

Law library laces up an unusual exhibit

By [Mark Hofmann](#)

DAILY COURIER

Sunday, May 17, 2009

The almost-lost art of tatting is on display at the Fayette County Law Library, featuring an artist from West Virginia.

Tatting is another way of making lace patterns such as doilies and women's collars through a series of knots and loops.

Fayette County Assistant Law Librarian Barbara Pasqua normally finds local artists with unique talents to highlight in monthly displays at the library, but this time she intentionally set out to find someone who practices and has accomplished tatting.

"I knew about lace making, but didn't know anyone who actually did it," Pasqua said.

She approached Ro Brooks at the Monongalia Art Center and found an accomplished tatter in Martha Becilla.

The 87-year-old woman lives in Morgantown and has been tatting since age 20. She learned when she was living in Nebraska and was forced into the art by her mother and her legally-blind great aunt.

"She was glad they did that," Pasqua said and added she was glad to display samples of Becilla's work including Christmas ornaments, a card decoration, a pin cushion, collars from the 1960s, a lace doily, bookmarks and towels.

Becilla has made dozens of articles, both for the sake of the handicraft itself and for purposes of promoting the lost art.

She won several blue ribbons from the West Virginia State Fair and the Greene County Fair, and she even has tatted fans in which her daughter's bridesmaids carried flowers.

"She said that this keeps her hands arthritis-free," Pasqua said, adding that Becilla carries tatting items in her pocket.

Check it out

Becilla's tatting will be on display through May 31 at the Fayette County Law Library located on the second floor of the courthouse on 61 E. Main St., Uniontown.

Admission is free and the library is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



The almost-lost art of tatting is on display at the Fayette County Law Library thanks to Fayette County Assistant Law Librarian Barbara Pasqua who is featuring the work of an 87 year-old artist from West Virginia.
Mark Hofmann/Daily Courier