



LACE THREADS

NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

FALL/WINTER 2026

<https://pittsburghlacegroup.org/>

Dear Lacemakers,

Hope you are all doing well and enjoying this interesting fall weather. We at the PLG have been busy, as usual, with our weekly get-togethers as well as our beginner classes. The holidays and the end of 2026 are in sight, and I guess you can say our heads are spinning. And so are our drop spindles—more about that later. As always, lots of exciting events are coming up. Please read on to find out more information about our busy weeks and months ahead!

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 beginner classes are from 7:00-900

NOVEMBER: 5*, 12, 19; evening beginner classes 11/5 and 11/19; NO MEETING ON THANKSGIVING!

DECEMBER: 3*, 10, 17; evening beginner classes 12/3, 12/17; NO MEETINGS ON 12/24 OR 12/31!

**DECEMBER 6, 2026: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE DEMONSTRATION AT NATIONALITY ROOMS at
University of Pittsburgh, Noon-4PM**

JANUARY 2027: 7*, 14, 21, 28; evening beginner classes 1/7 and 1/21

JANUARY 16, 2027 – HOLIDAY PARTY: Details will be made available soon.

FEBRUARY: 4*, 11, 18, 25; evening beginner classes 2/4 and 2/18

MARCH: 4*, 11, 18, 25; evening beginner classes 3/4 and 3/18

APRIL: 3* (ANNUAL MEETING, time TBD), 8, 15, 22, 29; evening beginner classes 4/1, 4/15

MAY: Workshop with Louise Colgan 5/7 – 5/10; 13, 20, 27; evening beginner class 5/20

*******WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING WITH THE P.L.G.?*******

**MODERN CRAFT MARKET
DAVID L. LAWRENCE CONVENTION CENTER, PITTSBURGH
MARCH 2026
By: Dewi Wong**

The Modern Craft Market invited the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh to showcase, sell, and demonstrate various fiber techniques during this event. As a member of the Guild, I volunteered to demonstrate the art of bobbin lacemaking, while others demonstrated card-weaving, loom weaving, surface stitching, bead embroidery, crochet, and other techniques.

This three-day market at Pittsburgh's Convention Center was geared for people who work in downtown Pittsburgh. Local and out of state artisans sold items from clothing to jewelry to home decor. Many people were interested in observing the different demonstrations of fiber techniques.



Dewi at the Modern Craft Market

**CHURCHILL COMMUNITY DAY – AUGUST 8, 2026
LACEMAKING DEMONSTRATION**

Even the “most trusted meteorologist” in Pittsburgh was wrong about Churchill Community Day. Despite descriptions of gloom and doom and massive thunderstorms, August 8th was perfect. Cool, lower humidity than what we’ve been experiencing (one local wag insisted the “humidity has achieved sentience”), a few bursts of sunshine, and a welcome breeze.

As a result, the PLG had a great turnout of people interested in seeing our lace making demonstration. We also had a record number of volunteers showing off our skills. Thanks to Dewi, Sandy, Pat, Lee, Rachel, and Joanie. Quite a few people stopped by to chat, marvel, observe, and even work on the Try-It Pillow. Some people remembered us from last year and vowed that they would renew their efforts to come to our beginner’s class. We proudly pointed to Rachel, a new member whom we met last year at this same event. She is doing amazing work and is a fun addition to the group.

All in all, it was lovely event, and we’re glad that Mother Nature found it in her heart to give us a break from the rain!

Here are some pictures from our demonstration at Churchill Community Day.



Pat and Lee



Rachel and Sandy



Works displayed by PLG members

WORKSHOP BY KATHY KAUFFMANN: TORCHON AND FLANDERS

SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026

BY: Emi Perdan and Pam Dirk

It's always good to learn something new, and maybe a little challenging too! Over a cool September weekend, nine members (Sandy, Dewi, Nancy, Marion, Pat, Joan, Kathy, Emi, and Pam) learned a thing or two about Torchon and Flanders Lace with Kathy Kauffman.

Many of the attendees continued their practice of Flanders Lace from Lee Uptegraff's summer camp. The workshop was a good continuation of the summer camp. Although we had varying degrees of knowledge and ability, we made a good team learning how to do spots... something that proved to be quite challenging, but even more rewarding once completing a few! While everyone was learning Flanders, Emi had the opportunity to start Torchon Lace for the first time! She learned a Torchon ground stitch as well as how to make spiders and fans (and eventually rose ground!)

The weekend was filled with lots of camaraderie and fellowship. Since Pam and Emi are relatively new to the PLG, it was nice to learn more about everyone in the group and get to know Kathy. Plenty of snacks were brought to share

during our lunch breaks and for an afternoon pick me up after yet another attempt at a new lace element. Once the lace days were complete, members had the option to attend dinners with Kathy.

Both days, Kathy had a beautiful display of her pieces ranging from animal motifs to bookmarks to handkerchief edgings. She had binders filled with her patterns as well as completed Torchon bookmarks. She often used the examples to highlight points such as use of gimp or how to overlap and finish pieces. In addition to her personal supplies, Kathy brought several lace books, giving us her recommendations of books to be on the lookout for. Many handouts and visuals were provided for her patterns which proved very helpful and convenient for independent attempts when Kathy was busy working with someone else or during the attempts after the workshop.

Two weeks after the PLG workshop, Emi and Pam attended the 2026 Lace Day in Ithaca, NY hosted by the Finger Lakes Lace Guild. We both attended Kathy's workshop there as well, being able to reinforce and build on our skills from Pittsburgh. It was a great long weekend of lace, and if you are interested in learning more about the experience for next year, please do not hesitate to reach out to either of us.

Thank you so much to Kathy for spending the weekend with us in Pittsburgh!



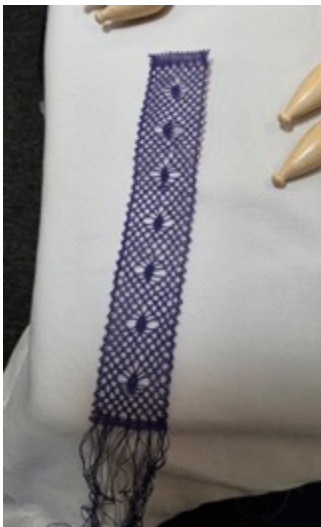
Emi at her pillow



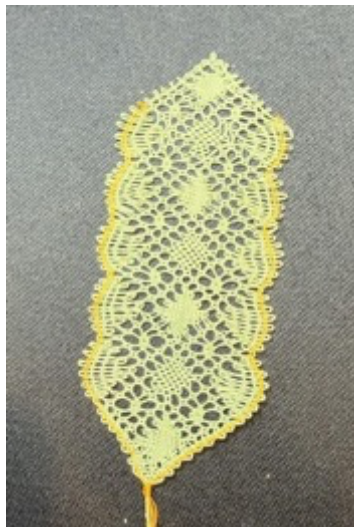
Kathy helping Emi



Pam showing off her work



Flanders bookmark



Torchon Bookmark



Another Torchon Bookmark



Workshop participants smiling for the camera!



Sandy's almost-finished Flander's square



LACE DEMONSTRATION: MONROEVILLE HERITAGE FESTIVAL--October 3, 2026
MC CULLY LOG HOUSE, Monroeville, PA
BY: Dewi Wong and Joan Trimble

On Saturday, October 3, the PLG was invited to demonstrate bobbin lacemaking at the Monroeville Heritage Festival at the McCully Log House, one of two historical houses in Monroeville. The event took place from noon to four.

Dewi Wong and I were stationed in the McCulley house, which was a lovely former log house built in 1810 on land granted in the 1700s. The log house was moved to this location piece by piece in the 1990's. Since it is two stories, it is considered a log house, rather than a log cabin. The main room of the house served as the family's kitchen, laundry, parlor, and dining area. The upstairs room includes a rope bed, trundle beds, spinning wheels, a quilting frame, a chamber box, a rocking crib, a rocking chair, and a mannequin in period clothing. There was plenty of light for demonstrating, and a steady flow of visitors all day long. They asked insightful questions (and only one person mentioned tatting).

The event was sponsored by the Monroeville Heritage Society, and free cider was given out to anyone participating or visiting. Besides the PLG, there was a knitter named Dorothy who was working with a drop spindle and had knit some extremely delicate shawls. The thread she spun was so fine that it probably could have been used to make bobbin lace! Other activities at the festival included calligraphy, lace knitting, petting farm animals, old fashioned games, pony rides and food. They treated us with apple cider and baked potatoes.

Most people were very interested in our lacemaking, including a man who recognized bobbin lace from having seen it being made in an Amish community somewhere in northeastern Pennsylvania. His burly looks were deceiving. He said that he had always been fascinated by bobbin lace, and would love to try learning it, but his hands had been damaged in an accident several years ago. It was great talking with him. Many children stopped by our pillow, one of whom decided he really wanted one of my bobbins. I had to let him down easy and tell him that I couldn't finish what I was doing without them. He seemed to take it in stride. There were many other folks who said they embroidered, knit, and crocheted. All were congenial and intrigued.

Notwithstanding warnings of rain and chilly temperatures, the day turned out to be crisp and lovely, the crowd was interested and inviting, and the company was great. I think we may even have met a few potential new lacemakers.

Pictures: the exterior and second floor of the McCully Log House, Dorothy the spinner, and Dewi with the PLG display.





LACE DEMONSTRATION A FAIR IN THE PARK SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 – MELLON PARK, PITTSBURGH

For the first time ever, the Pittsburgh Lace Group demonstrated lacemaking at A Fair in the Park. The invitation was issued by the Craftsmen's Guild of Pittsburgh to Dewi Wong and the PLG. She happily complied with their request and spent a lovely late-summer day at the Fair.

Fair in the Park is always a premier event here in Pittsburgh. It is an annual contemporary fine art and fine craft festival that takes place on the verdant grounds of Pittsburgh's Mellon Park. The Fair hosts an estimated 20,000 annual visitors, who can interact with 80+ local and regional artists working in various mediums including fiber, metal, jewelry, clay, and two-dimensional art.

All members of the Craftsmen's Guild of Pittsburgh are permitted to participate in the event, and 60 per cent of the Fair's artists are members. The works of others are juried and represent national and international artists. It was a great honor to have our Group participate! Hopefully this will become a yearly event for us. Here are some pictures of Dewi and her lace display.



Teneriffe Snowman - Hi Everyone, I'd like

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

UPCOMING DEMONSTRATION-- HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 6, 2026, noon-4PM

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING NATIONALITY ROOMS
CROGHAN-SCHENLEY ROOM**

We have once again been invited to demonstrate at the Holiday Open House in the Nationality Rooms at Pitt on the first Sunday of December from noon to 4 PM.

We plan to show the attendees of the event one way that thread (and yarn) is spun. PLG member Sarah Teigler has graciously agreed to demonstrate the art of using a drop spindle during our demonstration. Sarah taught this skill to all of us at the beginners' class on October 3rd. Unfortunately, yours truly neglected to take pictures. But if you want to see this charming process up close, please come to see Sarah spin on December 6th. Also, if you are interested in demonstrating, please let Dewi, Sandy, or Joanie know. We hope to see you there!



SAVE THE DATE--PLG HOLIDAY PARTY

January 16, 2027

More details will follow soon via email!



SURPRISE, SURPRISE, SURPRISE!!!

A RECENT CELEBRATION—THERESA'S SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY

OCTOBER 17, 2026

Well, the party didn't exactly go off without a hitch, but we DID surprise her!
Happy birthday to Theresa on the anniversary of her ##th birthday! 39 looks great on you!



The birthday girl on the right, 2 friends, and one amazing cake!



MEMBERS' PROJECTS--Amy Gibbons's Two-sided lace



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

If not, please send a check payable to *Pittsburgh Lace Group* in the amount of \$20 to our Treasurer, Sandy Faulk, at 414 Hampton Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221.

You may also pay via Venmo to Sandy @Sandra-Faulk-34

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 new members Pam Dirk and Emi Perdan for their awesome article, and to our president, Dewi Wong, who contributed to this newsletter. Your articles, photos, proofreading, and input are greatly appreciated! Thanks also to Sandy and Jodie, my other proofreaders!