

LACE THREADS

News of the Pittsburgh Lace Group - Summer 2014

<http://pittsburghlacegroup.org>
pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi Everybody,

It is newsletter time again, and we have had elections. You may have noticed that I am not Louise. I know you are all lovely lacemakers, but I think of you mostly as my good friends. Louise did a wonderful job as president and I want to thank her for her service. While she had the helm we demonstrated, made beaded Christmas ornaments, and studied Art Nouveau lace, wire lace, Chrysanthemum lace, knitted lace and so on. That is just to name a few of the events that Louise safely piloted us through. We appreciate her service.

The year ahead looks promising. We have a demonstration and lecture planned for June 19 at the Verona Historical Society, and an exciting Summer Camp project that looks like it should work for absolutely everyone. On August 22 and 23, we will be demonstrating at a brand-new event: the Pittsburgh Creative Arts Festival, held at the Four Points Sheraton North in Mars, PA. This fall we will once again welcome Debby Beever who will teach us Color Tricks in Torchon, and Joanie has been busily working with Louise Colgan to set up the Spring 2015 workshop focusing on Bucks and Torchon. I am sure there will be hiccups along the way, but our Lace Group has always been good at pulling together and coming out smelling like a rose.

Don't forget that the third Thursdays (except in June) are usually held at Barb's, so if stairs are difficult for you, please join us there. You can park in her drive and walk right in through the garage to her nice cool basement where there is a long table set up for us.

If you are stuck on a problem with a piece of lace, please bring it to class on a Thursday and we can sort it out. Just one thing before you do that: warn me, so that I can brush up on whatever you are working on. It may have been a while since I did whatever project is on your pillow and my memory may need a solid poke before I remember that technique.

It is your lace and your Lace Group, so let's have some fun together.

Amy Gibbons

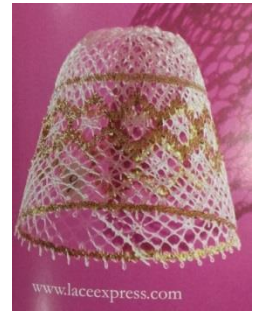
Please note: no articles appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced without the express permission of the author. No photographs appearing in this newsletter may be reproduced without the permission of the editor. Thanks to all who sent articles for the newsletter. You rock!

IT'S TIME FOR SUMMER CAMP!
P.L.G. SUMMER CAMP—Lace Express Bells
JULY 7 through 10 from 7:00-9:00 P.M.
NEW LOCATION: CHURCHILL BOROUGH BUILDING

“Hear the sledges with the bells—
Silver bells!
What a world of merriment their melody foretells!” —Poe

“And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.” -- Donne

“I love those J-I-N-G-L-E bells” -- Sinatra



This year's Lace Summer Camp will return the focus to bobbin lace. We will be working on these exquisite Torchon bells featured in *Lace Express*. If you are joining us for Summer Camp, you will need a cookie pillow, thirty-four pairs of bobbins, and the usual tools. The projects as pictured below were made using 60/2 Egyptian cotton, which is similar to Madera Catona or Tanne 50. You should be able to use heavier or lighter thread and metallic thread as gimp. Since the patterns are simple, it is recommended that you wind fat and thin bobbins so that you can do more than one pattern. Joining is crucial—don't forget your fine crochet hook or whatever you usually use for joining. Also, please note that we may be getting a visit from our favorite bead knitting instructor, who has some wonderful new lace books to offer to us. **Please let us know that you are attending Summer Camp by July 3rd, via the PLG email at pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com**, so that we will be sure to have enough prickings for all those who want to attend.

Please also note the new location for summer camp—The Churchill Borough Building. Hope to see you there—with bells on!



Directions to the Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

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. The 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.

~~UPCOMING DEMONSTRATIONS~~

**VERONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
736 EAST RAILROAD AVENUE, VERONA, PA 15147
JUNE 19, 2014 7:00 P.M.**

Join the usual Thursday night lacers as we demonstrate and discuss bobbin lace with the Verona Historical Society on June 19th. The VHS contacted us a few months ago and requested a talk about the history and technique of lacemaking. If you are interested in attending, please contact Joanie at pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.org. We can always use a few more interested and interesting lacemakers at any of our demonstrations!

**PITTSBURGH CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL
AUGUST 22-23, 2014
FOUR POINTS SHERATON NORTH, MARS, PA
<http://pghcreativearts.com/>**

The PLG will be participating in this **first-ever** festival in August. The event has been organized by Barbara Grossman, founder of the Pittsburgh Knit and Crochet Festival, and features classes in needlecraft, as well as beading, repurposing, and surface design. It sounds like a wonderful celebration of the arts. Visit the above link to see some of the classes being offered. We will be demonstrating during both the Friday evening and the Saturday all-day sessions, so be sure to come and visit or help out with the demonstration!

~~ WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN THE PLG? ~~ DECORATIVE KNITTED LACE EDGINGS with Amy Gibbons

Our newly elected president, Amy Gibbons, kicked off our workshop weekend on Friday, May 2nd, by giving a talk about knitted lace edgings. During her presentation, she shared some beautiful and intricate edgings that had been handed down in her family, as well as some that she had created. Amy spoke fondly of her grandmother, who taught her a well-loved pattern for the edgings, all of which were done in cotton. These edgings were applied to pillowcases and kitchen towels that dated back several decades. Amy also shared some of her more recent creations, a purple (imagine!) silk shawl and a finely detailed merino cowl—her work is always astonishing! We enjoyed her presentation, oohed and aahed at the lovely pieces of knitted lace, and admired the skill and the importance of the tradition to Amy's family. Many thanks to Amy for sharing these hand-knit treasures with the group!

One of Amy's spectacular shawls

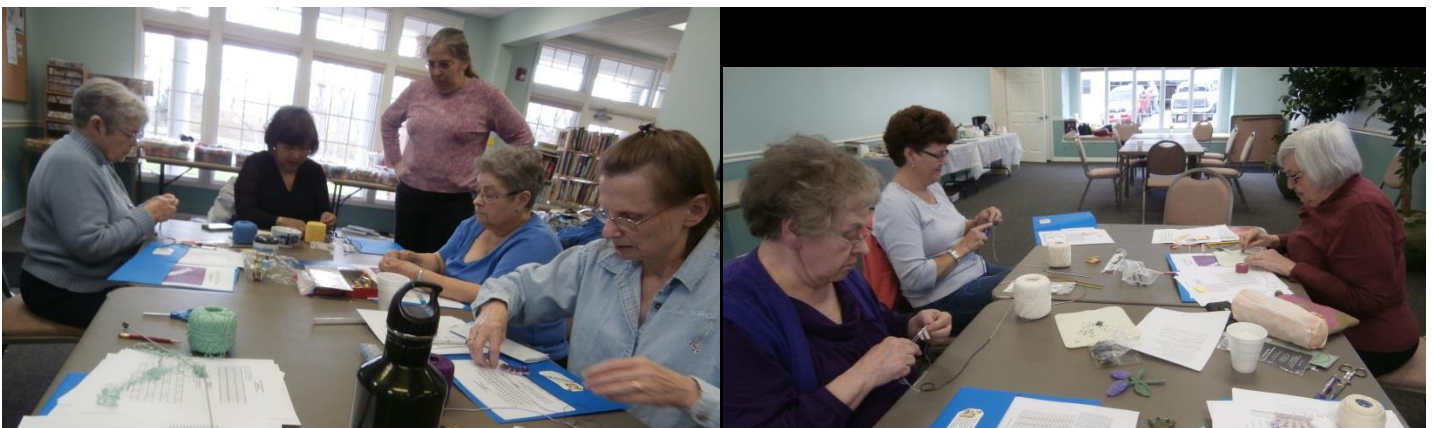


BEGINNING BEAD KNITTING WORKSHOP with Kathy Kirchner

Joanne Frey's email says it all: "Knitting with Beads'-- who knew that would be such a good workshop? I am a knitter but I have never knitted with beads; I learned a lot and had fun doing it. We had a patient teacher, Kathy Kirchner, who answered every question, and I mean every question. She had a wonderful "store" of ideas and patterns and supplies to buy. I have started to knit a hedgehog from one of her patterns. As I said, this was a good workshop."

On the first weekend of May, Kathy Kirchner introduced the group to knitting with beads. She developed the beaded sampler pictured below, which incorporates at least five different ways of making knitting sparkle. The sampler begins (and ends) with a swag stitch similar to the technique that Theresa taught us a few years ago, then proceeds with patterns that consist of sliding beads next to a knit or purl stitch, adding beads with a crochet hook, and adding beads "in the middle" of a knit stitch. The workshop participants, who included Joanne Frey as well as Amy's friend Marilyn, worked diligently on their samples, and in fact were so industrious that they actually finished the workshop early on Sunday!

Kathy was an exceptional teacher: patient, thorough, and accommodating to those who needed help or who needed a little extra time to look through the vast amount of supplies that she brought with her. Steve, Kathy's husband, has been added to our "knight in shining armor" list because of his obliging help in setting up for the workshop and dismantling the merchandise display. As always, the food was delicious and plentiful, the atmosphere was relaxed, and the conversation was genial. Marilyn, who had just returned from Rome, regaled the knitters with stories of the canonizations of John Paul II and John XXIII. Kathy, who we hope will return soon because she always brings fun with her, left us with the challenge to design our own beaded purses. As you can see from Joanne's comments above, that challenge will soon be accepted. It was a great workshop!



Below is Amy's completed sampler from the workshop.



Thank you, Amy Gibbons, for the pictures!

**LACEMAKING DEMONSTRATION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF UPPER ST. CLAIR
GILFILLAN FARM
MAY 17, 2014**

By Suzanne Potter

Though the day was chilly and rainy, Amy, Dewi, and I were given a warm and helpful welcome by the family and staff at the Gilfillan Farm in Upper St. Clair. As we arranged our pillows and lace paraphernalia, a young man hung two of Amy's tarps along the back wall to keep the wind and rain off us. We were shown some of the family lace. Most of it was machine made or crocheted, but some on an early wedding dress looked like handmade Torchon. It was a lovely day and we made the journey to and from the strange land of the South Hills without getting lost once!



The weather was not as cooperative as the staff at Gilfillan Farm!

NEW MATERIALS IN THE PLG LIBRARY

Charter Chapter IOLI CDs for 2013

Lace machines and Machine Laces Vol. II, Pat Earnshaw (ID)

Fun with Corners, Claire Burkhard (BB)

Dentelle de Mirecourt, Marie-Jose Massol (MX)

La dentelle de Cholet Perfectionnement, Martine Piveteau (BB)

Dentelle aux fuseaux perlee Bijoux et accessories, Magali Demelle Deboudard (BB)

FUTURE EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Thursday, July 3, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

Thursday, June 19, 2014 – Demonstration/lecture at Verona Historical Society 7 PM

July 7 – 10 2014 – Lace Summer Camp at Churchill Borough Bldg. 7-9 PM each night

Thursday, August 7, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

Friday-Saturday August 22-23 – Demo at Pittsburgh Creative Arts Festival, Four Points Sheraton North in Mars, PA

Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

Friday, October 3, 2014 – Meeting, greeting and shopping – pre-workshop get-together and displays of Slovakian Lace

Saturday-Sunday October 4-5, 2014 – Fall Workshop with Debby Beever “Color Tricks in Torchon”

Thursday, November 6, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

Thursday, December 4, 2014 7-9 -- Monthly meeting at Grace Ref. Presbyterian Church

April 18-19, 2015 – Spring Workshop with Louise Colgan: Bucks and Torchon; Churchill Borough Bldg.

AND ONE MORE PAST EVENT THAT SHOULD BE NOTED: AMY HAD A BIRTHDAY!



Many happy returns, Amy!

REMEMBER--YOU CAN ALWAYS ACCESS OUR NEWSLETTERS AT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://pittsburghlacegroup.org>

Email us at pittsburghlacegroup@gmail.com