

Chesapeake Region Lace Guild

Where lacemaking lives on



A message from the president

Dear CRLG Members and Lace Aficionados,

“First Ladies Gowns in the Smithsonian Collection” by Sheryl De Jong, long time Smithsonian volunteer in the textile collection, will be presented via Zoom on Saturday, January 9, 10:00 - 11:30 EST. This special program for CRLG Members and soon-to-be CRLG Members will NOT be recorded so be sure to mark your calendar so you don't miss this behind the scenes tour. See below for further details.

This newsletter spotlights Peggy Spencer, lace maker, study group leader, and CRLG Librarian. One of the benefits of being a CRLG member is access to its library. While many books were used as gifts for the CRLG 40th Anniversary Luncheon, there remains a core of helpful materials you have access to. Plans are underway to add a few additional ones. A big thank you to Peggy for hosting the CRLG library.

The Board is pleased to announce that the website, CRLG.org, is being rebuilt from the ground up as we speak. The Board had an opportunity to preview the site at their December meeting with Web Mistress Belinda Coulter. Final edits are being made with the goal of launching the new site very soon. Your suggestions, additions, and pictures will be most welcome.

Our best wishes for a joyful holiday season and Happy New Year 2021!

-Linda Kay Benning
CRLG President

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First Ladies Gowns in the Smithsonian Collection

A Presentation by Sheryl De Jong

Saturday, January 9, 2021

10:00 am - 11:30 am Eastern Time

(this presentation will NOT be recorded, you must join the zoom at the time indicated)

We are thrilled to invite you to this special lecture and behind the scenes look at some American treasures. As a prelude to the upcoming presidential inauguration, join CRLG members to hear a presentation by Smithsonian volunteer Sheryl De Jong. Sheryl has been a volunteer in the Textile Collection of the National Museum of American History since 1998. Her work there includes research, data entry, behind the scenes tours, and assisting the curator as needed. She has also been writing about and giving lectures on objects in the collection. Her talk in January will cover the First Ladies dresses from the Smithsonian collection that contain lace and/or embroidery and beading. It will include details of dresses that are not currently on exhibit as some of the dresses can no longer be displayed because of damage done to them by being on exhibit for too long. One gown we will learn more about is pictured above, which was worn by Caroline Harrison, wife of Benjamin Harrison, 23rd president of the United States. It was loaned to the Smithsonian in 1912 by her daughter Mary.

To register for Sheryl's lecture, please email CRLGboard@gmail.com by 10 pm, Friday, January 8, 2021, to receive the zoom link on time.

Cherishing the Chesapeake: Lace of the Bay

At our recent Lace Day business meeting, the members of CRLG voted to embark on an exciting new project. Inspired by a 2018 exhibition at the World Lace Congress in Belgium (see photo below), the Chesapeake Region Lace Guild will create lace banners reflecting and celebrating the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Each study group should identify one member to collect the pieces for their group according to the guidelines below.



Example of a lace strip appropriate for the project, by Mary Tod .

The guidelines:

- Any type of lace is acceptable including bobbin lace, needle lace, crochet, knitting, tatting, etcetera, as long as it is made with fine thread
- Each piece of hand-made lace must be 1.5 to 2 inches wide.
- Each piece should be between 12 and 24 inches long.

- Each lace strip will be mounted horizontally on organza.
- Scallops, fans, or decorative edging is acceptable on what will become the top edge.
- The bottom of each piece should be a straight sewing edge.
- Each lace strip should be primarily blues and greens representing the water, although additional colors of the Bay may be interspersed in the strip.
- Embellishments such as seed beads or tiny pearls are acceptable.
- Each piece collected should be catalogued with the date received, the lace maker's name and the name of the pattern and its designer, so all artists may be credited appropriately.

Each Study Group will collect the lace pieces between now and December 2021. These pieces are meant to create banners that will be used by the guild indefinitely and will not be returned. Details about display and exhibition will be forthcoming in future communications. The intention is to create ethereal banners for a major display, and then to allow each Study Group to keep their own group's work on a banner suitable for display during demonstrations, classes, and other lace events.

If you have any questions please contact: Mary Tod at marytod@me.com.



"KantelinK" by the Sint Tuiden lace group, Belgium, displayed at the 2018 World Lace Congress.

Still Struggling with Zoom?

Zoom has several tutorials online: [Click Here!](#)



PLEASE RENEW **YOUR CRLG MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021**

Comradery, knowledgeable lace makers, cool newsletters, and classes!

All for just \$20 per year.

In this time of COVID we need your help. Please take a few moments to download the membership form and renew your membership for 2021. Zoom and this newsletter program are regular annual costs that don't go away just because we can't meet in person. Members enjoy access to the library, participation in Study Groups that meet regularly throughout the region (and now online), and a directory in which to find lace teachers and demonstrators.

Email Wendy Carballo, Membership Director, at wendy@tattingsbywendy.com.

[Click Here for Membership Form](#)

CRLG Library

With winter weather approaching, we're likely to have even more reason to stay indoors for the next few months. If you find yourself with some time on your hands, think about learning a new style of lace or improving your skills by borrowing a DVD from CRLG's library. You'll find a list of the DVDs in the membership directory and on our website (<http://www.crlg.org/study-groups.html>). Sorry, the books listed on the website are no longer in the library.

Here's what you need to know. Recordings can be borrowed for 60 days; if no one has requested the item, you can keep it for another 30 days. At that time, the item has to be returned to the librarian. Each item must be insured for \$60 when mailed back (*small priority mail box + insurance = \$11.15*). Use of the library is restricted to members of the guild, so be sure to pay your 2021 dues

soon!

Questions? Contact me!

Peggy Spencer (alacegal@gmail.com)

CRLG Librarian

IOLI NEWS

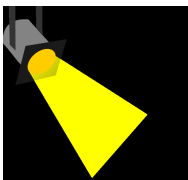


*International Organization
of Lace, Inc.*

The IOLI continues to share lots of interesting content on their website and Facebook page. Click on the link below for inspiration.

[IOLI Website](#)

CRLG Members Share the Love of Lace



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

PEGGY SPENCER

Catonsville, Maryland

When did you first learn to make lace and who taught you?

I think I was interested in making lace long before I even knew what it was. When I was six or seven, in the late 1950s, I saw an elderly woman making bobbin lace at the Maryland State Fair. She was seated outside of the tent that housed the bumper cars (my favorite attraction), and I was mesmerized by the white lace cascading from her dark blue roller pillow and the sparkle of the spangles on her East Midlands bobbins. On three occasions I managed to escape from my family and wander back to watch her. She never spoke to me, but I knew then and there that I wanted to do what she was doing.

I bought my first pillow and bobbins from Snowgoose Lace at the 1998 Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. The kit included the book *Bobbin Lace Without a Teacher*, and from that I learned just enough of the basics to work the six prickings in the book. But I had questions that weren't addressed in the book and didn't know where to turn. The local bookstores and libraries were not exactly flush with books about lace. YouTube didn't exist, and Google hadn't organized the internet yet. I had heard there were lacemakers in my area, but where were they?

In 2005, knowing I was still eager to make bobbin lace, a friend suggested we go to a lacemaking demonstration in Historic Ellicott City. There I found those elusive local lacemakers known as the Log Cabin Lacers. Sandy Shaffer sat with me at a demo pillow while I relearned crosses and twists. In addition, I am most fortunate to have benefited from the knowledge, experience, and encouragement of Mary Tod, Ruth Tanner, Susan Kuvelker, Karen Haynes, and the late Aurelia Loveman. Without them, I'm

not sure I would ever have learned to read a thread diagram!

Do you have a photo of your first piece of lace?

The book I learned from did not suggest an appropriate thread for the prickings, so I used whatever I had on hand. Turns out it was DMC Cotton 30. As you can see in the photograph, it was not a good choice. A rookie mistake but a valuable lesson learned about gauge.



What is your favorite kind of lace to make and why?

I'm primarily a point ground lacemaker who has dabbled in other types of lace. TØnder appeals to me because the size of the gimp is so much larger than the working thread, which really emphasizes the motifs.

Do you teach lace-making?

I've been told I am a natural-born teacher. One of the most satisfying periods in my career was spent as a corporate trainer for a regional bank. Not too long ago, I taught a workshop for beginners at the local yarn shop in Catonsville, during which 10 students made Christine Springett's snake bookmark. Because the Log Cabin Lacers meet at my home monthly, newbies sometimes come to me for help between meetings.

What are you working on now?

Once it became clear in April that I was going to be housebound for quite a while, I decided to start a large project. While finishing a Gravenmoerse fan in 2008, I carelessly cut some threads and picots along the edge. I still wince in pain whenever I see those dangling threads. So, I thought it was time for a do-over.



Virtual CRLG Meeting Assistance

Given our new normal, the CRLG Board authorized the purchased of aZoom Pro account that will be available for use by the Board, Study Groups, Classes and Lace Days. This will allow members to meet online and stay safe during this pandemic. Board Secretary Karen Witt will handle the scheduling and assist with sending out Zoom invitations. This package allows for unlimited time for a meeting and will host up to 100 participants at a time.

Please contact Karen directly at CRLGboard@gmail.com to arrange zoom meetings.



IOLI Gift Patterns

Click the links below for patterns from the IOLI Charter Chapter Gift CD 2020, part of a gift to the chapters from the IOLI Un-Conference. We are free to use them but may not sell them and should credit the contributors.

[Below Zero by JoAnn Sterns](#)

[Torchon Christmas Tree Garland by Shirley Stone](#)

Volunteer Hours

In this time of Coronavirus you may not know that what you are doing counts as volunteer hours. The International Organization of Lace, Inc., tracks volunteer hours for the chapters. Time spent participating in the following activities since May 1st should be considered volunteer hours for this year and reported to the IOLI.

- writing articles for the newsletter
- banking for the guild
- editing membership directories
- decorating charitable donations with lace
- public demonstrations of lace making
- work on the banner to promote the guild

Please email volunteer hours to Karen Thompson at karenhthompson@gmail.com

Save the Date!

Saturday
April 24, 2021

Chesapeake Region Lace Guild **Spring Lace Day**

*The guild will once again
participate with*
**Fairfax County's
Spotlight on the Arts**

More details coming soon

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Twenty dollars (\$20) buys a year of access to the library!

Making lace, like other artistic endeavors, can help us through tough times by giving us something to enjoy, something positive to look forward to, something beautiful to look at. The CRLG library has books and DVD about lace making that members can borrow. Please support the *Chesapeake Region Lace Guild* by renewing your membership. Let's keep making lace together for a while longer.

Additional donations welcome.

Membership Form

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT!

*Please send photos and articles to post on Facebook
or to include in the newsletter to Karen Witt at CRLGboard@gmail.com*

