

The Quarterly Newsletter of the New England Lace Group

Issue 116

www.nelg.us

February 2022

Enjoying Lace Together Since 1982



NELG Retreat 2022! See page 3.



Sr Madeleine (2nd from left) and the Lace Matrix. See page 12.



Ipswich Lace made by an NELG member in a museum! See page 10.

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...And more!

President's Message



Greetings on a snowy morning. I laid in bed this morning thinking about why we create things of beauty.

This semester I am co-teaching a course on human evolution and race with an anthropologist. A discussion question we ask the students is "What makes humans different from any other living species today?" The abilities to appreciate beauty and to create objects that have no other purpose than beauty are arguably two such traits. Which came first, the ability to notice beauty around us, made by nature, or the ability to make things that we found beautiful? We'll never know.

Which brings us to lace—a useless but beautiful object. Why do we love it? Why do we love to make it, collect it, wear it, adorn our houses with it? Why make lace fences, lace sculptures, lace murals, edible lace? How often are we asked by non-lace makers, "What do you use your lace for?" And why do some people NOT love lace? Well, sorry I do not have answers for these questions, it was just another morning in bed pondering the big questions of life and humanity....

I hope you have opportunity to spend lots of time making or appreciating your useless but beautiful lace. Maybe you will share some of it with us in our annual ATC Challenge, or in the Creative Arts show at the Big E, or send a photo of it to display on the NELG website. And we promise to not ask, "But what are you going to DO with it?"

Carolyn

In Sympathy

In early November, longtime NELG member, Linda Dumas, suddenly lost her husband and best friend, Julian.

Linda, we pray that your family, friends, and lace making will ease your difficult period of grieving.

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Thank you.

New England Lace Group Retreat & Workshops 2022

Our annual retreat and workshops will be held from Thursday, May 12 to Sunday, May 15, 2022. This year we will be at [Mercy by the Sea](#) Conference Center in Madison, CT. The retreat house is located on Long Island Sound and all rooms have a private bathroom and air conditioning.

Our teachers for this year will be:

- **Allie Marguccio**, who will be teaching **Idrija Lace**. Tom Marguccio will also be vending Idrija lace supplies.
- **Holly Van Sciver**, who will be offering **beginning, intermediate or advanced Torchon, Bedfordshire, Bucks Point, Lester, Honiton, Russian, Hungarian, contemporary lace and more**. Holly will also be our vendor.
- **Jill Hawkins**, who will once again be teaching a beginner bobbin lace class for those who are new to lace making, or for those who have been away from lace making for a while and need to go back to basics. This class will be subsidized by NELG.



Registration is open from February 1 through April 15. Paid registrations received by March 15 will receive up to \$20 early bird discount on accommodations and workshop fees.

Our commemorative bobbin this year, "Making Lace Together Again," is from Chris Parsons. Please note that to guarantee delivery for retreat, the deadline for ordering a commemorative bobbin is **March 1**. Late orders will be accepted, but these will be delivered after retreat.

In addition to our workshops and vendors, our retreat will feature the voting and results for the ATC Lace Challenge, a silent auction of all things lace, the complete NELG Library, comfortable and bright locations for those who are "retreating," and several surprise activities.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

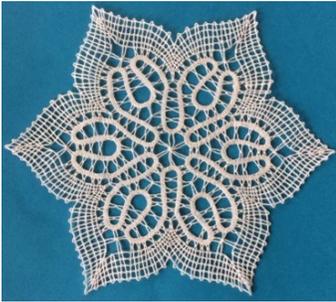
- Everyone attending will be required to be fully vaccinated and boosted with a WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccine. Proof of vaccination is required upon arrival. A rapid COVID-19 test will be required upon arrival. If positive, admittance will not be allowed.
- Masks will be worn at all times, unless eating or drinking.
- Single rooms will be assigned on a **first-come first paid** basis
- Check in time is no earlier than 4 p.m. on Thursday for afternoon arrivals.
- All meals are generally served buffet-style; dietary restrictions can be accommodated.
- Mealtimes will be confirmed a few days prior to the event.
- Class hours are 9 a.m. - noon and 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. - noon on Sunday.
- We are welcome to bring wine/beer to enjoy in the evenings, but **no bottles or cans in their trash**, please. We will need to take them home.
- Checkout time from guestrooms is 10 a.m. on Sunday morning.
- All guests are invited to remain on the property and enjoy the grounds until 4:30 p.m., and the common areas and gift/bookshop before check-in and after check-out.
- Mercy by the Sea Conference Center is located at:
167 Neck Road, Madison, CT 06443. Office phone: (203) 245-0401.



IDRIJA LACE

Allie Marguccio

The Idrija Lace workshop is designed for those students new to Idrija narrow tape lace or the repeat student who wants to reinforce the basic skills used to make Idrija narrow tape lace. The patterns that will be available are comprised of the following stitches: cloth stitch tape, half stitch, double stitch, gentle turns and various types of corners, Idrija double vein edging, sewing edge, plaits and single picots and various turning stitches and inserting beads (this is done differently in Idrija lace). Strong emphasis is placed on reading the patterns and understanding pattern markings. The instructor's goal is a simple one – to give you the skills to be able to successfully work many of the Idrija narrow tape patterns that are available.



Allie will also be happy to help with unfinished projects or Idrija patterns you may have purchased or found in books. While the Narrow Tape remains the most popular lace at her workshops, she will also bring a Broad Tape pattern for those who might be interested.

At the start of class, each student will be given a packet of materials that will include a variety of patterns of different levels. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PRICK YOUR PATTERNS!** You will also receive a newly revised booklet of diagrams and helpful tips for the components of each piece.



Most of the class patterns are from the Slovenian pattern designer, Irma Pervanja. Irma is a former design teacher of the Idrija Lace School.

Each student will receive a detailed email message approximately 1 month prior to the workshop, which will outline what you need to bring to class and the specific patterns that Allie will be bringing. If you want to customize your workshop experience, you can discuss it at that time.

The great-granddaughter of a Slovene bobbin lace maker, Allie's passion is evidenced by her continued study and research of the lace of her heritage. Idrija lace has long been a favorite and treasured gift when sent by her Slovene relatives. She has traveled to Slovenia numerous times to tour the lace making centers of Idrija, Železniki, Žiri and Cerkno. Allie has studied under the tutelage of Metka Fortuna, director of the Idrija School of Lace and Stana Freljih, Master Teacher.

Along with teaching workshops to individual lace groups in the USA, she has also taught Idrija lace at various lace events such as Ithaca Lace Days (Ithaca, NY), the Winter Lace Conference (Costa Mesa, California), North Carolina Regional Lace Guild's Spring Lace Day (Chapel Hill, NC) and the Northwest Lace Conference in Oregon.

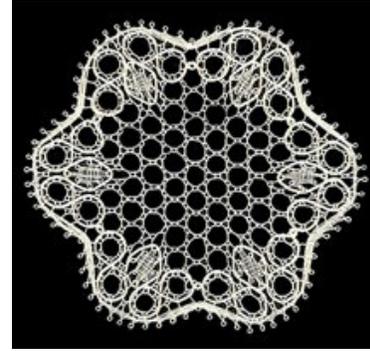
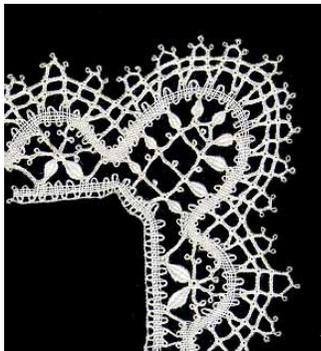
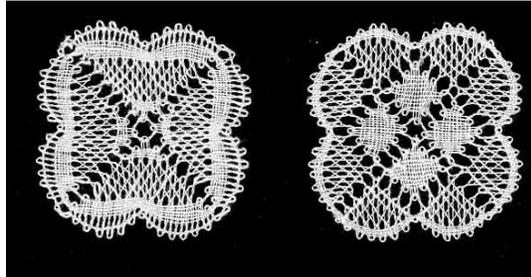
Allie's website is <https://www.designsbymarguccio.com>.



BEDS, LESTER, BUCKS, HONITON, and MORE!

Holly Van Sciver

There is something for everyone in this course! Choose from beginning, intermediate, or advanced Torchon, Bedfordshire, Bucks Point, Lester, Honiton, Russian, Hungarian, Contemporary lace and more. You can start at the beginning with the basics, continue at the intermediate level or move onto something more advanced.



Not interested in the traditional? Then select a contemporary Martine Bruggeman pattern or a design of your own and add a little color and texture. Have your own idea? Then contact Holly, who will consult with each student to select an appropriate pattern that will advance your skill. Whether you start a new project or continue an ongoing project, this course is tailored to your lace making level and interests. Beginners are most welcome!

Holly has been a student and teacher of lace making for 46 years. Originally trained in England, she specializes in teaching the nineteenth century English laces. She has taught and lectured in the United States, Canada and Europe for the International Organization of Lace, regional lace guilds, national lace conferences, museums, historical societies, universities, and professional organizations. Holly is a leader in teaching the fundamentals underlying lace making theory and design.

She is the founder of the Finger Lakes Lace Guild and owner of Van Sciver Bobbin Lace, which has served to promote lace making worldwide since 1981.

Please contact Holly to select an appropriate pattern that will advance your skill in one of these laces. Holly can be reached at vsblace@twcny.rr.com or (607) 277-0498. Her website is <http://www.vansciverbobbinlace.com>.



BEGINNING BOBBIN LACE

Jill Hawkins

This class is designed for those who are brand-new to bobbin lace or those who have been away from bobbin lace making for a while and need to go back to basics.



You will learn the foundation of bobbin lace making, including pattern preparation, various pillows and bobbins, bobbin winding, selection of threads and pins and lace making terminology. Students will first make a sampler to learn the basic stitches and will then move on to use those techniques to create a flower, which has been designed by the teacher.

The workshop will be subsidized by NELG and all supplies will be loaned by NELG. Students will have the opportunity to purchase their own supplies from Van Sciver Bobbin Lace during retreat.

Jill learned lace making in Glastonbury, England in 1985 and has been teaching lace making from her home since 1995. In addition, she has given presentations to various organizations in the UK and US.

She has been a member of NELG since 1986, serving twice as President. She is a member of the Lace Guild in the UK, as well as the International Organization of Lace in the US.

Her favorite bobbin laces are Bucks Point, Bedfordshire, and Milanese.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Guests should arrive no earlier than 4 p.m. if registering for an afternoon arrival

ROOM AND BOARD	Price thru March 15		Price after March 15	
	Single room	Shared room	Single room	Shared room
<u>Arrive Thursday, May 12 p.m.</u> 3 nights lodging Dinner Thursday 3 meals Friday 3 meals Saturday 2 meals Sunday	\$595	\$505	\$605	\$515
<u>Arrive Friday, May 12 a.m.</u> 2 nights lodging Lunch & dinner Friday 3 meals Saturday 2 meals Sunday	\$475	\$415	\$485	\$425
<u>Arrive Friday, May 12 p.m.</u> 2 nights lodging Dinner Friday 3 meals Saturday 2 meals Sunday	\$395	\$335	\$405	\$345
<u>Arrive Saturday, May 13 a.m.</u> 1 night lodging Lunch & dinner Saturday 2 meals Sunday	\$280	\$250	\$290	\$260

DAY VISITORS	Price thru March 15	Price after March 15
<u>Day commuter</u> - Tea/coffee & lunch	\$95/day	\$105/day
<u>Day commuter</u> - Tea/coffee, lunch & dinner	\$125/day	\$135/day
<u>Meeting attendance (Saturday)</u> - Tea/coffee & monthly meeting only	\$25	\$35
Shopping only	No charge	
WORKSHOP	Price thru March 15	Price after March 15
Workshop (15 hours total)	\$325	\$335
Beginner workshop (15 hours total)	\$160	\$170

BOBBINS	Bone	Ebony	Lemonwood
Midlands spangled	\$20.50	\$19.00	\$17.00
Honiton		\$15.50	\$15.50
Binche		\$19.00	\$15.50
Bayeux		\$19.00	\$15.50
Square (short)		\$19.00	\$15.50

2022 New England Lace Group Lace Challenge

In honor of our current NELG Ipswich Lace project, this year's Artist Trading Card (ATC) lace challenge will be a 2½" by 3½" card embellished with your handmade lace that incorporates **Black Silk Thread**.

The lace must be made by you and can be any form of lace. There must be **at least one 4 cm strand of black silk thread** on your ATC, the remainder can be any thread or color. It should be two dimensional and fit in the space of the card. (The card must fit in the plastic sleeve provided.) You may combine your lace with other media. On the back of your card include your name, the year, contact information, and the title of your piece.

Email nelg.atc@gmail.com to request a free ATC Challenge pack (one per member). Each pack will include the card and plastic sleeve. The rest is up to you!

At the NELG Annual Retreat in May 2022, we will display the ATCs and all persons in attendance will vote by secret ballot for several winners:

- Favorite ATC
- Best use of black silk thread
- Most unusual
- Most technically impressive

Winners will receive all the honors and benefits accruing thereto: splashy coverage on the NELG website and in the August newsletter, the admiration of their peers, and a \$20 gift certificate to a lace vendor.

Note: Your ATC will be returned to you after the Retreat – the “trading” part of the ATC is optional.

Details:

1. You must be a current NELG member to participate.
2. Your ATC must be at the May Retreat for display and voting. If you won't be there, arrangements can be made to send it. Contact nelg.atc@gmail.com.
3. The back of the card must include your name, the year, contact information, and the title of your piece.
4. All reasonable care will be taken to safeguard entries. However, NELG, its officers and Retreat organizers will NOT be responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen works entered in the Challenge. NELG covers costs (ATC, return mail) for one entry per member. However, you can enter more than one at your own expense.



2013 Favorite ATC: Sparkles by Rita Bartholomew



2017 Favorite ATC: The Ladies by Janet Blanchard

Are You Ready to De-Clutter?

After a gap of two years, we will finally be holding a **Silent Auction** at the 2022 NELG Retreat.

Surely, over this time you will have accumulated some lace-related materials that you would like to subtract from your stash, so that you may add to your stash by shopping online or in-person at the retreat!

Do you have books or magazines that are duplicates or that you are no longer interested in? How about that lace pillow you never use and just takes up closet space? Maybe there are bobbins or other lace making tools you think someone else could make use of?

The possibilities are endless! Contact Bryce Wolf at (781) 259-8529 or brycewolf@comcast.net to let her know what you will be bringing to the retreat. Even if you are not planning to attend, you can mail or bring your items to her before the retreat. Think of how delighted someone will be to enjoy your donation! And the income will help fund the NELG Library and other activities.

An Interactive Celebration and Demonstration of All Things Fiber!

[Hill-Stead Museum](#) is planning to host "The Art of Shearing: A Sheep to Shawl Festival" on Sunday, March 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. They will welcome fiber artists and exhibitors for a full day of family fun, exploring how natural fibers are collected, spun, and created into usable goods! The day's activities will include:

- Sheep shearing in the Hill-Stead barn with Clatter Ridge Farm
- Skirting, carding, spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, and felting demonstrations
- Food, craft beer, hayrides, and more!

Hill-Stead will remain flexible in planning for a successful event, but will follow the CDC, State of Connecticut and Town of Farmington recommendations closely and make alterations as necessary and in a timely way. Their goal is to partner with a manageable number of exhibitors to coincide with fiber demonstrations.

If you are interested in demonstrating, please [register](#) by February 15.

Welcome New NELG Members!

Elaine Cohen, West Hartford, CT

Elaine writes: I was a longtime member of the Metropolitan in Bergen County, N.J. until I moved to Ct. 2 years ago. I am not available for meetings on Saturdays and don't go far away from my home in West Hartford (I am 84 years old and do not drive so far alone anymore), but I love making lace and want to support IOLI.

Ann Marie Grunn, Belvidere, NJ

Linda Kornfeld, Bedford, NH

Linda writes: My grandmother used to make bobbin lace and I have her equipment. I'm interested in learning more about it.

Sandra Maier, Greenville, SC

Update on Mobile Ipswich Display Project

We are happy to report that we have volunteers to make all but 5 of the 22 samples of Ipswich Lace from Karen Thompson's book: **#10, #15, #17, #19, and #20**. Please contact the Newsletter Editor if you are interested in providing any of these missing samples. If you have completed your samples, please send them to Mary Linden, 658 Nortontown Rd, Guildford CT 06437. Samples should be about 6 inches long; the beginnings and ends will be hidden in the display, so no need for them to be neat.

Also, a budget of \$1,000 was reviewed and approved at the November NELG meeting. NELG will budget \$400 for the project; Mary Mangan has sent in a grant request from IOLI for the other \$600. NELG will donate their extra heavy-duty cart for transport and Karen Thompson will donate a replica Ipswich pillow. There will be a program at an NELG meeting and/or the retreat to whittle our own Ipswich bobbins. Stay tuned!

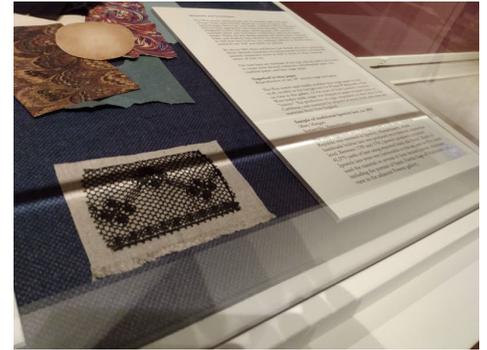
Real-Life Museum Visits, For an Exciting Change

By Mary Mangan



In the time before Omicron, there was a brief window of opportunity to visit museums in-person and view some local Ipswich lace items. As described in a previous NELG newsletter issue, the “Dressed Miniatures” by Mary and Betsey Way at the Lyman Allyn Museum in New London, CT included two tiny paintings dressed with lace and fabrics, one of which appears to be Ipswich lace. Although in a glass case and behind the framed glass, it was great to be close to a spectacular, delicate, and beautifully preserved piece of likely Ipswich lace. It used a very fine silk thread and does seem to be a novel pattern. It appears to have either 2 head-side edges with one folded to the front, or a second head-side was stitched to a sewing foot-side. It’s impossible to tell from the view that we had. Bryce Wolf and I were also pleased to see that one of the highlighted entry banners consisted of this piece magnified on the wall—truly larger-than-life lace!

A second surprise: a piece of lace for our Ipswich project was highlighted. I had sent a small fragment from the end of my #11 sample from Karen Thompson’s book to Brian Ehrlich, the co-curator, as a thank-you token for help with our Dressed Miniatures article. They put it on display! Our project is museum-worthy!



The official catalog of the exhibition also contains a quality photo of the Sarah Hamlin Sage object and provides a nod to the special lace found here, with a description of Ipswich lace history.

Exhibition: The Way Sisters: Miniaturists of the Early Republic <https://www.lymanallyn.org/the-way-sisters/>

Catalog: The Way Sisters, Tanya Pohrt et al. 2021.



Another opportunity to see some lace in-person was provided by Hilary Anderson Stelling, Maureen Harper and the curator team at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library in Lexington, MA. A man’s Masonic apron there is adorned with 2 kinds of lace and was examined by a small group of the eastern Massachusetts folks: Bryce Wolf, Marjorie Dashef, Laura Bensley, Doris May, and Mary Mangan. The outer edges are stitched with a black lace nearly identical to Ipswich #4 from Karen Thompson’s book and the Library of Congress samples. However, the small flower petals were definitely the “open pea” style and not cloth stitches as in Karen’s reproduction. The type of thread on the larger lace is an open question—it had more fuzzy characteristics than silk typically demonstrates. Might it be cotton? It did retain a deep black hue but has suffered a little bit of decay in places and is detached from the leather in some sections.

The second smaller lace, a cat’s eye style, is stitched to the center of the apron around the “Memento Mori” text, and has some unique features and surprises. It lacks a gimp thread which appears to be present around the center ovals in white linen samples of similar patterns. Instead of being 2 separate pieces above and below the text, it forms an extended backwards “C” shape and is one long piece. Sewn over the wider lace edging on the right side and around to the bottom in a somewhat—ah—amusingly amateurish manner, it also has a more brownish hue than the edge lace. It seemed to be a different thread.

Karen Thompson has replicated a pattern diagram for the Memento Mori edging, and it can be found in the NELG Ipswich Lace discussion forum,



available to NELG members on our website. We were able to determine the correct width of it on this trip, which wasn't possible from earlier images: $\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide.

We learned a number of useful things from this unusual object. It has also spurred the curators to look at other aprons in their collection for more lace, and they have invited us back to see some other treasures in the future.

Museum: Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, <https://www.srmml.org/>

Object: Masonic Apron, 1780-1810. Massachusetts. Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, loaned by the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, GL2004.0143

Book Review: *Mounting & Using Lace*

By Jean Withers

If you have ever wondered what to do with your lace once it has been made other than to tuck it in a safe place so you can find it again if you want to show it to someone, this is a book you should read.

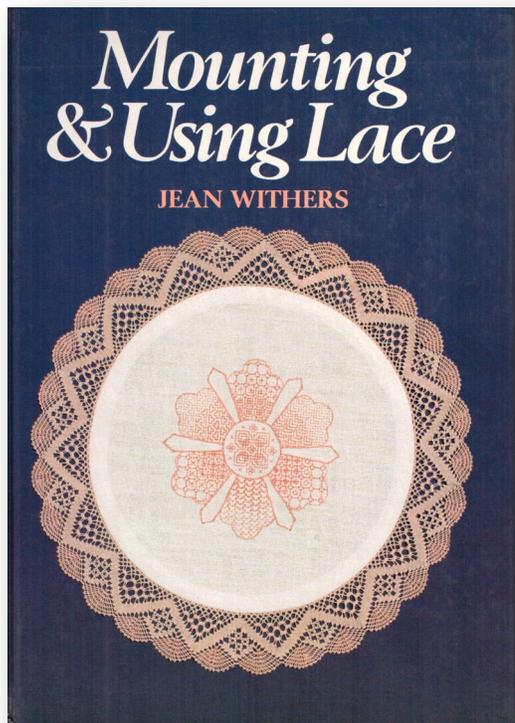
This slim volume, written in 1986, is packed with techniques to enable you to actually use your lace. If you need a technique for hemming the cloth to attach the lace, it is here with good instructions and illustrations. It tells you how to attach lace. All of these techniques are well worth learning. Below are my examples of pin stitch, hem stitch, and buttonhole stitch used to hem handkerchiefs. I took these techniques from this book.

This book also goes beyond these basic techniques and gives ideas on how to incorporate lace with other handwork, such as embroidery. It also discusses how to use insertions in linens. Patterns for the lace used in examples are provided, as well as the embroidery techniques.

Certainly, this is not a comprehensive book. If you have no experience with embroidery, you may need to consult a how-to book to get started. If I were to criticize this book, I would say that the section on framing and matting is weak. Cutting a mat with an Exacto knife and a ruler is going to look like you did it yourself.

The weaknesses aside, this is a small book that is worth the read. It will give you the techniques you need for using your lace. It lives up to its title.

Sharon Sacco



The Lace Matrix

By Sister Madeleine Cleverly

The Headford Lace Matrix is a story of Family, Friends, Fun, and Lace. Isn't that true of all lace?

Headford Lace Project (HLP) is my Lace Group in Ireland located about a half hour north of Galway in the west of Ireland. Although Irish lace making is typically renowned for lovely needle laces, HLP began because of a surviving fragment of bobbin lace that was rediscovered from the manor house of the local St. George family. It seems that enterprising 18th and 19th century Irish women made lace outside their doors to earn income, to feed their families during the famine and some to earn passage to the United States.

A pricking from the cherished sliver of lace was created, and a group was formed to teach local women about the heritage and the art of lace making. This group drives awareness and knowledge of lace making traditions with numerous creative public art projects.

The latest project in which I took part, The Lace Matrix, took place during the second week of November 2021. The Matrix is an outdoor artistic installation aimed to embed this lace history into the heart of the town. The project launched when Galway was the European Capital of Culture in 2020 and under the umbrella of "Small Towns, Big Ideas." An open call for artists ensued, to propose a design for an installation based on the historic lace fabric of the Headford community. The selected design is a six-meter-high steel framed heart, forged using traditional techniques by local blacksmiths. The sides of the heart hinge to close and open like the farm gates that surround Headford.



The Torchon-based pattern has flax flowers and tallies. Flax was grown in the area and spun into linen for use by lace makers. One member of the project is Brazilian, and the

first pattern Brazilian lace makers learn is tallies, so these were included in the pattern despite their difficulties.

The red heart frame was installed and set in concrete, and a board with the pricking and design was mounted to the back. A platform was erected allowing lace makers to stand and perform the lace making, using a type of aviation cord made in Holland. The cord lasts 18 years and 2 kilometers were required! Dozens of lace makers from age 7 to 80 years old, in rotation, began doing what we normally do on a lace pillow.



We crossed and twisted, standing on a platform until that was no longer needed. We kept nails—for pins—in our pockets. (Later, I reached into my pocket during collection at Mass and pulled out a handful of nails!) It took 10 days to make the lace and over a week to finish and tie off the cords.

For me, granddaughter of an Irish immigrant, it was overwhelming to be so accepted into a small Irish town, working alongside friends, with memories of Irish family and....it was a wonderful lot of fun.

There is now a lovely "Lacemaker's Shoes" walking tour in Headford including a street with many cottages of lacemakers. There are two lace-inspired benches, one designed from Headford lace pattern, in front of the local library and one in the ruins of the Church of Ireland. The Lace Matrix stands in St George's Square, the center of the town.

See more details at www.headfordlaceproject.ie, Headford Lace Project Lace Matrix on Facebook, and Irish Arts Review Quarterly.

Work of Our Members

Another Evelyn Gant Creation!

In our February 2013 issue, we showcased a wedding gown that NELG member, Evelyn Gant, had designed and created, complete with bobbin lace that commemorated the wedding couple's special interests.

Now we can display another wedding dress that she made for her granddaughter, Ashley, who was married in early December 2021. Here is what Evelyn says about this textile adventure:

"The creation took over 450 hours. I put in over 400 hours. Ashley's other grandmother added beads for 22 hours and my friend Jane Fletcher bailed me out towards the end by adding gold beads for another 30 hours. We used recycled machine-made lace to which we added over 300 yards of Liz Metallic 20/310 cording. The Christmas tree on the back of the gown has special meaning for the bride and groom—they got engaged last year while picking out their tree!"



The Beautiful Bride



The Christmas Tree



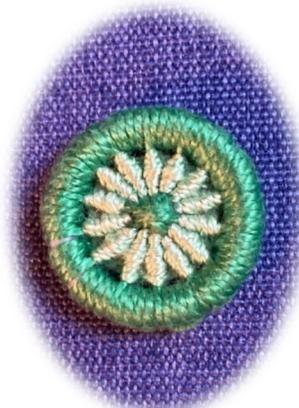
Lace Embellished with Cording

Dorset Buttons:

For the program portion of our January 2022 NELG meeting, Carolyn Wetzel taught us how to make Dorset buttons. Here are some of the lovely results.



By Sumiko Tray



By Sharon Sacco



By Mary Mangan



By Sumiko Tray

Things to Do & Places to Go

See the NELG website (www.nelg.us) for more information, more events and to register for these events.

The decision to hold NELG Meetings and Lace Days in person or via Zoom will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Stay tuned for notices!

NELG Meetings

- February 19:** Valentine Lace Exchange; presentation by Mary Mangan on Ipswich lace bobbins—those that have survived and how to recreate them.
- March 19:** To be announced
- April 16:** To be announced
- May 14:** Annual general meeting at the NELG Retreat, after lunch.

Lace Days

Sunday Lace Group of Eastern Massachusetts

They meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants will receive a Zoom invitation by email during the preceding week. To be added to the mailing list contact Bryce Wolf at (781) 259-8529 or brycewolf@comcast.net.

Connecticut Lace Days

The group meets on the 1st Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will receive a Zoom invitation by email during the preceding week. To be added to the mailing list contact Winann Steinmetz at (203) 876-8314 or winannsteinmetz@hotmail.com.

Please Report Your Volunteer Time!

Anything you do to help NELG counts as volunteer time—demonstrating lace making, writing articles for the newsletter, teaching a friend to make lace, preparing and making a presentation for one of our NELG meetings, helping to set up a display for a library, museum or demonstration.

It's easy to report your hours on the Report Volunteer Hours page in the Members Only section of the website. Or contact our Member at Large for a paper form.

As a Charter Group with the International Organization of Lace, Inc. (IOLI), NELG is required to provide volunteer hours in order to help maintain the not-for-profit status of IOLI.

Thank you for your time!

Demonstrations and Other Lace Events

March 2022

- 27:** Hill-Stead Museum: Sheep to Shawl Festival
Farmington, CT
<https://www.hillstead.org/>
Contact: Member at Large
Demonstration Opportunity!

April 2022

- 9-10:** Oxford Historical Society Fiber Festival
Oxford, CT
<http://oxford-historical-society.org/>
Contact: Member at Large
Demonstration Opportunity!

- 30:** 2022 CT Sheep, Wool & Fiber Festival
North Haven, CT
<https://www.ctsheep.org/ct-sheep-wool-fiber-festival.html>
Contact: Member at Large
Demonstration Opportunity!

May 2022

- 12-15:** NELG Annual Lace Retreat
Madison, CT
www.nelg.us
- 14-15:** 44th NH Sheep & Wool Festival
Deerfield, NH
<https://nhswga.org/festival/nh-sheep-wool-festival-announcements/>
Contact: Member at Large
Demonstration Opportunity!
- 28-29:** 46th MA Sheep & Woolcraft Fair
Cummington, MA
<http://www.masheepwool.org/>
Contact: Member at Large
Demonstration Opportunity!

July 2022

- 17-23:** IOLI Annual Convention
Mesa, AZ
www.internationalorganizationoflace.org



Meeting Minutes

Minutes are available on our Website under Governance: Minutes to Member Meetings. We publish meeting minutes in our newsletter and website after they have been approved at a subsequent meeting.

June 19, 2021

Executive Board Attendees: Carolyn Wetzel, President; Kate Moore, Vice President; Jill Hawkins, Member at Large; Gail MacLean, Newsletter Editor; Bryce Wolf, Librarian.

Members and Guests: Marjorie Dashef, Sumiko Tray, Linda Dumas, Rita Bartholomew, Carmen Bartholomew, Mary Mangan, Kathy Draves, Winann Steinmetz, Devon Thein, Sharon Sacco, Laura Bensley, Helenka DeLuca, Caroline Morse, Holly Van Sciver.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. After introductions, it was announced that the meeting would be recorded. Kate Moore volunteered to transcribe the minutes.

Approval of minutes from the April 2021 meeting was deferred to the September meeting.

Officer and Committee Reports

Retreat: Announcement regarding new location for 2022-- Madison CT, Mercy by the Sea, www.mercybythesea.org.

Teachers are Allie Marguccio in 2022, Louise Colgan in 2023, along with Holly Van Sciver for both years.

Feedback from those who participated in this year's online retreat event was generally positive.

Website: Wild Apricot price going up Jan 2022, to \$1,118 (15%). This will be added to the budget discussion in September.

Return to in-person meetings in Sturbridge starting in September?

Feedback was mixed. Most people like both formats depending on current Covid situation. We will need to be flexible.

In October we will visit the Berkshire Historical Society (Pittsfield) to tour the Melville house and see their lace collection. Sign up ahead of time. NELG is contributing \$10 of the fee for members.

Big E updates: presented by Jill since Mary Linden not able to attend. For demonstrations, Aug 1st is the deadline to RSVP, to get parking tags, etc. Entries are being accepted online, deadline Aug 16. The special theme is 20. Sept 7, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. drop off entries in person.

Winners of ATC Challenge announced. Most Unusual - Sharon Sacco, Favorite ATC - Bryce Wolf, Most Technically Impressive - Winann Steinmetz, Best Imagery - Nancy Pecca. The next ATC theme will be announced in September.

Raffle drawing winners were Linda Dumas and Mary Mangan.

Elections

Nominations: President - Carolyn Wetzel, Member-at-Large - Jill Hawkins. No nominations from the floor.

Voting Results: 17 yay, 0 nay, 0 abstentions.

Announcements

- UnCon 2.0 registration reminder
- International Lace Day July 11th

Adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Program: Van Sciver Bobbin Lace Vendor Spotlight; show and tell, socializing/lacemaking.

November 20, 2021

Executive Board Attendees: Carolyn Wetzel, President; Jill Hawkins, Member at Large; Gail MacLean, Newsletter Editor; Bryce Wolf, Librarian; Barbara Morrow, Treasurer.

Members: Marjorie Dashef, Rita Bartholomew, Mary Mangan, Kathy Draves, Winann Steinmetz, Devon Thein, Sharon Sacco, Laura Bensley, Sr. Madeleine, Mary Lou Ricci, Karen Thompson, Linda Kukulich, Kara Quinteros, Mary Linden, Judy Jeon-Chapman.

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. and it was announced that the meeting would be recorded. Meeting was held online by Zoom due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic.

Introductions were held off until the program after the business meeting. Minutes from the June 2021 meeting were approved.

Officer and Committee Reports

Librarian: Only a few books are circulating.

Treasurer: We reviewed the budget spreadsheet (need to add Wild Apricot increase). Barbara needs to know amounts of "encumbered" funds, e.g., Wild Apricot, Karen Thompson classes, etc., to add to the 21-22 budget. Tabled approval of the NELG budget until we have the encumbered amounts.

Funds are down due to loss of retreat revenue for 2 years and giving people a free membership

year. Also, lots of memberships are due soon so account balance should go up upon renewals.

We discussed the Budget for Phase I of the Ipswich Lace Exhibit Project (requested \$870). From the list of needed items for the project, these suggestions were made:

- Get a folding hand truck from Bryce, who has an extra one not being used for the library.
- Karen Thompson offered to donate a bolster pillow for the display. Alternatively, use the NELG bolster from the library.
- Bobbins can be whittled by members, either at a monthly program or at retreat (have a station set up all weekend).

There was discussion of ideas of how to display lace details, what to allow public to touch or not.

It was suggested to look for grants from IOLI or other sources.

Motion: Approve proceeding with the Ipswich project subject to finding money to fund it. Add \$400 to the project in the current NELG budget to allow the project to proceed. Passed: 15 yay, 1 nay, 1 abstention

Retreat: May 12-15, 2022. Attendees will need to be vaccinated; we are planning to use a policy similar to that of the IOLI convention. Jill and Winann asked the venue about a 2023 reservation, and we may have to

put a down-payment for 2023 in January.

Newsletter: No report. Gail thanked contributors and said it was a team effort.

Member-at-large: Jill committed NELG to demonstrate at the Oxford (CT) Historical Society Fiber Festival - April 9 & 10, 2022.

Website: No report.

Scholarships: Current committee members are Barbara Morrow and Janet Blanchard. One scholarship was given out for Karen's class. Money is still available.

Programs: Discussed ideas for future programs:

- Vendor trunk show with Anna Provencher (check Etsy for contact information)
- Whittle Ipswich bobbins
- Learn to use bobbins palm-up
- Aemilia Ars - overview of technique, not workshop, if virtual
- Tenerife/Sol - workshop. Sharon says it should be in-person, others thought virtual might work. Check to see if Joan Brash would teach one of her patterns (if paid)?
- Review contents of the library - go through online listing together, add comments
- Tatting - view donated shuttles, workshop of simple pattern if in person

- Discussion of fibers, substitutions, comparison of threads (in person)

Other Business:

Check other places in Sturbridge to meet that might be nicer.

December meeting: will be virtual, have a lace-themed game (Carolyn), and have everyone share a piece of seasonal lace. No business meeting.

There were requests for a lace gift exchange, the target is to have them delivered by the January meeting.

January meeting: business meeting including budget, share the lace gift exchange item you received, social time.

Announcements:

Our condolences to NELG member Linda Dumas on the death of her husband (Carolyn sent a card on behalf of NELG).

IOLI lecture tomorrow - "Legacy of Lace Arts Project" presented by Victoria Brown about Nottingham lace history.

Project Lace Dress (Jill) - Info will be posted on the NELG website. (<https://nelg.us/Project-Lace-Dress>)

Motion to adjourn at 12:36 p.m.

Program: Round-Robin sharing about your current lace life.



Member Resources

Your Website Members Only Pages

Website Members Only pages are available to all registered members via the email address and password you defined when you registered online.

It is here that you will find current and prior **newsletters**, the member **directory**, resources such as the NELG **business card**, an **expense form** and a form to report **volunteer hours**, and information on **scholarships and grants**.

Your Newsletter

The NELG Newsletter is published 4 times a year, on or about the 1st of February, May, August and November.

If you choose electronic delivery, you will receive an email informing you when the latest newsletter is available on the NELG website for your viewing pleasure. You will be able to enjoy the contents in color, photos will be re-sizable for a detailed view, and all links will be immediately accessible to you. Past issues of the newsletter back to 1998 are also there for your easy reference.

If you choose to receive your newsletter via US Mail, you'll receive a black and white hardcopy version and be charged a higher dues rate.

Printing Your Newsletter in Duplex

Want to save paper by printing your newsletter on both sides of the sheet? Follow these simple steps:

1. Click on the printer icon in your Adobe Reader window
2. Click on the Properties button (at top of window)
3. Click on Finishing tab
4. Click on Print on Both Sides (manually)
5. Follow directions that will pop up on how to re-insert your paper to print on the second side

Here is an alternative method:

1. Print even (or odd) pages only.
2. Remove pages, turn them over without re-ordering them, and place in printer.
3. Print odd (or even) pages but in reverse order.

Your NELG Library

The New England Lace Group maintains a collection of both print and non-print materials for the use of its members. We have loaded scans of all book covers on the website so you can see each of the books we have. Click [On-Line-Web](#) to view the collection to date.

A representative selection from the Library is available at each monthly meeting, as well as at local Lace Days, thanks to our Assistant Librarians. To be assured of a particular item, please contact

the [Head Librarian](#) and arrange for it to be brought to the meeting or mailed to you. Also, please feel free to contact her with your suggestions for new material to be added to our library for member use. She also welcomes reviews of new or current books for publication in the newsletter.

NELG has documented the Policies and Procedures with regard to how the Library collection is managed. Click on [NELG Library Policy & Procedures](#) and read the changes we have instituted for all members.

Your NELG Membership Directory

The NELG Membership Directory is available on the NELG website to all currently registered members. Check the Directory for the latest contact information of your fellow lace makers. Update your own contact data in the Directory when something changes, and your lace friends will know instantly! If you have a picture of yourself and have difficulty uploading it, please contact our [Webmaster, Jill Hawkins](#), for assistance.

If you don't have access to the internet, you'll receive a hardcopy of the Directory with the February newsletter.

Standing Committees & Appointments

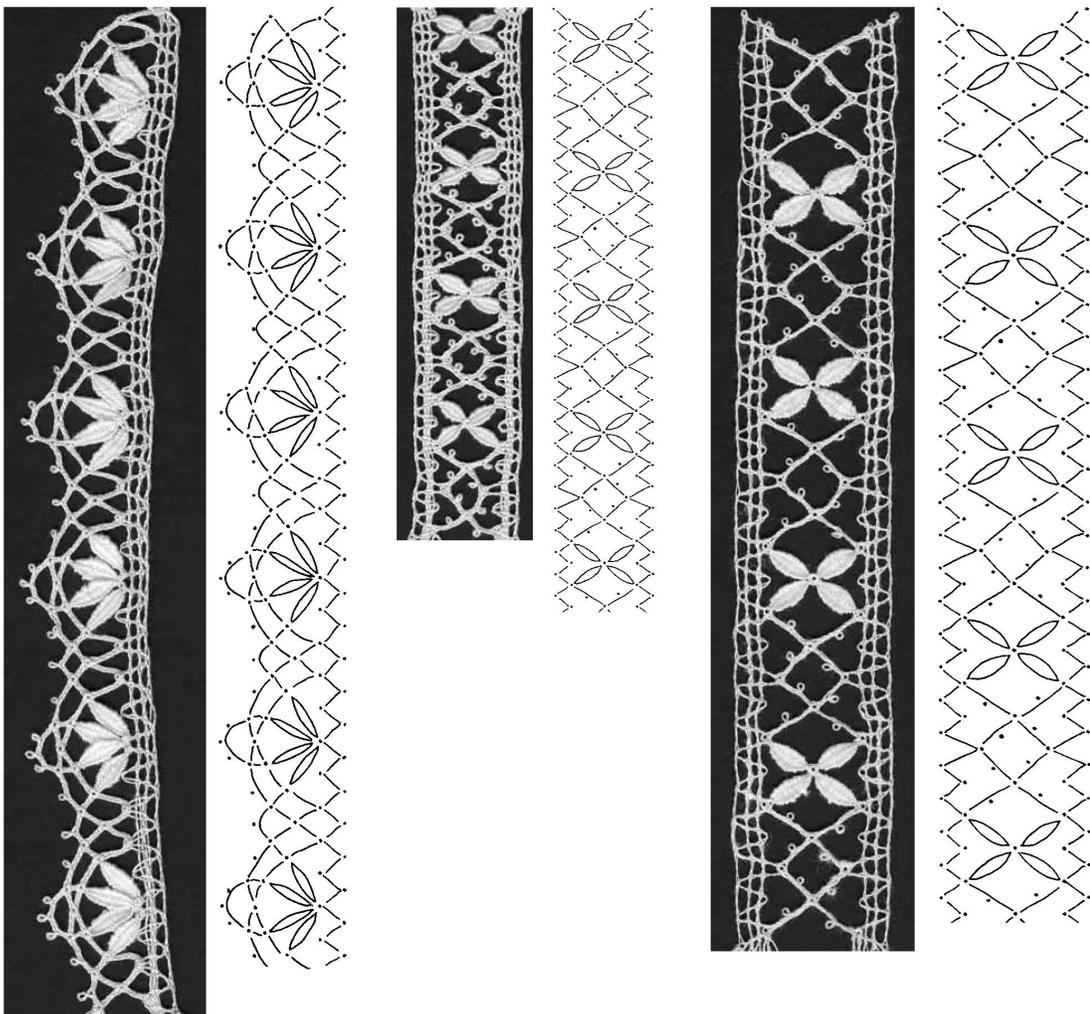
- **Scholarships & Grants:** Janet Blanchard & Barbara Morrow
- **Retreat:** Winann Steinmetz & Jill Hawkins
- **Nominating:** Kate Moore
- **Webmaster Assistant:** Sharon Sacco
- **BIG E Liaison:** Mary Linden
- **Newsletter Editor Assistant:** Mary Mangan

Pattern Pages (from IOLI Pattern Books and CDs)

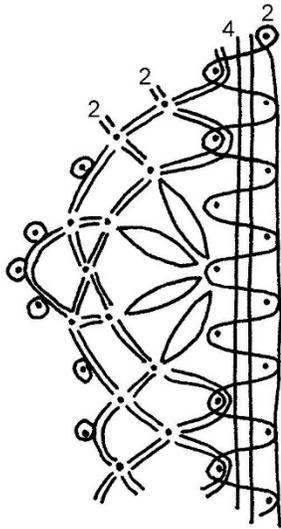
The designers of these patterns retain the copyright for their patterns.
These patterns may be reproduced for personal use only and not for commercial gain.

Edging and insertion from an old nightdress

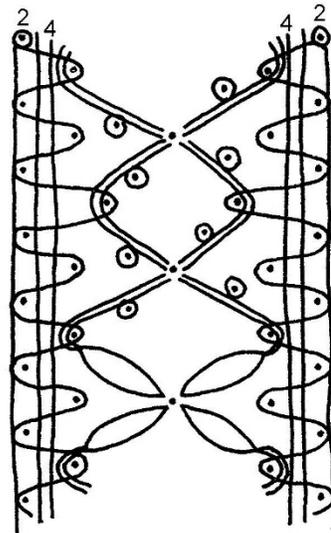
The edging and insertion were drafted from lace on an old nightdress belonging to a fellow member of Glasgow Lace Group. She had been told that the nightdress was made by Belgian refugees living in Kirkintilloch, a small town near Glasgow, during World War I. The nightdress looked as if it had never been worn — it was a rather odd shape as we discovered when we tried it on a model for a talk about lace to wear!



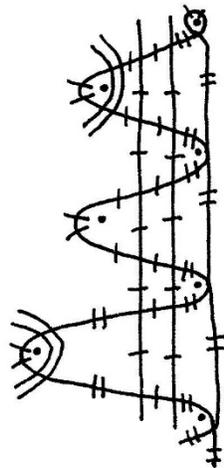
The edging and small insertion (above left and centre) were worked at about the size they were on the nightdress using Madeira Tanne 30. The larger insertion (above right) was worked on the same scale as the edging with 80/2 linen.



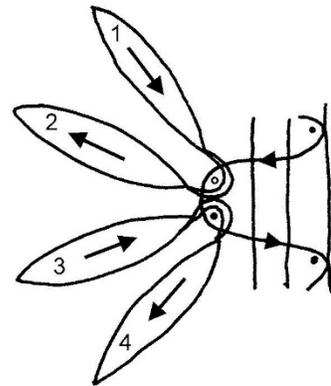
Working diagram for edging
10 pairs



Working diagram for insertion
12 pairs



Working the footside
1 dash = 1 twist



Linking the group of four tallies to the footside
1. Take footside worker through pairs from the first tally and place pin as usual.
2. After making the third tally, take footside worker through the tally pairs, remove pin and replace under worker pair in the same pin-hole.

Paisley Snowflake

Meenakshi (*muskān*) Jain © June 2019
<https://tipsaroundthehome.blogspot.com/>

This 2-round snowflake can be worked in one pass by climbing out with a split ring, mock picot, and smaller split ring. The arms overlap slightly for an organic look.

TWoT (This Way or Tat?) Note : Depending on how one climbs out and works the initial rings, the direction of the paisleys may change.



In Anchor size 40, it measures 6cms tip to tip.

Techniques I used: rosette, [picot join to right](#), 2 shuttles - ctm, directional (fs/bs) tatting, thrown/floating rings, lock join, Josephine Ring.

Abbreviations:

- = picot ; + = join ; dnrw = do not reverse work ; rw = reverse work ;
 TR = thrown ring ([switch shuttle before and after each thrown ring](#)) ;
 JR = Josephine ring ([with half stitch count](#))

Round 1 - Rosette :

ring : (4 - 3 - 3 - 4) x6.
 Join each ring to previous ring ,
 and the last ring to the first.
 Tie & cut.

Round 2 - Paisley :

ring1: 6 + 6. dnrw
 ring2: 6 +(to next petal) 6. rw
 chain: 4, (TJR1: 8), 3, (TR2: 5 - 3 - 2), 3,
 (TR3: 2 + 5 - 5 - 2), 3,
 (TR4: 2 + 7 - 9) rw
 chain: 15, lock join (to TR4).
 turn work, switch shuttle
 chain: 2 (- 2) x12. rw

REPEAT from ring1 for a total of 6 arms.
 Tie, cut and hide ends.



Blogpost (for updates) - <https://tipsaroundthehome.blogspot.com/2019/06/25-snowflake-challenge.html>

More free patterns : <https://tipsaroundthehome.blogspot.com/p/patterns-designs.html>

Contact and tag me with your versions: [Blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [email](#)