



LACE THREADS

NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

FALL/WINTER 2025-2026

<https://pittsburghlacegroup.org/>

Dear Lacemakers,

The leaves are falling and the year is zipping by faster than a lacemaker's video on Facebook. All the Pittsburgh lacemakers are planning for the upcoming holidays. In early October, our Group had a wonderful time making Romanian Point Lace with Karen Bovard-Sayre, and I am sure that if anyone is like me, they have plans for making some distinctive ornaments for family and friends. Also, if you need an idea for the perfect gift for a lacemaker, keep reading!

Two more exciting things have happened! The first is that the PLG Library has been moved out of members' houses and into the Yagle Room. More about that later in this newsletter. The really exciting thing is that the PLG has an upgraded website! My daughter, Emma, has re-done the site so that it's easier to read, especially on a mobile phone. The new site also provides easy links to our email, our library holdings, our social media accounts, and our By-Laws. Be sure to check out the new website! Thanks to Em for all her hard work and time upgrading the site.

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 7:00-900

November: 6*, 13, 20; evening meeting November 6, 20

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

January 2026: 8*, 15, 22, 29; evening meetings January 8, 15; New Years Party January 17

February: 5*, 12, 19, 26; evening meetings 5, 19

March: 5*, 12, 19, 26; evening meetings 5, 19

April: 11** Annual Meeting, 16, 23, 30; evening meeting 16

May: 5/8 - 5/11--Workshop with Louise Colgan (see article below), 14*, 21, 28; Evening 21

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

New Year's Party – 1/17/2026 from 5:00 until ?? See below for more info.

*******WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE P.L.G.*******

ROMANIAN POINT LACE WORKSHOP

with KAREN BOVARD-SAYRE

October 4-5, 2025

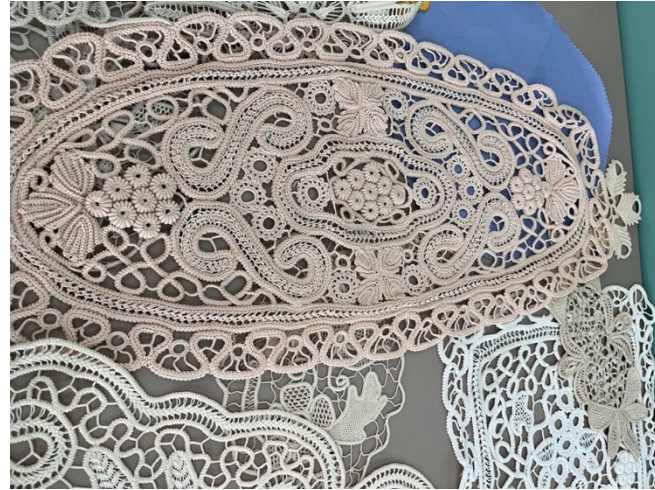
At the beginning of October, the PLG received an early autumn treat--a wonderful weekend workshop in Romanian Point Needle Lace (hereinafter "RPL") with Karen Bovard-Sayre. Karen, who lives in Colorado, is a gifted needle lacemaker, tatter (one source calls her "the mother of split-ring tatting"), Tenerife enthusiast, enamel artist, and so much more. She is also an excellent teacher---enthusiastic about her subject, patient, and positive. Needless to say, we had a great time.

Karen provided us with several beginner patterns, all of which were delightful and easy to work. RPL is based on a framework of a crocheted cord which is then filled with needle lace stitches. The cord is couched to a heavier fabric--in Karen's case, heavy cotton duck cloth—which allows the lacemaker to work the pattern. After the crocheted cord is couched down, separate motifs of the pattern are joined by invisible stitches buried in the cord. Then the motifs are filled with needle lace stitches. After the pattern is complete, the motif is removed from the duck cloth, and *voila*, the piece of lace can be applied to a garment, displayed in a frame, or serve whatever purpose the lacemaker wishes. Most of the members participating in the workshop commented on the portability of the lace and which can be taken anywhere, not needing a pillow or any type of large framework to work upon.

Karen was an excellent source of inspiration and knowledge in the subject. You could feel her excitement about teaching RPL, and she certainly conveyed that infectious excitement to all of us. I was impressed with the amount of research she has done about RPL. She has spent many hours combing through old sources to create her patterns and to master the art of teaching RPL. Besides being very excited about her subject, Karen is also willing to listen to new ideas from her students, some of whom came up with innovative ways of refining particular techniques in RPL (looking at you, Jodie).

Karen not only brought a plethora of examples of RPL that she had purchased from antique shops and other places, but also many patterns that she developed in both RPL and Tenerife lace. You can see elements of Tenerife lace, another specialty of Karen's, in her needle lace patterns. Tenerife is a favorite of many members of the group, and we were excited to look through Karen's wares. We made some lovely purchases to complete in the future.

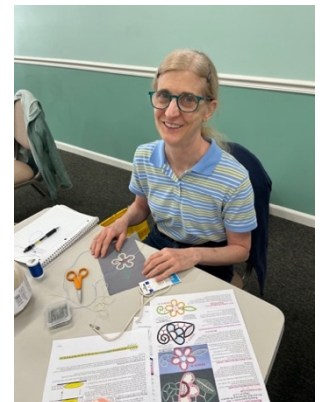
After a fabulous two days of learning about RPL, we were tired but happy. Many participants finished their projects, but those who did not are well on their way to creating their own little masterpieces. We want to thank Karen so much for her exuberance, her patience, her excellent teaching technique, and over all her excitement. It was truly a treat to have her as a teacher. The officers and I heard many positive comments about Karen and this workshop. Below are some photos.



Karen brought so many lovely antique pieces to show us!



Nancy works on her masterpiece. We were so happy to meet Kathy! Karen was extremely helpful. Jodie had some good ideas.





Great idea, Dewi and Jasmine!



We're glad Mary could join us!



Vivienne really enjoyed the workshop!



The happy workshop participants and our excellent teacher, Karen



Sandy decided to take her lace in a new direction!



Jasmine applied her lace to a cute purse.



Mine's not perfect, but I did finish it.

Also, apologies to Karen for misspelling her name in the past newsletter. And probably the one before. *Mea maxima culpa!*

EXCITING NEW P.L.G. LIBRARY NEWS

It's finally happened! The PLG has moved its vast library of lace books out of our members' houses and into a cabinet in the Yagle Room at the Churchill Borough Building. To keep track of the books, Sandy Faulk and I have catalogued them in an online catalog called *Library Thing*. If you are interested in seeing whether the Group owns a particular book, please go to our new website and look under "Library Holdings" and click the

blue button for *LibraryThing*. You can then search for a book by author, title, or subject via the search bar on the upper right that reads, "Search this Library." After finding the title you wish to borrow, please let Sandy or me know that you wish to check out the book, and we will note it on the site and get you the book. Do not attempt to take the book without having Sandy or me check it out for you. Hopefully, having the books in this more central location will ensure that they will be used more than they have in the past. Onward and upward!

GIFT IDEAS FOR LACEMAKERS

By Sandy Faulk

Do you already have a Miata parked in your driveway? Is your wine cellar overflowing with too many bottles of Chateau Lafite Rothchild? Don't know what to ask your family for your holiday gift? Read on!

Consider asking for a Pittsburgh Lace Gift Certificate for an upcoming workshop. The spring workshop is an 18 eighteen-hour class spread over four days. The downside is that it's always during Mother's Day weekend. But the upside is that it's with Louise Colgan, who is an outstanding teacher. The fall workshop (date and time TBD) is generally twelve hours over a weekend and might be more fitting for working members.

Consider lace equipment. A good supplier to check out is Holly Van Sciver at <https://vansciverbobbinslace.com/> She has an 18-inch ethafoam cookie pillow (uncovered) for \$39. If you purchase an uncovered pillow, bring it to class and we'll help you get it covered. Large square bobbins (Guatambu 4 ½ inches are what we use in class) are \$18 per dozen; 24-36 bobbins is a good quantity. Medium square bobbins (which some of you are already using) are \$18 per dozen. IRIS Superfine pins come in a tin and cost \$17.65. (These prices don't include shipping.) Holly ships out of New York, so your order generally arrives pretty quickly.

So there are a couple of ideas. Talk to any PLG members with any questions you may have. Happy gifting!

UPCOMING DEMONSTRATION-- HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 7, 2025, noon-4PM

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING

NATIONALITY ROOMS—CROGHAN-SCHENLEY ROOM

I know! It's hard to believe that we're already talking about demonstrating at the Nationality Rooms, but *tempus fugit!* We have once again been invited to demonstrate on the first Sunday of December from noon to 4 PM. I know this event is something I always look forward to, and I hope that you do as well. If you are interested in demonstrating, please let Dewi, Sandy, or Joanie know. We hope to see you at this festive celebration!

PLG NEW YEAR'S PARTY
JANUARY 17, 2026 5:00 - ??
YAGLE ROOM – CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING

Come one, come all to the PLG Holiday Party on January 17, 2026 to meet our members, both old and new. We will be frolicking in the Yagle Room from 5PM until whenever. Please bring some snacks or cookies to share, as well as a drink for yourself. We will be sharing memories and telling stories and playing the White Elephant Game. For the Game, bring items (needlework or usable household ones) that other people may want. What is one lacemaker's trash is another's treasure. Don't get too attached to anything you may pick; but be prepared to "steal" things you want from other people. We always have a great time playing this game. And we may even have a sing-along this year. Hope to see you there to share some new year's fun!

MORE EXCITING NEWS--SAVE THE DATE!
WORKSHOP WITH LOUISE COLGAN – MILANESE/TORCHON IN COLOR
MAY 8-11, 2026

It's always wonderful to host Louise Colgan for a workshop! She will once again be sharing her expertise in Milanese and Torchon in Color during Mother's Day weekend 2026. We know you're looking forward to hearing more details, and more information will be coming in a future newsletter. Please stay tuned!

ONE MORE THING: DUES ARE DUE!
PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please send a check for \$20.00 made payable to *Pittsburgh Lace Group* to our Treasurer, Sandy Faulk, at 414 Hampton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

Email: _____ Birthday: _____

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: Jasmine Davis, Dewi Wong, and Sandy Faulk. Your articles, photos, and input are greatly appreciated!