

Lace Threads

News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group

Web site ~ <http://pittsburghlacegroup.org/>

Fall/Winter 2012

President's Message

Hello friends,

Usually an idea pops into my head shortly before it's time to write a "president's message." But this time nothing popped, so I'm going to write about something I've been thinking about as an article for the newsletter—lacemaking pillows.

Every lacemaker has to use a pillow, or cushion, of some kind, and you probably all know that there are a number of different styles of pillows. (I think I have all of them except the roller pillow, which I don't like.) I no longer have the square, flat pillow with the 3 movable felt block inserts that Eric Stevenson made. It seemed like a very good idea at the time, but I discovered that I would prefer that the sides had some slope. One day not so long ago, I counted mine and came up with a dozen. I've used them all at one time or another.

I learned on a Swedish roller pillow, which really came from Sweden, so it and a larger version were the only two I had for a long time. Then came a

cookie pillow, which I made, and I was off and running.

The 2 most fascinating ones are 2 Swiss pillows, a large one and a baby. Their base is a wooden, box-like affair, on top of which is a wooden platform that is wider than the box. On the left and right sides of the platform are stuffed cushions that slope up towards the center. Between the slopes are 2 or 3 firm felt blocks on which you make the lace. The fascinating part of the pillow is that in the base there are 1 or 2 drawers to hold essentials. (The baby has only 1 drawer.)

I'm not going to describe any of the others, some of which I've made and some I've bought. Often the reason for obtaining a second pillow is because you can't wait to start this particular project, even though you haven't finished the other one. But that's okay, we've probably all done it. From then on it gets easier to get another and yet another pillow.

Louise Chuha

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Calendar of Future Events

Saturday, October 13, 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. Monroeville Heritage Fall Festival -demonstrate at the McGinly House
Friday, November 2, 6:00 – 9:30 P.M. **Samplers** with Katherine Dunlevey Churchill Borough Building
Saturday & Sunday, November 3 & 4, 10:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. **Chrysanthemum Workshop** Churchill Borough
Thursday, November 22 NO CLASS scheduled *Happy Thanksgiving*
Thursday, December 6, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 2, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. Demonstrate at The Nationality Rooms
Thursday, December 20, NO CLASS on Thursday ~ *Merry Christmas*
Thursday, December 27, **5:30** P.M. Lace Christmas Party at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church
Dues for 2013 are due January 1st
Thursday, January 3, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church
Thursday, February 7, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church
Friday, March 1st, Newsletter Deadline

**Please call Suzanne or Amy by 5:00 p.m. to confirm class.
Especially if the weather might be bad!**

Pittsburgh Lace Group

PLG Summer Camp

By Joan Trimble

Ah, summer! My time of year! What better time to learn a new craft or return to an old one? It was with this idea in mind that the PLG focused its 2012 Summer Camp on Viking knit. I know what you're thinking: did those berserk, horned-helmet-wearing marauding Norsemen actually take time out from their raping and pillaging to create something that we in the Twenty-First Century could appreciate? And if so, what is its connection to bobbin lacemaking?

Viking knit is a centuries-old method of making fine chains using a looping technique. Because of its beauty and simplicity, it is rapidly becoming a sensation among jewelry connoisseurs. Like many other lace-related techniques, it has an interesting historical element. There are examples of Viking knit, or similar techniques, in the British Museum. Some textile researchers link it with techniques like chain maille, loop-in-loop chain, or nalebinding. [See

<http://www.relicuus.com/blog/2011/11/03/viking-knit-how-did-it-develop/>] In my opinion, Viking knit seems to be a lace-related technique similar to needle lace that uses wire instead of thread to create stitches which loop onto previous stitches. These wire stitches are worked around a dowel rod (or knitting needle, or mandrel, or Allen wrench). This is, again, my opinion, and not that of any serious researcher. However, my research, gathered by attending the summer camp, confirms my hypothesis: the PLG members who attended summer camp had a great time and learned a lovely new technique.

The Viking knit workshop was headed by Amy Gibbons, who recently learned the craft at a local bead shop. We have all been astounded by the stunning jewelry she has crafted using this technique, and so were eager to learn. Armed with 26-gauge wire, dowel rods, edge clippers and assorted jewelry-making paraphernalia, Amy met with seven of us during the evenings of July 9

through 12. She expertly guided us through our first project from start to finish. After a few rough starts, summer campers had a great time looping and working as we joked and laughed the way we always do. During one of our last sessions, we pulled our lengths of looped chain through a drawplate. Viking knit is a very forgiving technique; even if you make a mistake, when the chain is pulled through the drawplate, the bulges and imperfections are smoothed out and a uniform, consistent and attractive chain emerges. (If only life were like that!)

During the last night of summer camp, the campers were joined by Amy's friend Mary Ann Tumelo. Mary Ann and Amy shared their expertise as they showed us how to attach conical bead ends and clasps to the Viking knit chain by using classic wire-wrapping techniques. For some, this was a first foray into wire-wrapping, a very valuable skill to know. Amy reminded us that becoming adept at wire-wrapping involves the same procedure as getting to Carnegie Hall: practice, practice, practice! But even on the first attempt, the PLG members created some charming jewelry.

Everyone seemed to leave summer camp gratified with learning a new technique. We thank Amy for teaching us about Viking knit, for helping us with our wire-wrapping, for introducing us to Mary Ann, and most of all for not wearing her Brunhilde outfit. We will all be looking forward to next year's summer camp, when the PLG will be going forth to conquer some other new technique!

Thank you very much Joanie and Mary Ann for your assistance in teaching the wire wrapping technique used to join the Viking knit to clasps. Congratulations to Gretchen who completed her very first Viking Knit bracelet during the week.

Amy Gibbons

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Demonstration Opportunities & Future Events

Monroeville Heritage Days (a.k.a. The McGinley House) October 13

The McGinley House in Monroeville has invited us to join them for their celebration of Monroeville Heritage Days from 1:00 to 5:00p.m. It is a nice chance to learn about a local homestead, to meet nice people and to share your craft. If you are able to join us please contact Gretchen Baudoux for more information.

Nationality Rooms ~ December 2

After our program on Mary Schenley at our Annual meeting we should all be ready to demonstrate the first Sunday in December (the 2nd) at the Nationality Rooms in the Cathedral of Learning. We need to be there a little before noon until 4:00 P.M. This has been the traditional kick off for the Christmas Season for members of the Pittsburgh Lace Group for many years. There is good food, wonderful craft items from around the world available to give as Christmas gifts. We will again put up our Christmas tree and nativity, in the Croghan Schenley Room.

Come and help us celebrate the season. It is a fun Sunday afternoon. (Please remember no food is allowed in the room.) You may volunteer at the Workshop in November with Dewi or Amy. The new taller tree works well.



Christmas Party ~ December 27th

Our Annual Christmas Party will be Thursday evening December 27th at the Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church on Hochburg Road. Presents can be passed out between 5:30 and 6:30. We will begin eating at 6:30 p.m. So that the game can start by 7:30 and we can leave before 10:30.

We will have a wonderful time singing, eating and playing the re-gifting/white elephant game. If you have questions ask anyone who was there last year.

Things to bring: your family, some food to share, and a white elephant or two for the game wrapped or unwrapped. Once again if we are lucky Louise Chuha will read us a story and Gretchen will help us stumble through "The Twelve Days of Christmas." which we forgot again last year. This is our one time to get together and laugh with no pressure. I am already setting aside goodies for the game. This year the snow date will be January 3rd

I.O.L.I. Name Change by Carolyn Wetzel

The membership of I.O.L.I. voted (by absentee proxy and in person) by a large margin to 1) change the name of International Old Lacers, Inc. to one of the two names listed on the ballot and 2) to take the new name of **International Organization of Lace, Inc.** The complete change will be implemented over a few years as existing financial contracts are completed. Watch for an article in the next Bulletin explaining the details and announcing a contest for a new logo!

R.I.P. Epson Stylus CX6600

The death of my printer has changed the appearance of the newsletter for those who receive a printed copy. If you have been receiving the newsletter via e-mail you may not notice any change.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Amy and Robin's Great Adventure

by Amy Gibbons

It began with a chance remark and ended in exhaustion. I told Robin that if she would go to Convention we could share a room. So we did. I was taking two knitting classes and one lace class for which I could purchase for a piece of foam to use as a temporary pillow. Since it was only a Wednesday morning class, I figured it would be fine.

.It is hard for me to tell you about the people I met and the fun I had. The shopping was amazing. The only problem I had was that coming home. I had too much weight. Fortunately there was a place that would ship boxes within walking distance of the hotel. The Display Room was full of wonderful things and the Teachers Display Room, which was set up only one night, provided names of different teachers for future workshops. There was so much to do and see. Best of all I got to spend an entire week with Robin. I hope we can do it again next year in Salt Lake City.

The week began with a reception on the top floor of the hotel. It was crowded with lace makers wearing their finery, eating finger foods and drinking. The level of noise was amazing. Later in the week there was a luncheon which was great fun. When I got to that table Robin and I were signed up for, there was this lady who looked familiar. I looked at her, and she looked at me. It was Anny Noben Slagers, my teacher for the Wednesday class. She wondered if I had taken a class with her and if she should remember me. We both laughed about that.

. After almost everyone had found their tables, a male voice announced that our program would be starting soon. The next thing we heard was the National Anthem, which caused everyone to stand up and start to sing. Later we found out that we had heard the sound from the Rotary meeting in the next room. I thought the singing sounded pretty good.

My Knitting Classes were taught by Galina Khmeleva. What an adventure! The morning class was Basic Orenberg and the afternoon was Designing Orenberg Shawls. I learned so much that



I

thought knitting facts would fall out of my ears when I got off the plane at home. Galena tells interesting stories as she teaches, and we work on the things that she had started us on. I made the most amazing bordered square that is stretchy where the border is attached on all four sides. The shawls and yarn in her booth were just the most amazing shiny soft, fine gossamer that you could imagine. The shawls that she showed us were stunning. (see picture page 6)

On Wednesday I took a class called Anny's Amazing Shawl with the lovely lady I met at the luncheon. Kathy Timmons was supposed to be there, but was busy tending her friend who had broken her arm. We had been given two paper towels wound with threads for the class. The attached stickers were to be transferred to the wound bobbins to make a sample of the shawl. I started it there and then decided it would be easier if I unmade it and began again at home.

Before I knew it, the week had flown by and I was saying goodbye to Robin and getting on the plane to Pittsburgh. I met amazing people, learned many things and had a wonderful time but I was really glad to be home. See more pictures on page 6

Pittsburgh Lace Group

A Trip to Erie by Suzanne Potter

A minor miracle occurred on the morning of August 18th—a group of lace makers left for a road trip on time! Amy, Joanne, Dewi, Theresa and I headed to Susan Hottle's house to decorate silk scarves. Amy navigated and we arrived at Susan's about 10:30. We all brought silk ties to convert into dyed scarves. Susan and Chris G. were waiting for us and had everything ready. We all got busy choosing and cutting ties and arranging the tie pieces on the plain scarves. After we bundled the scarves in an old sheet, simmered it in vinegar water, unwrapped it and draped it in a tree to dry. We enjoyed a tasty lunch followed by a yummy dessert (caramelized pound cake with fruit and whipped cream). After we admired our handiwork, Susan took us on a tour of her gardens. Thank you



Susan, for a wonderful day. (pictured above are the completed scarves being modeled by their creators.)

Front Row: Joanne & Susan

Back Row: Theresa, Chris, Suzanne, Dewi

Dues for 2013 Are Due January 1st

The cost of membership is \$15.00. Please complete and mail the form on the last page of the newsletter, with your check, made payable to Pittsburgh Lace Group to. Gretchen Baudoux, 4704 Bert Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146.

Message from our Library

I am moving permanently to the summer newsletter. This newsletter is too exciting for my gentle nature. I hope you can wait, but really I was just here a few months ago. And although I do miss you dreadfully, I am going to be strong and deny myself the privilege of filling up the pages of this newsletter which is chock full of information.

Facebook Page

The Lace Group has a Facebook page. Be sure to “Like” our page. You should be able to post pictures of your completed handiwork to our wall;

that way you can share your work with lacemakers everywhere! Now if I weren't so Facebook challenged I could post more things on it.

Third Thursdays at Barb's

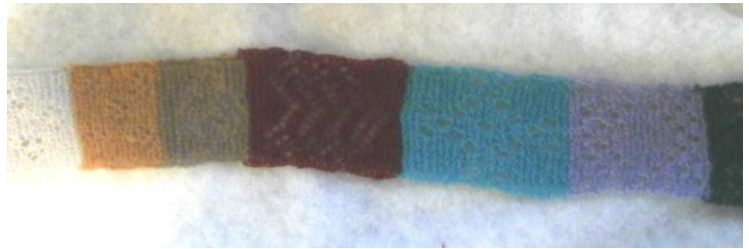
by Amy Gibbons

This was a wonderful idea, but... Why is it always “but?” So here's the problem. I can't count to three. It hasn't worked out too badly. I have been so distracted by convention or my anniversary that I called everyone a week late. I always check to make sure it works for Barb on Monday and then e-mail everyone who might come. If you don't hear from me by Tuesday evening, call me and ask if I got lost in time again. I apologize for the confusion. That we went to Barb's on the Fourth Thursday twice, is entirely my fault.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Finished Projects

I am pleased to include a photo of Suzanne Potter's finished leaf from Debby's Jewelry class. Joanie finished hers too, but I had no camera with me. Good work ladies.



Samplers, in our future

Inspired by Lia Baumeister Jonker's class at I.O.L.I. Convention which produced an awesome Torchon Sampler; Katherine Dunlevey's talk; by Amy's Orenberg knitting sampler pictured above; and because of requests from members who need more work on basic skills - the Lace Group has decided to start to work on the sampler provided in our Library's book *Building Torchon Lace Patterns* by Bridget Cook. We will sort out what every one needs to be able to work on the pattern and select sections for each person to teach at the January meeting. Obviously you want to be at this meeting

so you can select an easy section to teach. That will give everyone some time to empty a pillow and gather bobbins so that we can start working on the lace itself January 10th. This should be an interesting and challenging experience. While you may be afraid to teach a section, you really will learn to understand and remember the section you choose if you have to explain it so that someone else can grasp the stitches involved.

Convention Pictures

Orenberg Shawls

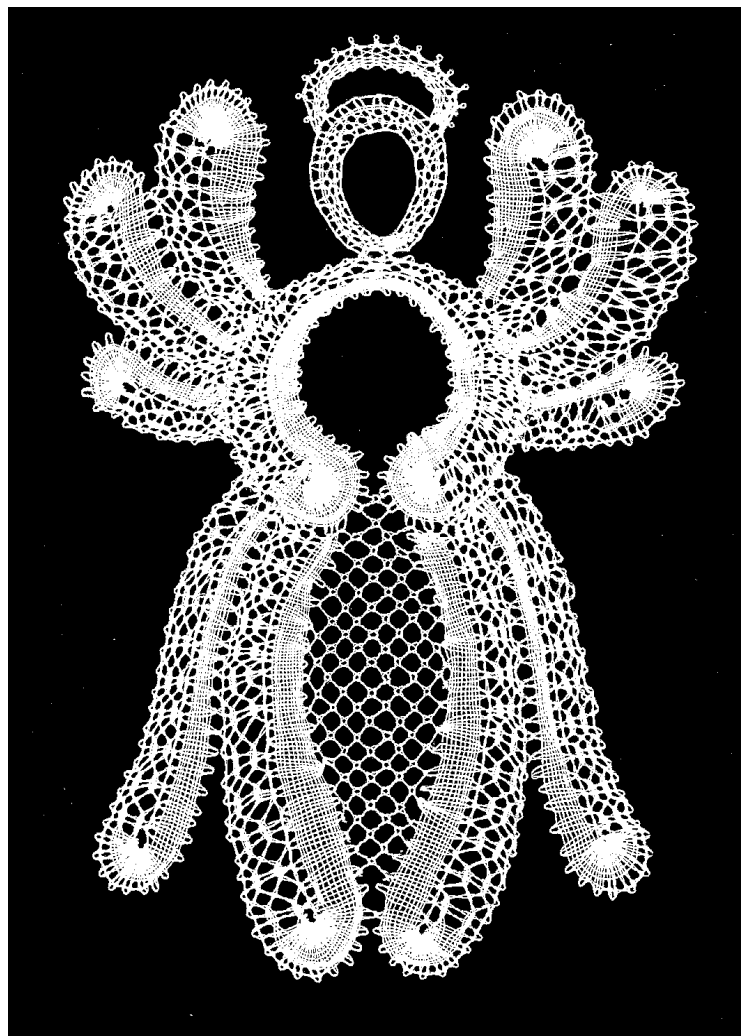
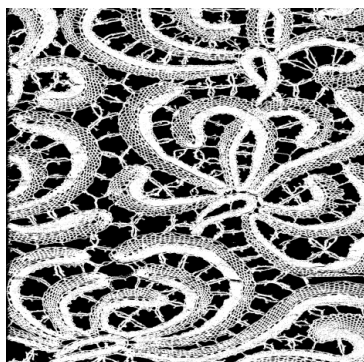
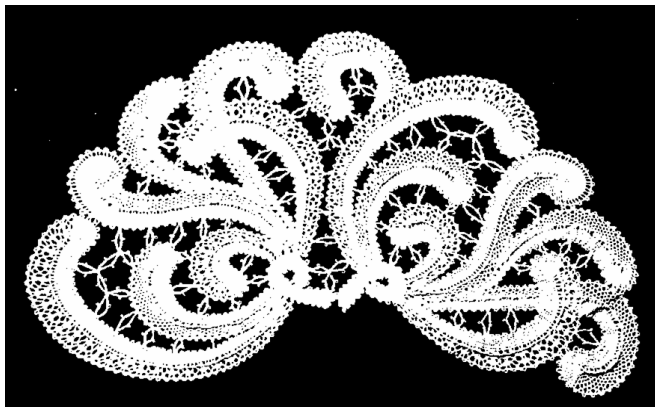


Amy's projects from Convention



Pittsburgh Lace Group

Chrysanthemum Lace Pictures by Deborah Beever



Pittsburgh Lace Group

Samplers – a peek behind the curtain November 2nd from 6 to 9 p.m.

Katherine Dunlevey will share with us her experiences studying the history of Samplers during visits behind the scenes of some of the finest museums in Britain and America. Her talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. leaving time for shopping, visiting and eating before, and questions afterwards.

Admission is \$5.00

***Please note that Lacy Susan a.k.a. Trudy Scholten is
bringing lots of goodies for us to buy.***

It is her first experience with us, so let's try to make a great impression.

She will be here for both the talk and the workshop.

Coffee and Tea will be provided donations of finger foods for Friday night are welcome.

Chrysanthemum Lace Workshop with Debby Beever

Saturday and Sunday, November 3rd & 4th

Classes will be from 10:00 to 5:00 on both days with an hour for lunch. To register for the class, please complete the form on the final page of the newsletter and send it to Gretchen Baudoux.

A supply list will be sent with confirmation of registration. Come prepared to have a good time and learn to make this interesting lace which uses few pairs to gorgeous effect. Debby is always lots of fun.

See the pictures of this beautiful lace on the previous page.

Please remember to bring a dish to share for lunch.

Directions to the Churchill Borough Building

From Monroeville: Parkway East (I-376) to the Churchill Exit (Exit 10-A). Exit from left lane. Turn left at first intersection and immediate right into Borough Bldg. parking lot.

From Pittsburgh: Parkway East (I-376) to Churchill Exit (Exit 10-A); right at bottom of ramp to "Y" intersection with Beulah Rd. (Rt. 130-W); take the right branch and immediately get into left lane. Turn left at the light (left turn signal) onto Penn Avenue
Borough Bldg. is on the left, entrance to parking lot is just beyond the building.
You may use either parking lot, but if you use the lower lot, please park away from the building so the police can park close to the building. Enter through the side doors.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Pittsburgh Lace Group Dues are due by January 1, 2013.

\$15.00 checks made out to **Pittsburgh Lace Group**

Name_____

Address_____

e-mail address_____

Phone_____ Cell Phone_____

I am available and willing to teach_____ at an afternoon workshop.

I would like to take part in a workshop on _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by e-mail_____ by U.S. Postal Service_____

Please complete and send to Gretchen Baudoux
 4704 Bert Drive
 Monroeville, PA 15146

Workshop Registration Form

Return this form with check payable to **Pittsburgh Lace Group** to:
Gretchen Baudoux, 4704 Bert Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146 (phone 412-372-8956)

Name & Address_____

Phone_____

E Mail_____

Workshop 100.00 members, \$125.00 non-members

(We will refund part of this if our costs permit) \$_____

Workshop Commemorative bobbins @ \$10.00 number _____ \$_____

Number of dinner reservations for Saturday (not included in cost) _____

Total Enclosed \$_____