



LACE THREADS

NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

LATE SUMMER/FALL 2026

<https://pittsburghlacegroup.org/>

Dear Lacemakers,

I hope you are enjoying this hot, smoky summer. The PLG members have been busy since way back in the Spring. We had a wonderful Annual Meeting in April, a lovely Milanese/Torchon workshop with Louise Colgan in early May, an informative presentation about Slovak lacemaking in Mt. Lebanon, and a fun Summer Camp in which Lee Uptegraff introduced us to Flanders lace. Some members are planning to attend the IOLI Convention, some are taking online classes from The Lace Museum, and Dewi even participated in a nationwide embroidery project celebrating the country's Semiquincentennial!

There is so much still in store for Summer and Fall: the Churchill Community Day demonstration on August 8th, the opening exhibit of America's Tapestry in early September, and Kathy Kaufmann's Flanders lace workshop on September 19 and 20. In addition, we are moving the next two business meetings from the afternoon to the evening right before the beginners' classes, so that the new lacemakers can understand the workings of the group. And of course, not too far in the future, there is the upcoming demonstration at the Holiday Open House at Pitt's Nationality Rooms on December 6th! It will arrive sooner than we know.

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 7:00-9:00

August 6th and September 3rd – no afternoon meeting; the business meeting AND evening beginner classes will start on those evenings at 6:30; beginner classes will follow those meetings

AUGUST: 6*, 13, 20, 27; evening beginner class/business meeting 8/6 at 6:30 PM; evening beginner class 8/20; **CHURCHILL COMMUNITY DAY 8/8/2026 11-4**

SEPTEMBER: 3*, 10, 24; **WORKSHOP WITH KATHY KAUFFMANN** 9/19 and 9/20 ; evening beginner class/business meeting 9/3 at 6:30PM ; **NO EVENING CLASS ON 9/17**

OCTOBER: 1*, 8, 15, 22, 29; evening beginner classes 10/1 and 10/15

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!**
DEMONSTRATION AT NATIONALITY ROOMS 12/6

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

WORKSHOP WITH LOUISE COLGAN, May 8-11, 2026
INTERMEDIATE MILANESE and TORCHON IN COLOR

According to the Internet, a swan symbolizes grace, intuition, transformation, and eternal love. This May, the PLG had the opportunity to work a stunning Milanese swan designed by one of our favorite teachers, the amazing Louise Colgan. In addition to the swan, Louise taught her charming Milanese Moon pattern to some members who had never experienced this lovely type of lace before. She also taught a delicate Torchon motif featuring contrasting color hearts. Louise graciously shared her eternal love of Milanese with the workshop members, intuitively transforming our skills in Milanese from basic or intermediate to more advanced.

As always, Louise's workshop was meticulously planned and intuitively structured to bring out the best in all who participated. We always appreciate Louise's grace, patience and teaching skill. We can't wait to see what wonderful designs she will have for us to work on next year!

Below are some pictures from the workshop. Be sure to check out Jodie's black swan and Yuefang's beautiful Torchon medallion. Many thanks to Louise for yet another excellent workshop!



Workshop Participants



Louise's Swan



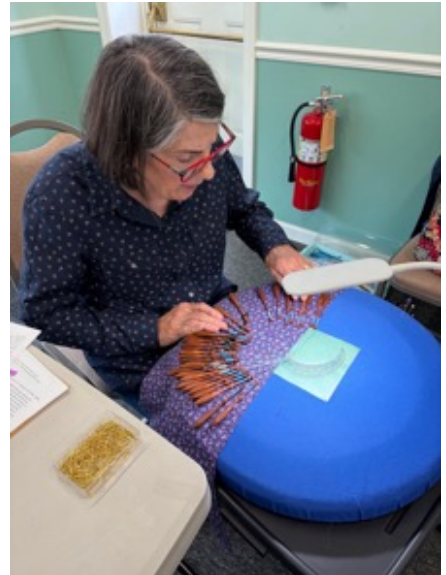
Yuefang working on the Torchon medallion



Jen's first exposure to Milanese



Louise giving Marion some tips



Pat working on the Moon



Sandy working on her Swan.



It's always fun to work with Lee



Jodie is really brave doing a black swan!

AMERICA'S TAPESTRY PROJECT PENNSYLVANIA PANEL By DEWI WONG

Happy summer!

I'd like to share about this embroidery project, celebrating the 250th anniversary of America's Independence Day.

<https://www.americastapestry.com/tapestries/pennsylvania>

The Pennsylvania panel was started in May 2025 by 269 stitchers and took 4410 hours to create. I am grateful to friends who informed and connected me with this project. All the fiber techniques used on this panel were also used in the colonial America era. My bobbin

lace adorned the bonnet and sleeves of Rebecca Young's garment in the panel. Her daughter, Mary Young Pickersgill, made the flag at the Fort Henry that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star-Spangled Banner.

The Pennsylvania panel will be exhibited at the Seton Hill University Arts Center, along with 12 other panels from the original 13 colonies on **September 12-27, 2026**. There will be a special event on September 19, from 11:00 am -2:00 pm. Please feel free to share the invitation with your friends.

This project was also featured by the NBC news last June. <https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/good-news-america-s-tapestry-project-celebrates-nation-s-250th-anniversary-265809477672>

To date, other exhibition places include:

Muscarelle Museum of Art, VA
Passaic County Arts Center, NJ
Millyard Museum, NH
Museum of Work and Culture, RI
New York State Museum, NY
New England Quilt Museum, MA
Atlanta History Center, GA
Maryland Center for History and Culture, MD

Below are pictures of the Co-Directors of the Pennsylvania panel; some photos of the work in progress; the finished PA panel; and a flyer listing the times of the local exhibit.





P.L.G. SUMMER CAMP -- INTRODUCTION TO FLANDERS LACE JULY 13- 16, 2026 – by Joan Trimble

I never thought I would even attempt to work Flanders bobbin lace. But, this year, that all changed. Our focus for this year's Summer Camp was an introduction to Flanders Lace, provided by our wonderful member, Lee Uptegraff. Lee has spent many years learning the Flanders technique from some well-known international lace luminaries. (I think Lee is pretty luminous herself!)

Six intrepid members attended the Camp: Dewi, Sandy, Pat, Nancy, Jen, and me. Lee gave us a basic Flanders insertion to work, which included a foot side sewing edge and a picot edge on the right. We learned how to work pinholes using four pairs of bobbins. We learned how to "swing our partners" to the left and right. And who can forget about the pair called the "Lone Ranger"? Most people understood rapidly, and by the end of the second day of Camp, were able to work the pinholes correctly, even trying different versions of the classic ground. And then there was me. It took me three days before it all "clicked." No reflection on Lee.

All I can say is, Lee is a gifted lace teacher. She is knowledgeable, she gives great tips for completing Flanders, and, at least in my case, she has the patience of a saint!

Thank you, Lee, for sharing your love of Flanders with us and giving up some time this summer for instructing us in this lovely lace. We appreciate it, Kemosabe! Below are some pictures.



**PRESENTATION BY OLIVIA BECKAGE: HISTORY OF BOBBIN LACEMAKING BY SLOVAK WOMEN
IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY – MAY 4, 2026**

By: Dewi Wong

On May 4th, 2026, new member Olivia Beckage did a presentation on the History of Bobbin Lacemaking by Slovak Women in the Late 19th Century at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library for its Slovak Heritage Program.

Liv (as she is known to us) is a doctoral candidate in the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh, and one of the Pittsburgh Lace Group's newest lace students.

Liv discussed how the practice of creating bobbin lace in Slovak lands became a unique tradition in both mining towns and villages, due to growing industrialization and the Hungarian occupation.

PLG members Jen, Dewi, and longtime friends Andy, Linda, and Linda's mother were among the audience. We all enjoyed the presentation and admired samples of the Slovak laces that were brought by the leader of the Slovak Heritage Program.

Looking at one of the samples above reminded me of a lace piece that my friend asked me to repair a few months ago. At that time, I did not know what type of lace it was. After noticing the similarity of the linen fiber and the method in which the lace was framed, I am convinced that it is a Slovak lace. My friend's lace is still intact, but the linen thread which suspended it in its wooden frame had disintegrated. Below are photos of the lace pieces before and after I repaired them.





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

CHURCHILL COMMUNITY DAY LACEMAKING DEMONSTRATION

AUGUST 8, 2026, 11:00AM-4:00PM

Here's another yearly event we all look forward to: the Churchill Borough Community Day on August 8. The PLG has been happy to participate in this fun event for the past several years. We have been fortunate to receive some wonderful new members from these demonstrations. If you are interested in joining us for the demo, please let Sandy or Joanie know. More details: <https://www.churchillborough.com/community/recreation-board/community-day-2026>

WORKSHOP WITH KATHY KAUFFMANN: FLANDERS/TORCHON/WITHOF

SEPTEMBER 19-20, 2026

YAGEL ROOM – CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING

The PLG Fall Workshop with Kathy Kauffmann will take place on September 19 and 20, 2026, at the Yagel Room in the Churchill Borough Building. Kathy is skilled at teaching many lace techniques. She is offering Flanders, Torchon bookmarks, and Withof Lace. Also, if you have a pattern in mind and need assistance in starting or at any stage, Kathy will be happy to help you with it.

The cost of the two-day workshop is \$150 for members and \$170 for non-members, payable by check or Venmo. A registration form is below. The deadline for registration is **August 1st**. PLG members in good standing will be given the first chance to register for the workshop.

After August 1st, the workshop will be open to members of other groups. Please be sure to register and pay in a timely manner. We hope to see you at the workshop!

**REGISTRATION FORM – FLANDERS/TORCHON/WITHOF/OTHER
WORKSHOP WITH KATHY KAUFFMANN, September 19-20, 2026**

**Yagle Room, Churchill Borough Building
2300 William Penn Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15235**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

Please indicate which workshop will you be attending:

FLANDERS _____ TORCHON _____ WITHOF _____ OTHER _____

REGISTRATION FEE – Members \$150.00 _____

Non-members \$170.00 _____

COMMEMORATIVE BOBBINS \$15.00ea: QUANTITY: _____ COST _____

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

PLEASE REMIT YOUR REGISTRATION FEE BY AUGUST 1, 2026

**CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO “PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP”
AND SENT TO: Sandy Faulk, 414 Hampton Avenue, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221**

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

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