

Lace Threads

News of the Pittsburgh

Lace Group

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

Fall/Winter

2009

President's Message

Hello friends,

International Lace Day is on October 1st--. All of us lacemakers should spend a little time that day working on some lace that we enjoy making. Don't you think it's neat that so many people will be doing the same thing on that day? If you don't happen to have a project started that day, how about making some really tasty Lacey Wafers. I think these are really good, but cookies are one of my downfalls. Here's the recipe.

LACEY WAFERS

1 cup butter (2 sticks)
2-1/2 cups brown sugar, packed
1 egg
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla
2-1/4 cups old fashioned rolled oats
3 tablespoons flour

Beat butter until creamy, gradually adding brown sugar. Beat in egg, salt, and vanilla. With a wooden spoon, stir in flour and oats.

Drop by half teaspoons 3 inches apart onto buttered cookie sheet. They will spread. Bake at 375 for about 7 minutes.

I don't remember how many this recipe makes and I never wrote it at the bottom of mine.

By the time you read this, our fall workshop will be almost here. I hope everyone is ready to enjoy it and that we find some neat "toys" to spend our money on. After all, we have to do what we can to stimulate the economy

Louise
Chuha

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Calendar of Future Events

Thursday, October 1. **National Lace Making Day NO CLASS**

Friday, October 2, 6:00 – 9:30 P.M Meet and Greet with Robin Panza at Churchill Borough Building

Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. **Rosalibre Workshop** Churchill Borough Building

Saturday, October 17, 1:00 - 5:00 P.M Monroeville Heritage Fall Festival -demonstrate at the McGinly House

Thursday, November 5, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Thursday, November 26 NO CLASS scheduled *Happy Thanksgiving*

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 6, 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. Demonstrate at The Nationality Rooms

Thursday, December 24 and 31 NO CLASS on Thursday night *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year's Eve*

Monday, December 28' **6:00** P.M. Lace Christmas Party

Dues for 2010 are due January 1st

Thursday, January 7, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Thursday, February 4, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Friday, February 27. Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, March 4, 7:00 P.M. Regular Monthly Meeting at Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Summer Camp-Great Expectations

Louise Chua, Amy Gibbons & Suzanne Potter

It started when I had the bright idea for Summer Camp. We could shorten the bookmark patterns from Susan Wensel's DVD "Starts and Finishes and learn three ways to begin and end bookmarks. It was a brilliant theory. I knew we would never complete the whole bookmark before the next night, but thought we could shorten them fairly easily (not true) and use them for ornaments for our tree. We could have the meeting on Monday and start the first ornament. Then finish it and begin the second ornament on Tuesday. Finish the second and begin the third on Wednesday. On Thursday we could finish up with the third pattern. Essential to this was that everyone arrive with their patterns pricked and their bobbins wound. Who was I kidding? It is rare for us to all be able to do that. What an exercise in frustration. Read on.(Amy)



Sometime last spring, we decided to use Susan Wensel's video on beginnings and endings as our project for PLG summer camp this year. On August 10 through 13, we all gathered as usual in the basement of Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church with pillows ready and bobbins wound. Well, with pillows ready anyway and not so many bobbins wound. We waited with baited breath while Amy tried to convince the remote control to do what she wanted it to do. We each had 3 bookmark patterns, each of which was supposed to demonstrate a different way to begin and end a straight piece of lace. Our plan was to make only about 1 section of the bookmark instead of the whole thing to save some time. We were going to tackle one pattern each evening.

Well, you know what they say about the best laid plans. We found that we couldn't pay attention to the video and work at the same time. So first we just watched, then we played the section again and

tried to take notes thinking "Oh, yah, that makes sense; I can do that." Right!!! Suddenly when it came time to actually do what we were supposed to do, the instructions had already seeped away from our magnificent brains and we had to play the video again! How many times was that? I lost count. Needless to say we didn't accomplish as much as we thought we would. We all learned two methods for beginning and two methods for ending a project. We never got to the third pattern, so I guess we won't have to figure out what to do for summer camp next year-if we haven't worn out the video. Do they self destruct after so many playings? (Louise)



The July 2009 PLG Summer Camp was a duel presentation of Amy Gibbons and Susan Wensel (via DVD) dealing with the starts and finishes for bookmarks. The first one was a whole stitch edge start with a braided finish. The second was a false footside start with a woven ending. Both were challenging with the second especially so. It took me a while to get accustomed to learning from the DVD, but with much rewinding by Amy, as well as her tips and assistance, I was able to complete both samples. The braided finish is quite handsome and would compliment any bookmark pattern. The false footside technique has a clean and tailored look and no tail--very nice for a more formal look. The DVD is available from the library should anyone who did not attend camp wish to learn some new and different starts and finishes. Thanks to Amy for all time and effort she put into setting up the class. (Suzanne)



Just one more note. We will continue to play the DVD at Thursday nights so it may only be taken from the library for one week at a time. (Amy)

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Demonstration Opportunities

Monroeville Heritage Days ~ October 17

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. Last year Gretchen and Amy had a wonderful time demonstrating for the D.A.R. Hopefully this year we will get to demonstrate for the Pittsburgh Lace Group. If you are able to join us please contact Gretchen Baudoux..

Nationality Rooms ~ December 6

Once again we have been invited to demonstrate at the Nationality Rooms in the Cathedral of Learning on Sunday, December 6th from 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 be in the Croghan Schenley Room. Come and help us put up our Christmas tree and see our nativity, and help to celebrate Joanie's birthday. It is a fun Sunday afternoon. (Please remember no food is allowed in the room.) Please volunteer at the November meeting.

Christmas Party ~ December 28th

We will be having our Annual Christmas Party at The Grace Reformed Presbyterian Church on Hochburg Road at 6:00 p.m. on Monday evening December 28th. The snow date will be the meeting date of January 7th. Last year we had sparse attendance because of the late date, so please pay attention to the Monday between Christmas and New Years.

We have a wonderful time singing, eating and playing the re-gifting/white elephant game. We hope to repeat the good fun and feelings again this year.

Things to bring: your family, some food to share, and a white elephant or two for the game. (Here is a chance to get rid of that Christmas gift that you just can't use, or stand) Wrapped or unwrapped. I think Suzanne is not going to allow her husband to come and is bringing back some of the things he picked last year. If you have questions ask anyone who was there last year. 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." This is our one time to get together and laugh with no pressure.

Dues Are Due

Dues for 2010 will be 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. There is a form for you to complete on the next to the last page of the newsletter.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Recent Events

Lace Glass at the Morgan Gallery

By: Dewi Wong

Recently, my friend and I attended a show opening at the Morgan Glass Gallery in Shadyside. Among a myriad of glass pieces of all shapes, from insect forms to jewelry, wall hangings to vases, my attention was drawn to three pieces by a glass artist Robert Mickelsen of Texas, whose works are very transparent and lace-like. On the artist's bio, it was written that Mickelsen is renowned for his mastery of flameworking. His current body of work, which primarily utilizes his intricate "networking" technique, explores common images. It was a real treat to be able to meet with the artist during the show's opening. He described the process of working the glass rods with the networking technique to create the sculpture. My favorite is the umbrella. It shows the structures and details of a crochet "pineapple" pattern. He was delighted that I knew the type and pattern name of the lace he represented on his umbrella. He said that he observed various types of lace and study the pattern's details. You can still catch the show by visiting the Morgan Contemporary Glass Gallery. The show ends on October 30, 2009. Check this web: www.morganglassgallery.com



If you are coming to class on Thursday night – please call Suzanne or Amy by 5:00 p.m.

otherwise they will stop driving at Dorothy's House and make lace there. While we would rather make lace with the rest of you, it is foolish for us to drive to the church if you are not going to be there.

Call for Contributions! Call for Contributions!

As always, any and all articles about lace, lace making or our members is gratefully accepted.

Pillows Available

Pittsburgh lace group has a supply of "One and Only" lace pillows from Snowgoose. It is a 20" round polyethelene pillow with a cardboard base. There is a roller as well as two 5" square blocks and two half

blocks. It comes with instructions for covering. The pillows are currently residing at Amy Gibbon's house. If you are interested in purchasing one, please let her know by the day before class. She will bring it to any Thursday night class. Payment of \$34.00 should be made to the Pittsburgh Lace Group.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Workshop Weekend Information

Meet and Greet with Robin Panza

We are fortunate to be able to bring our member from Los Angeles to teach for the weekend. On Friday night we will order a pizza and some soda. Robin and Amy will be bringing down things to buy from **The Lacemaker** for shopping. If anyone wants anything special please call Tracy right away at 1 -330-637-0057 or e-mail to tracy@lacemakerusa.com.

Robin will have some pix of her home, her Mom, Dunkin, and the area. Also "before and after" of some work projects. She may bring sample plans, too. We hope that she can set up her laptop with some videos they made of computer-generated 3-D designs.

Admission will be \$5.00

cookies or finger foods to share are always welcome.

Roselibre Workshop by Robin Panza

For beginners, there's a dragonfly and a daffodil (pictured). Those who have already done those can do the orchid. I *might* have a California poppy, too, but that's not likely. I can also help people with designs in Cathy Belleville's book (the only written instruction on Rosalibre).

Thread: tatting cotton (70 or 80) or equivalent. Optional fine metallic and/or glittery thread for the dragonfly wings (I've used YLI Reflections and Yenmet, which I'll have available for those who want to try them, others have used various metallics). Also a sturdy thread (such as #8 or #12 pearl cotton) for magic threads.

Bobbins: There are a lot of sewings, so I strongly recommend unspangled bobbins. The dragonfly takes 4 pair of tatting cotton (2 yd/pr) plus 5 pair of wing thread (1.5 yd/pr for tatting cotton OR 2 yd/pr glittery). It also takes about a dozen #10 seed beads or cylinder beads (I'll have some for anyone who needs them). The daffodil takes 10 pair of tatting cotton (4 ft/pr, but DO NOT wind these in advance--let me talk to you Friday night). The orchid takes 14 pair (2 yd/pr, wound the same way as the daffodil). Leaves for either flower take 6 pair (2 yd/pr). If you want to do one of Cathy's designs, bring thread according to the pattern.

Pillow: Best is 15"-20" octagonal or round cookie or block pillow. Also good is larger or smaller octagonal or round. Adequate is a square or bolster. The motifs are small, so it's a long reach on a 24" pillow. There are enough pairs, with long "tethers", so a 12" pillow is somewhat cramped. You're turning the pillow a LOT, and often not 90-degrees, so a square pillow can be awkward. However, any of these will work. I don't say you need to buy a new pillow (unless, of course, you really want to....)

Miscellaneous tools: Pin pusher/lifter - Scissors (for paper/pricking and for thread) -A few small divider pins - Very fine crochet hook (around #14) for sewings on leaves/flowers. - Eyes-out or similar (sewing needle embedded point-first in a handle) for the dragonfly beading - Transparent film and/or cardstock for the pricking (it's on paper) - Pillow stand (if you have one). The borough building has tables, however, you



need to keep your tools handy, but NOT on the pillow. You turn the pillow so much, sometimes every row, and would have to move everything that's on the pillow every time you turn. Paper and pencil to take notes is not a bad idea.

Directions to the Borough Building are on the next page.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

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 Old Wm. Penn Highway.

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.

Workshop Committee Help by Amy Gibbons

Section 1. The Workshop Committee is responsible for making arrangements for workshops. This shall include making arrangements for the speaker, location and refreshments, and providing the Secretary and Treasurer with information necessary for announcement of workshops to be mailed to the membership, and monies collected.

Section 2. The Workshop Committee Chairperson shall select members, as desired, to form a committee to perform the functions as set forth in Article 10, Section 1.

The above information is taken from the constitution. There has been some discussion about who is on the Workshop Committee. It is my contention that the "Workshop Committee" is actually a committee of the whole – that means we are all on it. I have never noticed any of us sitting back, expecting to be waited on. We pitch in. (Well, sometimes I try to sit back but my conscience gets me.)

It is better if more than just one person knows how to organize a Workshop so I have decided to list who knows what as a reference for whoever organizes the next workshop.

Pretty much everyone helps with food. Whoever is there helps with set up and clean up. Here is a list of people who know how to handle specific jobs, based on talent or office. Joanne Frey organized the last workshop and can be a great source of information. Robin Panza: has taught classes and also can be a source of information even when she is not here. Gretchen Baudoux, the treasurer,

handles registrations and collects money at the door on Friday evening. Joan Trimble did it when she was treasurer. Gretchen also picks things up from the church if we forgot to bring them. Paper products, including coffee etc. are usually sorted out by whoever is at the church the week before the workshop. Teachers have been housed by Dorothy Kokal, Esther Loprieno and I. Barb Lis organizes the use of the building – which is tricky. She usually brings a power strip, a coffee pot and garbage bags. She supervises clean up after the workshop. I, Joanne Frey, Suzanne Potter and others have come early to call to have the rooms opened and make coffee on Saturday and Sunday morning, or stayed late to see it closed. Suzanne Potter inscribes the commemorative bobbins. I can provide a slide projector, an overhead projector, and screen if needed. I bring raffle tickets, a coffee pot and whatever else I can remember to bring. I try to publish the workshop announcement in the newsletter in a timely manner. Everyone assumes

that they are going to do these jobs. Of course it is nice to be asked.

We all know how life can suddenly present us with difficulties that prevent us from doing a job that we have committed to do. Fortunately the Pittsburgh

Lace Group has a long history of backing each other up. There are members who are competent to cover every single job, even if they are asked, at the last minute.

Pittsburgh Lace Group

Pittsburgh Lace Group Dues are due by January 1, 2010.

\$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 \$40.00 members, \$55.00 non-members
(payment must be included to guarantee a spot) \$ _____

Workshop Commemorative bobbins @ \$8.00 No. _____ \$ _____

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

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Pittsburgh Lace Group Web site ~ <http://pittsburghlacegroup.org/>
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**Pittsburgh Lace
Group**

c/o Suzanne Potter
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