



# LACE THREADS

NEWS OF THE PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP

SPRING 2026

<https://pittsburghlacegroup.org/>

*Dear Lacemakers,*

“Little darlin’, it’s been a long, cold, lonely winter.” – George Harrison

Isn’t that the truth? This past winter makes me hearken back to the winters of my youth, when we had snow, then more snow, then...well, you get it. But today the high is forecast to be 70 degrees, and even though flurries are expected for next Monday, I’m convinced that Spring is almost here.

As always, the PLG has many plans for the upcoming months, as well as some happy memories on which we can look back. And those memories span 45 years! So—let’s see what’s happening.

*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*

**MARCH:** 5\*, 12, 26; evening meetings 3/5 and 3/19. **NO AFTERNOON MEETING 3/19**

**APRIL:** 16, 23, 30; evening meetings 4/2 and 4/16. **ANNUAL MEETING 4/11 10-Noon (SHARP!)**

**MAY:** 14, 21, 28; evening meeting 5/21; **LOUISE COLGAN WORKSHOP 5/8-5/11**; no meeting before workshop

**JUNE:** 4\*, 11, 18, 25; evening meetings 6/4 and 6/18

**JULY:** 2\*, 9, 16, 23, 30; evening meetings 7/2; **PLG SUMMER CAMP 7/13 to 7/16 1PM to 3PM**;  
**NO EVENING MEETING 7/16**

**AUGUST:** 6\*, 13, 20, 27; evening meetings 8/6 and 8/20; **CHURCHILL COMMUNITY DAY 8/8/2026**

**SEPTEMBER:** 3\*, 10, 17, 24; **WORKSHOP WITH KATHY KAUFFMANN 9/19 and 9/20** evening meetings 9/3 and 9/17

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

**PITTSBURGH LACE GROUP ANNUAL MEETING  
LET'S CELEBRATE 45 YEARS OF THE PLG!  
April 11, 2026 --10 to noon – Yagle Room**

It's time for our Annual Meeting! Can you believe that the PLG is 45 years old this year? Time does fly by quickly. This yearly meeting is mandated in our by-laws, for the purpose of electing officers and setting group goals. The meeting will take place in the Yagle Room on April 11 from 10AM to 12:00 PM. We must leave the room at or before noon that day, since it was reserved by another group. Please try to attend; we have much to discuss. At the meeting, you will have a chance to pick up or purchase one of our special 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary PLG pouches. More about those below. Hope to see you on April 11<sup>th</sup>!

**PLG 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOOL POUCHES  
\$15.00 – PICK UP AT THE ANNUAL MEETING  
April 11, 2026**



These lovely PLG 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary pouches have been designed and hand-crafted by a local seamstress. Featuring the quintessential Pittsburgh color combination of black and gold, they feature an embroidered design commemorating our anniversary, a lace-bedecked zipper, and a lining in a vibrant print. All this for only \$15.00! Be sure to order yours today by emailing us at [pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com](mailto:pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com), and typing "PLG Pouch" in the subject line. You can pick yours up at the Annual Meeting or at any afternoon or evening meeting after that. We know you will want one—all the cool kids have them!

Keep reading to experience a retrospective about our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary written by our former president Amy!

**WORKSHOP WITH LOUISE COLGAN, May 8-11, 2026**

**INTERMEDIATE MILANESE and TORCHON IN COLOR**

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

In her article, printed later in this newsletter, Amy points out that the first time some of us met Louise Colgan was in 2011. But just as in past years, we are all looking forward to having Louise share her expertise in Milanese and Torchon laces once again this year. Her workshop is one of the best things that happen in the Spring!

As in past years, the workshop will take place on Mother's Day weekend. It begins with a three-hour session on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, two six--hour sessions (plus a one-hour lunch) on Saturday and Sunday, May 9 and 10, and will conclude on Monday Morning, May 11. This year, the workshop filled immediately after our Group announced it!

Louise has designed an elegant Milanese swan, which can be seen in her portfolio on her website, <https://colganlacestudio.com/> Her Torchon offering will also be available soon. Louise always makes sure that we are prepared for her classes by sending a materials list far ahead of the class date. We cannot wait for the workshop or to see our wonderful lace teacher and friend again!



**Louise and the 2011 Workshop Participants**

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

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE – NATIONALITY ROOMS

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

DECEMBER 7, 2025

By: Dewi Wong

The Pittsburgh Lace Group participated in the 34th annual Holiday Open House at the University of Pittsburgh. The celebration commenced with Japanese traditional *taiko* drumming, where master drummer Takumi Kato and his three sons performed magnificently! They came from Japan for a tour throughout the USA while preserving the tradition with his family.

A world of tasty snacks was available for purchase, and all the Nationality Rooms were decked out with holiday decorations. In the Croghan- Schenley Ballroom, visitors found the Nationality Rooms costume collection display and our Group's Christmas tree decorated with its handmade lace ornaments, nativity set and tree skirt. Among us were Jodie, Joanie, Pat, Dewi, Sandy and her sister-in-law Margaret, visiting from Oregon.

We answered a lot of questions, and showing the two stitches of bobbin lace (Cross & Twist) to many people, even to the young future lacemaker. As we passed our tradition of lacemaking to the next generation, we are grateful to the Nationality Rooms and Intercultural Exchange Programs to be part of this annual event. It was indeed a festive occasion to usher the start of the Holiday season. Below are some pictures.





\*\*\*\*\* **THINK BACK – WAY BACK!** \*\*\*\*\*

## **45 YEARS OF PLG MEMORIES**

**By: Amy Gibbons, former president**

It is hard to believe that 45 years ago I met my first lace instructor, Virginia Suplee. She was the beginning for so many lacemakers in the Pittsburgh Area. We are still here making lace and there are new teachers for beginners. We have had dozens of teachers through the years, teaching all kinds of lace techniques. I think Pam Nottingham is the first one I remember. Christine Springett came along with Gunvor Jorgenson, Debbie Beever, Judy Zeiss, Radmilla Zuman, Bridget Cook, Dagmar Beckel-Machyckova, Susan Wensel and more. Louise Colgan first came in 2011 to teach Color in Lace. We are so fortunate to have her come annually now.

When we first met, we were at members' houses while Virginia taught in a variety of places – a long-gone spinning store, CCAC in Monroeville, Carnegie Mellon, Anna Marie Fiori's home. For a long time, we were at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church and now we have settled at The Churchill Borough Building. A lacemaker's dream – a clean, well-lighted place, with enough room and tables for everyone to work.

We have demonstrated lace making all over the area, carrying our pillows and stands, plus things for people to see. For a few years we were paid for demonstrating in Monroeville at the Community Center. We demonstrated for years at the Folk Festival and are still at The Nationality Rooms for Christmas. The first picture that I have of the Christmas tree is from 2001 and it is fairly sparse. We have added many more ornaments and a nativity from Jana Novak's patterns. It is set up for our demonstrating at the Nationality Rooms, before being set up in Churchill.



Along with people from all over Allegheny County, we contributed to "The Calico Dress" shown at The Frick Museum beside "The Red Dress."



We began having a Christmas Party when Russ of Robin and Russ Handweavers was willing to stop on his way to visit his brother, and load the tables in the church basement with goodies. As usual I bought way too much stuff. When he could no longer come, we continued to have a party during the holidays. Our entertainment besides a pot luck, included the reading of a Christmas story by Louise Chuha (watching her hands move over the Braille and listening to the story reminded me of my childhood), a trumpet and then a button box solo by Dorothy Kokal. Then we began to play "the game". We brought all



kinds of things and put them on a table, passed out playing cards from 5 decks and then as cards were called we could choose an item until the table was empty. Then you could take something from whoever had it until the cards were gone. In order to avoid having to go up and down the stairs at the church, we moved the party to Esther Loprieno's house until she moved to New York State.

Esther is an amazing person. She always had fun stories to tell and something seemed to always be going on. I often think of Ether coming out to the table at a restaurant with a piece of toilet paper saying "this would make a nice lace pattern."

Dorothy had decided to move to Virginia to be nearer her family before her heart put her in the hospital. She had hosted teachers for us for years. Several of us contributed squares for an afghan for her to take along when she moved.



Margot Barbour was our newsletter editor for years and was our treasurer when she became seriously ill in England. She made a special green dress covered with pieces of lace that she wore to every event.

Louise Chuha would faithfully demonstrate with her dog by her side. She even tried to teach us to make "Lace Without Looking" wearing blindfolds. She could tell when we peeked!



After 45 years there are stories and more stories about the ladies in our group. It has seen many of us through the raising of our children and now for some our grandchildren. We have supported each other through the deaths of parents and spouses. Through it all we have made lace and laughed together. If I have forgotten anyone or anything, it was unintentional. My memory is not as good as it once was.

**\*\*\*\*\*TWO MORE THINGS\*\*\*\*\***

Gina Hart, a member of Five Rivers Lace Guild, is selling some of her lace supplies. If you are interested in her bobbins, books, or pillows, please contact her at [reginahart@gmail.com](mailto:reginahart@gmail.com)

You can now make payments (dues, etc.) to the PLG using Venmo and Zelle! Contact us via email if you plan to do so!

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, Amy Gibbons, Sandy Faulk, and Margaret Weddell. Your articles, photos, and input are greatly appreciated!