

New England Lace Group Meeting, 23 November 2019

Executive Board Attendance: Carolyn Wetzel, President; Bryce Wolf, Librarian

Members: Carmen Bartholomew, Rita Bartholomew, Janet Blanchard, Marjorie Dashef, Judy Jeon-Chapman, Jim Martin, Sharon Sacco

Guest: Barbara Giguere

The meeting started at 11:00 AM.

Previous Minutes: The minutes from the 16 June 2019 meeting were reviewed. No changes were proposed. Bryce Wolf motioned to accept, Marjorie Dashef seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

VP Programs update: Despite being unable to attend, Kate Moore sent the current program schedule:

- December 2019 – Holiday Party
- January 2020 – Lace in
- February 2020 – Puncetto presentation by Hanka Robertson
- March 2020 – TBD
- April 2020 – TBD
- May 2020 – Retreat
- June 2020 – Annual meeting and lace making

There are some concerns with the Holiday Party being so close to Christmas. Historically, the closer it is to Christmas, the lower the attendance. After some discussion, the conclusion was to require people to register for the meeting with a cut-off date. If there isn't enough interest, the meeting may be cancelled.

Judy Jeon-Chapman suggested that one of the open meetings be a Torchon project that would interest beginners.

Treasurer's Update: Barbara Morrow sent word that NELG is basically on budget, which hasn't changed since 2015. The bank account had \$7,888.35. The summation of the state of NELG finances was that we are doing "okay".

Member at Large: Jill Hawkins' report thanked everyone who has demonstrated in the past year, and mentioned that demonstrating is the best way we have to educate the public about what we do. She also listed some of the events from the past year:

- **Big E:** We had demonstrators on 12 of the 17 days of the fair.
- **New England Fiber Festival:** We had a total of 7 people demonstrating (officially)
- Demos at two events at Dudley Farm, a historic house, in Guilford CT
- We were invited for the first time to the North Guilford Country Fair and have been asked to return next year.
- We had another successful demo at Old Sturbridge Village Maker's Weekend.

There will be a new event next year at the Oxford Historical Society Fiber Festival the weekend before the CT Sheep & Wool. Note that the CT Sheep and Wool will move to the North Haven Fairground next year.

The response for decorations for the tree for the McDonald House fund-raiser was overwhelming. The tree looks fabulous, and photos will be included in the February newsletter. Jill posed the question whether we should do this again in 2020. If yes, does anyone have ideas for the “theme”? There was some discussion about this at the meeting. One question that comes to mind is how much the tree auctioned for, since most people thought that if it only collects a small amount of money, the membership might not consider it worthwhile.

Jill’s report ended with a reminder that she is always looking for new opportunities for demos. Please contact her if you learn of these.

Webmaster: Jill reported that the hosting service is good and that they continue to enhance the service. She would welcome more material on Member’s Lace as well as book reviews. Additionally she reported that we are rapidly approaching the limit for the free version of Flickr that we use for photos. Jill is researching other options. Google Picasa had migrated to Google Photos. Unfortunately, it does not support generating html code to embed a slide show on the website. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Jill.

Librarian: Only one book has been added to the library recently as was reported in the most recent newsletter. The books remain stored with Bryce Wolf, Sharon Sacco and Mary Linden.

Newsletter Editor: The deadline for the next newsletter is 29 January 2020.

Gail McLean noted that with the price of postage increasing, we spent \$10.95 per person for paper copies of the newsletter and Membership Directories. That included printing, postage, and envelopes. This was discussed at the meeting. No decision was made. Everyone felt that an analysis was important to do since we should also take into consideration the website impact. Note that NELG has not raised membership fees in a very long time.

Retreat Committee: The venue for the 2020 retreat will once again be Rolling Ridge in North Andover MA. The teachers will be Holly Van Sciver, Allie Marguccio, and Jill Hawkins. The vendors will be Holly Van Sciver and Tom Marguccio who will be selling supplies for Idrija lace.

Scholarship Committee: There were two scholarships awarded in 2019. \$50 remains in the fund for this year.

New Business:

Carolyn Wetzel needs two people to serve on the Nominating Committee. There were no volunteers. She asks that people consider it.

The Clerk position is open, and Carolyn would like a volunteer to come forth.

Carolyn Wetzel has introduced an attendance raffle. The idea comes from the Liberty Lacers. Every person who attends a meeting gets a ticket, and the tickets are accumulated so that one can be drawn at the end of the year. It was suggested that the May meeting would be the ideal time given the large attendance at the retreat. The winner would receive some prize then.

Carolyn brought up the topic of subgroups. Currently we have two groups on the calendar, the CT group and the Sunday Lace group in MA. Carolyn would like to contact people in other regions to see if there are other groups that we are not aware of, or to encourage people to form such groups. Carolyn would also like to collect the information on how the groups actually work and how they handle issues like outsiders who would like to attend. Carolyn will put out a request for this.

Early in 2020, the Lace Studio that meets at Jill Hawkins' house on Wednesday evenings (currently on hiatus for the winter) will be working through the techniques in the book "Invisible" by Martina Wolter-Kampmann

Judy asked if it were possible to put more information on how to make lace on the website.

Announcements:

The passing of Jeannet van Oord, a long time teacher for NELG, on 9 November was noted. NELG will be sending a condolence card to her family.

It was also noted that Odette Arpin had recently died. Here she was known for her lace books written in French.

Marjorie Dashef moved to close the meeting. Judy Jeon-Chapman seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.