

From a Wish to Reality,

by Beverly Davis, Oregon

I learned how to make lace in 1992 and have loved every minute of it. Sort of, not counting the stress of learning a new technique etc.

Fast forward to our moving from Clackamas to Woodburn Oregon in 2005 and eventually getting around to finding a church to attend. The people there were very welcoming and over the years I've longed to do something in lace, but it is not a liturgical church where I could maybe decorate an altar cloth or a vestment.

So, there I was most Sundays, until after Christine Mirecki's book *Sternenzauber 1* came out. I had seen it at convention, but it wasn't until November of 2021 as I was listening to the sermon when I had this "wonderful" idea. I could make some stars for the church to use for Christmas decorations!

Now I can tell you with certainty that you should be very careful about what you wish for. I consulted with Melissa, who is head of the decorating committee, and had to explain to her about bobbin lace etc. I referenced the book so she could see it on-line and sort of understand what I was thinking. Little did I know.....

So, with Mirecki's book in hand and trying different patterns, I chose a medium star and made two of them. Keeping in mind that there was no clue of how the layout of the decorations would be used and how many I should make.

The star on the cover of the book is roughly 14 1/2" in diameter. After much angst to find thread that would fit the pattern, I made the first one. I then decided to increase the pricking to be 15 1/2" and made 3 of them. I made two medium sized stars and found another design I liked better in

the book *Torchonmuster-Bunt gemischt* by Brigitte Bellon. I made eight of those. The small ones I chose from the Mirecki book and I made 18 of them.

I got all of those done by the end of October 2022 with a sigh of relief from me, and squeals of delight from Melissa. I did not realize my task was not complete. At a gathering of our Salem, Oregon lace makers at the Willamette Heritage Center, a newer member of the group came in with a star pattern her girlfriend from England had forwarded to her. It was a Bethlehem Star in Bedfordshire called Guiding Star, by Lesley F. Williams. She was sharing the pattern with us as it is free on the designer's website. You guessed it; I took it home.

Upon studying the pattern, I knew I needed help with it since the only class I ever took in Beds was eons ago when Holly VanSciver came to Portland. I was a new lace maker then and knew my little medallion was no match for this pattern. I got my books out (didn't help) and decided before frustration set in to call upon our resident Beds maven LeAnn (Smith). She and another lace maker Jean (Reeves) sat down with me after Thanksgiving and with the diagram and Jean's books she let me borrow, off to my pillow I went. After spending most of my life avoiding petals, I did manage to make adequate petals to pass inspection.

I did myself a favor by increasing the size of the pattern by 50% (which is the size I wanted), figured out what thread to use and I finished it on November 30th and on December 1st after our show and tell ending our monthly PLS meeting I turned it in to the decorating ladies at the church.

I hope you all enjoyed my tale of stars, lace, and my attempt at presenting lace for others to enjoy. Oh, and by the way. I found out that Melissa's great grandmother was a lace maker.





< —The Start of it all

A greeting at the front door >



On a side window

Smaller Stars in entryway cubbies - - - - -



Some close-ups



The end of the journey - The Bethlehem Star



A couple of doves got in the act from the OI DFA Bulletin.

We let them stay.

