



# LACE THREADS

## NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

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### SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### *In Memoriam: Louise Chuha*

By: Joan Trimble

Last month, Louise Chuha, one of our treasured founding members and good friends, passed away after a long illness. Louise was a legend in lacemaking circles. You all probably have heard of Louise, who was blind from birth, but was still a very accomplished lacemaker. She was born and grew up in Massachusetts, and attended the Perkins School for the Blind. While there, she learned all the skills that a woman of her generation needed to know to have a successful life. She amazed all of us not only with her skill at bobbin lacemaking, but with her ability to sew, knit, and crochet. Once she settled in Pittsburgh, she taught all those skills, even teaching pottery making to both blind and sighted individuals. We will never forget her "Lace Without Looking" class!

Louise spent her time not only doing crafts but also volunteering to help others in the blind community. She was fluent at reading and writing Braille and taught others the skill. She served as the Recreation Coordinator for the Pittsburgh Blind Association, as well as serving in other capacities. Louise was also a former president and vice-president of the PLG.

Until recent years, Louise was always available to demonstrate bobbin lacemaking at any event, but I think her favorite was the Pittsburgh International Folk Festival, which sadly is no longer held. One of my favorite memories of Louise was seeing her brilliant smile as she demonstrated lacemaking at the Festival many years ago. It was always fun to demonstrate with Louise and her canine helpers. She had a kind, sunny disposition, a fine sense of humor, and always laughed along with us when visitors to our demonstrations would exclaim, "Wow—you really need good eyes to do that!"

Louise was truly a marvel. She will be greatly missed, not only by our members, but by all who knew her.

Below is a link to a great article about Louise and her many skills:



<https://touchartblog.wordpress.com/2013/06/22/interview-with-louise-chuha-lace-maker/>

**\*\*\*\*\*WEEKLY CLASSES, MEETINGS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*\***  
**AT A GLANCE**

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

***Afternoon meetings are from 1:00-3:00; evening meetings from 7:00-9:00***

**June:** 5\*, 12, 19, 26; evening meetings 5, 19

**July:** 3\*, 10, 14-17 (Summer Camp), 24, 31; evening meetings 3, 17

**August:** 7\*, 14, 21, 28; evening meetings 7, 21

**September:** 4\*, 11, 18, 25; evening meetings 4, 18

**October:** 9\*, 16, 23, 30; evening meeting Oct. 16 (no meeting before workshop)

**July 14-17, 2025: Summer Camp;** 1:00-3:00, Yagel Room, Churchill Borough Building

**August 9, 2025: Churchill Community Day:** 11:00-4:00; Grounds of PACE School on Greensburg Pike

**October 4-5, 2025: Romanian Point Lace** with Karen Bouvard-Sayre; Yagel Room; Times TBA

**December 7, 2025, Holiday Open House, U. of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms:** noon-4PM

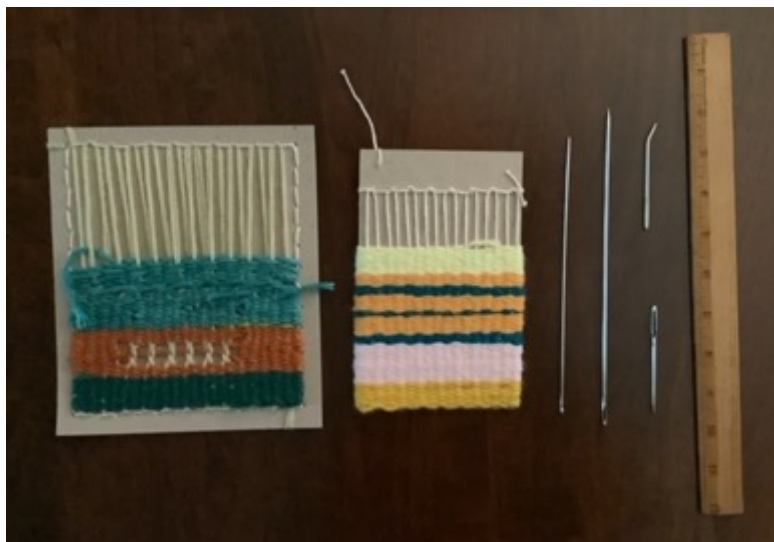
**\*\*\*\*\*UPCOMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*\***

**SUMMER CAMP – July 14-17, 2025 -- 1:00 – 3:00**

By: Sandy Faulk

**Summer Camp** will be happening July 14 - 17 at the Churchill Borough Building. This 4-day annual event is free to members and you're welcome to attend any or all of the days. We have 2 programs this year, both from 1 - 3 PM. Sandy Faulk will be teaching the first program, Weaving on a Cardboard Loom, from Monday - Wednesday. The samples shown are 4" x 6" and 7 1/2" x 6 1/2" but they can be any size.

Dewi Wong will be giving the second program on Thursday. She will do a show & share for fitting lace to existing hankies.



**Supply list for Cardboard Loom**

- 1 or 2 pieces of cardboard or corrugated cardboard (heavier than cereal boxes) cut to size
- Bits of yarn
- Tapestry needle (long or short)
- Scissors, ruler & pen

**Supply list for Mounting Lace:**

- Your undivided attention

## CHURCHILL COMMUNITY DAY – August 9, 2025 – 11:30 – 4:00

Once again, the PLG has been invited to demonstrate bobbin lacemaking at the annual Churchill Community Day. The event is always a lot of fun, and the venue is refreshing. If you are interested in participating, please let Dewi, Sandy, or Joanie know.

## ROMANIAN POINT LACE WITH KAREN BOUVARD-SAYER – Oct. 4 & 5, 2025

Come join us as we learn the basics of Romanian Point Lace. **Romanian Point Lace consists of a crochet braid that is tacked to a pattern** and then embellished with needle lace stitches.

Members will purchase kits assembled by Karen. We are looking forward to learning this new technique! Hours for the workshop will be announced closer to the date of the workshop.



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

### MILANESE/BUCKS POINT WORKSHOP WITH LOUISE COLGAN – May 9-12, 2025

By: Jodie Stevenson and Barb Lis

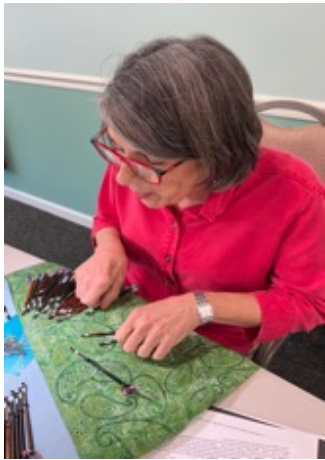
The PLG was pleased to welcome back Louise Colgan for our “Mother’s Day” weekend workshop, held May 9-12, 2025. Louise is a long-time friend and teacher, and we always look forward to her coming. This year we worked on either Milanese or Bucks Point lace projects. The Milanese group chose to do either a graceful lily, or a wise old owl. Milanese lace has beautiful, and sometimes very challenging, braids due to the unique way that it is woven and tensioned. Louise is very good about refreshing our skills/memories(!) from past workshops, while teaching us new braids and techniques to add to our “toolboxes.” Barb and Pat would like to thank Louise for teaching them the intricate Bucks lace patterns. Pat completed “Hearts and Rings Medallion,” while Barb worked on “Gimp Finger Notes Bookmarker.” We were all pleased with the way our projects turned out. Louise is a great teacher, and very patient with her students.

Maria Provencher provided us with a “Shop in a Box” that allowed us to purchase books and supplies for current and future projects. We always look forward to seeing what surprises she sends to us. As every lacemaker knows, you can never have enough lace supplies. On Friday night, the group went to Outback Steakhouse. We were joined by Gretchen Baudoux, a long-time member whom we hadn’t seen for a while. It was good to get together for a casual evening out.

We would also like to thank Lee Uptegraff for providing accommodations for Louise, to Sandy for picking her up at the airport, and for Pat for taking her back to the airport. Below are some workshop pictures.







Pat works on her Bucks



Lee and Louise



Amy, Dewi, Gretchen



Marion working on the lily



Always great to see Kathy.



Sandy at her pillow



Barb working on Bucks



Lily in progress



Amy's lovely completed owl

## **PLG LACE DISPLAY AT SHALER NORTH HILLS LIBRARY**

### **APRIL 2015**

This past April, the members of the Pittsburgh Lace Group were asked by Shaler North Hills Library to display some of our work. Sandy, Dewi, and Joanie went there to set up the display; some pictures of the display are below. The members who shared their work are: Dewi Wong, Sandy Faulk, Jodie Stevenson, Barb Lis, Lee Uptegraff, Lauren Heidingsfelder, and Joan Trimble. Techniques include Torchon, Bruges, Binche, Tape Lace, Milanese, Tonder, Ipswich, Chrysanthemum, Tenerife, and Needle Lace. Thanks to all the members who participated by submitting work for this display, and thanks to Shaler North Hills Library for the invitation.



Some items from the Shaler North Hills Library display

## **PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP GOES GREEN**

By: Dewi Wong

It all started with questions like “What do you do with the lace you make?” that people often ask Margaret Dugger, the Pittsburgh Lace Group’s new member, who quickly became one of our avid lacemakers. Margaret came from Chicago to Pittsburgh and was the National Artist in Residence from July -December 2024 at Contemporary Craft in Pittsburgh. <https://contemporarycraft.org/>

Margaret is a weaver, and she teaches bobbin lacemaking at Contemporary Craft. Being creative and innovative, she thought about making bobbin lace with edible materials so she can say: “I eat them after I make the lace.” When I visited her studio at CC, she showed me her experimental lace made with strawberry licorice. After a while she got tired of eating the strawberry flavor and was going to try the black licorice. I was going to suggest to her to try various noodles, but they need to be cooked to soften. Around that time, I went food shopping at the Asian grocery and saw string beans that are just in season for spring. My “light bulb” turned on. I bought a bunch and off I went to our meeting at the Churchill Borough Building where we meet weekly. That day Margaret was absent, but the other lacemakers came up with many suggestions, including plaits, cloth stitch, half stitch, spiders and triangles. We all had good laughter and so much fun. We took pictures of our experimentation and texted the photos to Margaret. She immediately put the photos in her Instagram. She suggested that the string beans (still in their woven state) can be steamed and drizzled with seasoned soy sauce! Great idea! Yum!!

Below are the results of the bean experiment.





## FIBERARTS INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION 2025 CONTEMPORARY CRAFT June – August 2025

By: Dewi Wong

Contemporary Craft in Lawrenceville will also be hosting the Fiberarts International Exhibition from June 20 through August 30, 2025.

<https://contemporarycraft.org/exhibition/fiberart-international-2025/exhibition-overview/>

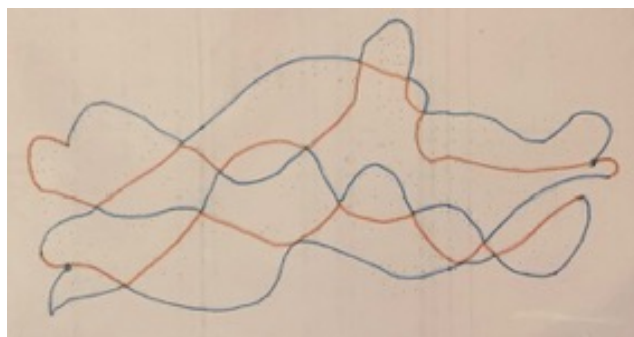
This exhibition is produced and supported by the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh. As a member of the Guild, I participated in their community project called PORTALS, where we decorated hoops with all kinds of fiber techniques. These hoops will be installed in various outdoor locations and parks around Pittsburgh to connect communities across the world through the diverse nature of fiber art. Below are some pictures of the hoops we created.



\*\*\*\*\*MEMBERS' WORKS\*\*\*\*\*

## THE ADVENTUROUS LACEMAKER – TWO PAIR LACE

By: Sandy Faulk



I recently completed an on-line class with Pierre Fouche which was about making lace using only two pairs. For this project I used Perle 8 cotton. The first step was to make a pricking drawing wavy lines, touching each other at random points, and then connecting them at the top and bottom of the pricking. I then picked a starting point and began making plaits. Variations included extra twists for spacing. I continued along the pricking and learned about lots of

variations. Joins were made with sewings wherever the lines touched. Each lesson expanded on embellishments; sometimes separating the pairs completely to twist them off onto their own paths to be rejoined later. Leaves, tallies and whatever the heck you can think of are OK. When finished, it most definitely needed to be stiffened, and I used Superstarch from Moravia & Hedens Horgaen. It was a challenge and a lot of fun and I'm happy with my final project. Now on to his next set of lessons: braiding with 3 pairs. Can't wait to start!



## P.L.G. LIBRARY NEWS

The PLG has moved its vast library of lace books from our former meeting space to the houses of a few members. To keep track of the books, Sandy Faulk and Joanie Trimble have catalogued them with an online catalog called *Library Thing*. If you are interested in seeing whether the Group owns a particular book, please go to our website at <http://pittsburghlacegroup.org/>, and look for the link for Library Thing under "PLG Library Holdings – Current." You can then search for a book by author, title, or subject by typing it into the search bar on the upper right that reads, "Search this Library." Once you find the book, look under the "Tags" column, which indicates who has the book at their house. *SF* is Sandy, *BL* is Barb, *SNP* is Suzanne, and *JDT* is Joanie. Please contact that person and ask for the book. Then let Sandy or Joanie know that you wish to check out the book, and we will note it on the site. Hopefully we will soon be moving the books to a more central location where members can browse through them.

Articles appearing in this newsletter may NOT 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, Jodie Stevenson, and Barb Lis. Your articles and photos are greatly appreciated!