles just as much as the beautiful Croghan-Schenley Room chandelier that hangs above it! (The next stop for the Tree is the Churchill Borough Building!)

Along with our Group, the Fiberarts Guild displayed the local Calico Dress, to which many of our members donated pieces of lace or other needlework. The PLG received several sweet emails congratulating us on a beautiful display. Additionally, many folks showed their interest in learning to make bobbin lace by giving us their contact information so that we can inform them of classes that will be offered in the Spring.

Overall, it was not only a festive day, but a promising one for the Group to share its love of lacemaking in the future! Thanks to all the members who demonstrated at the Nationality Rooms—we appreciate the donation of your valuable time!

ANOTHER NOTE ABOUT UPCOMING CLASSES AND MEETING SCHEDULES IN 2025

Over the past year, several people have expressed interest in taking bobbin lace classes with our Group. Also, members of our beginners' group who learned the fundamentals of lacemaking this past October have also expressed interest in continuing to learn the craft. The PLG has several plans in mind to help these folks.

First, since several of our new lacemakers who took the beginners' class in October work full time, we are adding two additional meetings per month in the Yagel Room. We will have access to the Room for two Thursday evenings, the first and third Thursdays of the month, **starting in January**. These two Thursdays will be in addition to our regular Thursday afternoon meetings. This time can be used by students who have already completed the beginners' class and wish to continue further learning. Experienced lacemakers are also welcome to attend. The time will be from 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Next, In January, one of our members, Margaret Dugger, will be teaching a beginner's class through Contemporary Craft in Lawrenceville. It will be an 8-week workshop on Tuesday evenings. Please visit <https://contemporarycraft.org/> for more details.

Finally, as we did in October, the Group is also planning to hold a five-session beginners' class sometime in the spring, probably in March. It will probably be on Tuesday evenings; dates will be announced. For that class, the PLG is requesting a \$40 refundable deposit for use of our equipment and a \$6 charge for a book; otherwise, there is no charge. The classes will be held in the Yagel Room of the Churchill Borough Building. If you are interested in volunteering with the class during this time, please contact Sandy Faulk.

It's going to be an exciting year for the Group as we stimulate interest in the craft that we all find so rewarding!

A NOTE ABOUT THE P.L.G. LIBRARY

As you may remember, the PLG has moved its vast library of lace books from our former meeting space at the Grace Reformed Church to the houses of a few members. In order to keep track of the books, Sandy Faulk and Joanie Trimble have catalogued them with an online catalog called *Library Thing*. Currently, the only people who have access to seeing what is available on *Library Thing* are Sandy and Joanie. If you are looking to see whether the PLG owns a particular book, please email the Group at pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com, or contact Sandy or Joanie. We will be able to see whether the Group owns the book, who is holding it for the Group, and whether it can be checked out. We are working for a permanent solution for our books, and hope to come up with a workable plan soon. In the meantime, this will work for us. Thanks!

BY THE WAY: DUES ARE DUE!

Please send your \$20 checks, payable to *Pittsburgh Lace Group*, to our Treasurer, Sandy Faulk, at 414 Hampton Avenue, Wilkesburg, PA 15221. Thank you!

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: Dewi Wong, Sandy Faulk, Marion Warzel. Your articles and photos are greatly appreciated!