

**Bi-monthly newsletter of the Foundation
and the activities at the Museum**



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Funded entirely by donors, new chandeliers adorn the museum.

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Sign up for the lace class in the Fall is now available.

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Have a docent take you through the museum on a one or two-hour tour.

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We hosted a luncheon and a celebration of a 100th birthday.

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Museum Upgrade

By Hugo Uyttenhove

When we opened the museum in July of 2024, we had imagined a new look for the exhibition room with the high ceilings and beautiful columns between the windows. Because we removed cubicles, there were no ceiling fixtures above the new open spaces, and we made do with the low light quality from three existing chandeliers.

A special fundraising effort to replace the chandeliers and add two more resulted in just enough funds to purchase and install the items.

The picture above shows a general view of what was accomplished. We're particularly glad that the 'dark corner' now has enough light to make the entire place an elegant room..



We are looking forward to more museum upgrades as time goes on. In particular, we expect to upgrade a side room into a place for a special collection given on loan. In a previous newsletter, we mentioned that the International Organization of Lacemakers Inc. (IOLI) has agreed to have the Raleigh Lace Museum curate and display **the Eunice Sein Koon Lace Collection**.

We plan to have the opening of this room in the Fall of this year. Associated with this, we will start a specific fundraising drive to redo the room, install new lighting and display materials, and have special drawers built to hold lace items not shown in displays.

We are looking forward to the 2026 IOLI Convention in Durham, NC, and we are looking forward to seeing the attendees. Stay tuned!

Beginner lace classes

By Prabha Ramakrishnan



Eight students were enrolled in the Spring Beginner Bobbin Lace class that was team-taught by Praba Ramakrishnan and Liz Redford of Sir Walter Lacers. They met over 10 weeks for 2 hours. Given that all were professionals with full-time jobs, it was gratifying to see how enthusiastic they were when attending class after a hard day's work! They were quick learners with a strong desire to learn more. Two are now registered for a three-day workshop. We could not have asked for a better outcome!

A new session for beginners will start in the Fall. Click [here](#) to check the museum website for the upcoming dates, registration, and payment details.

Guided tours

Docents are available to give tours of the museum. The tour includes a short history of lacemaking and an explanation of the many types of lace. Patrons learn about the basic techniques of creating this art.

During and after opening hours, there are one-hour and two-hour tours for various group sizes. To learn more about our guided tours, visit the museum website [here](#). For a quick online tour, click below [The Raleigh Lace Museum \(youtube.com\)](#)

Membership drive in May

A membership at the museum is a clear way to support the organization. The benefits include:

- Invitation to view new collections with a docent's guidance
- Invitation to special events featuring food and drinks. Such events may be lectures, a look into our curated but not yet exhibited laces, lace auctions, and member-recognition gatherings.
- Early receipt of our bi-monthly newsletter.
- A FREE 1-hour evaluation by a lace identifier and curator of a lace piece you may have.

You will receive our membership drive information soon in your inbox. You may click [here](#) to purchase your membership. We hope you consider a lifetime membership as an individual or a family.

Events at the Museum

In the first quarter of this year, there were 14 events, most of them in the form of guided tours. The many favorable comments have prompted us to invite more groups to take a tour. One of those groups organized a tour and a catered luncheon in the museum. (see picture below at right)

On March 30th, we hosted a private family birthday party for close to 100 people, appropriate for the matriarch of the family turning 100 years old. This catered event worked well in our exhibition space. (see picture below at left)



Bruges Lace from 1610



The oldest piece of lace in the museum was created ca. 1610. It is a wide edge (4 inches) of Bruges Flower Lace made with Cotton. The estate of Michael Guisiana, a fervent lace collector, donated this item.

The paperwork with the piece indicated the history of this edge of a large altar cloth. It was in a small church at the beginning of the 17th century. In 1628, the 80-year-old war in Western Europe threatened many buildings in churches and convents. Nuns at a nearby convent took the edge of the cloth and hid it until after the Treaty of Munster. It was used repeatedly in and out of the church, but it was removed when Napoleon took over the Netherlands (including Flanders). That was good since his troops used the church as a horse stable for many years. The remaining good lace sections came on the market, and Michael made off with one of the best-preserved pieces!

We are grateful for the entire collection that he donated to our museum.