



LACE THREADS

NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

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Dear Lacemakers,

I have always believed that the summer months go by so quickly because it's so warm outside (no scientific basis to this belief, of course). And it certainly has been hot this year in Pittsburgh, as well as everywhere else! But soon we will be in the season of cozy sweaters, blankets, and pumpkin-spice everything, so let's enjoy the fleeting summer while we can and look back on what we in the PLG have been doing.

We have so much to report on:

- Summer Camp
- Living History at the Compass Inn
- Churchill Community Day
- Lace offerings from The Lace Museum

And we are offering an upcoming needle-lace workshop in October!

What could be better than these events?

Joan Trimble, Editor

*****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

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

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

November: 6*, 13, 20; evening meeting November 6 (none on Thanksgiving)

December: 4*, 11, 18; evening meeting December 4 (none on Christmas or New Year's Day)

January 2026: 8*, 15, 22, 29; evening meeting January 8, 22

October 4-5, 2025: Romanian Needle Lace Workshop with Karen Bouvard-Sayre; Yagel Room; Times 10:00 – 5:00, with an hour for lunch. More details later in this newsletter.

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

******UPCOMING WORKSHOP******

ROMANIAN POINT LACE

WITH KAREN BOUVARD-SAYER – Oct. 4 & 5, 2025

Yagel Room, Churchill Borough Building

Come join the Pittsburgh Lace Group as we learn the basics of Romanian Point Lace. **Romanian Point Lace consists of a crochet braid tacked to a pattern** and then embellished with needle lace stitches. Cost for the workshop will be \$100; several \$25 scholarships are available for the asking. Participants must purchase kits provided by Karen; cost for the kits is \$15.00. Crocheted cord is also available from Karen. The cord is sold in half-yard increments selling for \$10.00; a whole yard of cord costs \$20.00. You can crochet your own cord; here is a video showing that process. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csOJL44DwhU&t=9s>

We are looking forward to learning this new technique! Hours for the workshop will be from 10AM through 5PM, with an hour for lunch. More details about the workshop will be provided to those who sign up for it Please register using the form found at the end of this newsletter. Deadline to register is September 1st.

Below are some examples of Romanian Point Lace, worked by Sandy Faulk.



******RECENT EVENTS******

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

SUMMER CAMP

July 14-17, 2025

CARDBOARD WEAVING and LACE APPLICATION

This year, the PLG held its annual Summer Camp in the Yagel Room on July 14-17. Although we never did make s'mores or sing camp songs, we had a great time learning new techniques because of our two project presentations. The first was presented by our accomplished weaver, Sandy Faulk, who showed us how to weave on cardboard. Under Sandy's tutelage, we were able to craft a loom on which we wove pouches and coasters. I must say that this is a craft I have always wanted to try but never had the chance. It was fun, creative, useful (since we were able to use up bits of yarn from our stashes), but most of all relaxing. I think everyone had a great time weaving their projects, joking around, and being together. Although not all of us finished our projects (we will), we really want to thank Sandy for sharing her skills with us.

On Thursday, July 17, Dewi shared an important skill for any lacemaker: applying lace to the edge of an existing handkerchief. Dewi had never done this before 2020, when she was making lace for her daughter's wedding. She worked with Bobbi Donnelly, the designer of a stunning Tonder lace edging for Dewi's daughter's wedding handkerchief. Bobbi was not only kind enough to draft the edging, but also created a corner so it could be applied easily to a hankie. Dewi showed us the prickings that she used to work the Tonder piece, and astounded us with her magnificent finished product. She detailed how she even added a thread ring onto the handkerchief so that it could hang from her daughter's bracelet—what a clever and thoughtful idea! Dewi's work is exquisite. Several other members of the group commented that they had also created wedding hankies and lace for special occasions. Thank you, Dewi, for sharing your skill and expertise during our summer camp. Photos of Summer Camp are below—you can tell that it was a creative, fun, and productive experience.



Sandy shows us her woven pouch in progress, then the finished project, with Kumihimo braid



Dewi and Suzanne weaving



Jodie's purse is coming along



Pat's work in progress



Dewi and Theresa examine prickings for her Dewi's daughter's hankie, and the completed hankie

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

I don't know why it is, but every year that the PLG participates in the Churchill Community Day event, we have beautiful sunny, breezy weather. This year, our third time participating, was no exception. The PLG booth was staffed by Sandy Faulk, Lee Uptegraff, Jodie Stevenson, Joan Trimble, and Nancy Wellington, who came all the way from Minnesota. Dewi Wong and her daughter and granddaughter also paid us a visit toward the end of the day. As always, we fielded questions about our craft, pointing out that we demonstrate to keep the art alive and to educate the public about lacemaking. We answered some well-informed questions and even signed up some prospective lacemakers.

It was, as always, a fun event for both our members and those who came to visit us. Our thanks to Churchill Borough for providing us with a beautiful place to meet and with the opportunity to share our craft with others.



Sandy, Jodie, Lee and Nancy demonstrating bobbin lace



**LIVING HISTORY EVENT
COMPASS INN MUSEUM, LAUGHLINTOWN, PA
JULY 20, 2025
By Dewi Wong and Marion Warzel**

The Compass Inn is located in Laughlintown, about an hour away from Pittsburgh along the Lincoln Highway (Rt 30). It is an important site with a long history of stage coach travel during the turn of the 19th century. It was an ideal rest stop between Philadelphia & Pittsburgh, especially with the opening of the Pennsylvania Turnpike in 1817. Men and women travelers found cozy lodging with a women's bedroom on one side, and a couple of men's bedroom on the other side of the stairs. More on the history of the Compass Inn can be read here. <https://www.compassinn.org/history-of-compass-inn-museum>

For their annual living history event in mid-July, Dewi was contacted by a friend from the Jane Austen Society of North America, Pittsburgh chapter, for an opportunity to demonstrate bobbin lacemaking. This demonstration at the Compass Inn took place on July 20, 2025. Their website announced: "See live demonstrations of European bobbin lace and a unique American lace-making technique with Dewi Wong and Marion Warzel."

Dewi & Marion came dressed in regency costume and set up a display on a table under a tent. We took turns explaining how bobbin lace was made by manipulating threads with two stitches, cross and twist. We talked about equipment and styles, including the unique American lace, Ipswich lace. Marion has a pillow with the Ipswich pattern in progress.





People crowded our tent and listened to our presentation. Some visitors also wore the period dress. Among them was a lady who is the great-grand-daughter of the previous owner of the Compass Inn. Marion's mom and two daughters were among the audience.

There were blacksmiths working in a building nearby, and the cooks were busy preparing meals of that period, seasoned with herbs from their garden.

We had a hearty lunch in one of the cottages and toured the inn. We got a glimpse of life at that time, about trundle rope beds with charcoal or stone bed warmers.



Dewi's friend presented a lecture about English dance, accompanying herself on a button box. The day was a nice experience in the country, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

VIRTUAL LACE CLASSES--REALLY??

By Patricia DiRienzo

As a new-ish lace maker, I still have a whole lot to learn. I enjoy taking classes and learning from experienced lace makers/teachers, but there are only so many of those available. So, what is someone like me to do?

Just borrowing a book from the PLG library, reading it, and then practicing does not work for my learning style. I need to see someone doing what I want to learn, and then I need to do it myself and get feedback. So, again, what is someone like me to do?

Well, I discovered the virtual classes that are offered throughout the year by The Lace Museum in California. These classes were one of the positive outcomes of the COVID pandemic! There are a wide variety of classes offered for all skill levels. The teachers that I

have had have been so good, and they have been as patient with learning lace makers on-line as they are in person!

All that you need to participate (in most, but not all, classes) is a computer and a cell phone with a camera. You are able to be seen using your web camera, and your work can be seen using your phone's camera.

And the best thing for those of us who really get something when in class with a teacher and then go home and find that our minds have gone totally blank, is that the classes are recorded and students have access to them for at least a month after the last class! It's great to be able to go back to the spot where you're unclear about what happens and watch your teacher demonstrate - and as many times as you need for things to finally sink in!

Check out the virtual classes on The Lace Museum's website. Maybe you'll find something to pique your curiosity!

<https://thelacemuseum.org/virtual-education/>

*****WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM*****

ROMANIAN POINT LACE with KAREN BOVARD-SAYERS

October 4 & 5, 2025

Please send your checks made payable to "Pittsburgh Lace Group" to our Treasurer, Sandy Faulk, at 414 Hampton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221. **Deadline for registration is September 1, 2025.**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

Email: _____

Cost for workshop is \$100.00 Check # _____

Cost of kits is \$15.00. Cost of crocheted cord is \$20/yard. These costs will be paid directly to Karen.

Deadline to cancel is five (5) days before class.

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 and Patricia DiRienzo. Your articles and photos are greatly appreciated!