



*January 2021*

*Happy New Year!*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Happy New Year, Scribes!

Let's wave goodbye to 2020 and embrace 2021 with hope, dreams, and creativity. My new year's wish is to see you all soon; however, that's not going to happen for the time being so we will continue with virtual meetings through the Spring. We had a good turnout for our virtual November general meeting and I hope that we have an even better turnout for the Spring meetings.

Thank you to Rose Wathen for her tutorial during our November meeting. It was a really fun exercise. Carol Hall has new programs lined up for our Spring meetings. We will be asking for guild input so keep your eyes on your email. I will send out the Zoom invitation for the guild meetings a couple days before the meeting.

Ann Cobb continues to do a great job keeping us informed about upcoming workshops. We have had some of the teachers here before in Nashville to teach, but the others have not had the opportunity to teach here. Please take advantage of all the classes you can. I also continue to encourage you to share your lettering projects or exchange envelopes on social media for all of us to see. Use the #nashvillecalligraphersguild.

I don't think I've ever looked forward this much to a New Year. I hope it lives up to all the expectations that I'm putting on it.

Take care and stay safe,

Susan Wallace,  
NCG President

## **Next meeting:**

**JANUARY 9, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.**  
via ZOOM

The NCG Board Meeting will be at 9 a.m.

**An invitation will be sent by Susan Wallace before the meeting time with a link to join.**

Our January meeting will include a slideshow of work created over this past year. I know that many of you have been taking online classes during the pandemic and doing some awesome work. So, I am asking you to consider submitting 1 or 2 photos of a completed piece, OR a section of a piece you are developing. This could also include homework from any of your online classes that you would like to share. Please include work that has some calligraphic element to it. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate.

In the interest of privacy and artist security, all photos submitted will be a size that is NOT print quality. Further, the slideshow will not be recorded or posted to any form of social media—including Facebook. It will only be viewed by those attending the virtual Guild meeting on January 9.

I sincerely hope you will participate. I know that some great art has been happening this past year. I will be sending another email with details for your submissions. So, please join the fun. We can't wait to see what you have been working on!

Carol Hall  
NCG VP

**NASHVILLE  
CALLIGRAPHERS  
GUILD**

**2020-2021 BOARD OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT: Susan Wallace

VICE PRESIDENT: Carol Hall

TREASURER: Marsha French

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Joyce Holleman

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Ruth Haskins

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Valerie Cypress

Carol Percy

Chris Hackenbrack

Sharon Perry

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

WORKSHOPS: Ann Cobb

EXHIBITS: Valerie Cypress

LIBRARIAN: Gayla Hall

MEMBERSHIP: Sharon Shirley

NAME TAGS: Open

DOOR PRIZES: Open

NEWSLETTER: Beth Paul, Joyce Skaggs

REFRESHMENTS: Open

SCRIBEHAVEN: Vicki Brandt

WEBSITE: Kimberly Blevins, Laura Kraft

SUMMER ENVELOPE EXCHANGE:

Carol Hall

LOGO DESIGN: Vicki Brandt

## Workshop Survey

Happy New Year. We plan to do an online workshop survey some time in January to determine what classes you have taken, what workshops you would like to take, and some other pertinent information.

We would ask that each of you participate in the survey so that we can plan accordingly. You will have a few days to look at various lettering styles to let us know what you would like to study.

Until we can safely gather in person, you will continue to receive announcements of zoom classes taught by excellent teachers. I encourage you to take advantage of studying with teachers that you might not have opportunity to study with in person.

Stay safe!

Ann Cobb  
Workshop Chair

Although the newsletter is not mailed, there is still a process to go through which would not get done without the help of our contributors so a big thank you to the contributors of this issue: Susan Wallace, Carol Hall, Ann Cobb, and Valerie Cypress. You are very much appreciated!

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## TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ZOOM MEETING

During this unusual year we have had with social distancing, practices have changed greatly on how we go about doing things, including remote meetings (and classes!). There may be some of you who are not familiar with the newest technology that is being used for virtual meetings, called Zoom. This format is a little different than some of the other visual tools like Skype or the screen sharing on the iPhones, etc. There can be hundreds of participants which means that it can sometimes be difficult to have a successful meeting and gain useful information in an efficient and timely way. Since the Guild has held board meetings through Zoom and will be holding general meetings through Zoom in the future, here are a few tips to aid in getting our business taken care of and keeping our Guild flourishing.

1. Mute yourself when not speaking to eliminate extraneous noise and audio echoing.
2. Be on time.
3. Make sure your technology is working properly.
4. Make sure you have the latest version of Zoom installed.
5. Wear appropriate clothing -- be aware that others are seeing you and everything you do.
6. Frame the camera to display your head shot in good lighting.
7. Look into the camera.
8. Pay attention during the meeting.
9. Avoid all eating and stay seated once the meeting begins.
10. Do not interrupt anyone speaking; wait your turn.

**Don't forget...**

## **Centennial Art Center Exhibit June 11-July 22, 2021**

A huge thank you goes out to Ann Cobb for keeping us informed about calligraphic arts classes to take via Zoom during this unprecedented time when we are all looking for something constructive and positive to do!

Well, let's put that time to good use! Our guild will have an exhibit at Centennial Art Center this coming year--- June 11-July 22, 2021. This is our first show in two years, so with 8 months and an abundance of learning opportunities (and therefore, projects), we have every reason possible to come up with a terrific show! Also, it is a great way to sell your work since the art center wants as many pieces as possible for sale.

So, get out your paper, pens, ink, and glitter (if you want) and let's show Nashville what our talented guild members can do!

As in the past, the CAC requires that all pieces exhibited must new and not shown before. That should not be a problem since we all have enough time to finish something. So let's get started thinking ahead to 2021 and make this our best show ever!

Valerie Cypress  
Exhibits Chair

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## **Virtual Holiday Fair**

New York's Society of Scribes hosts an annual Holiday Fair featuring calligraphers and artists from their Guild doing demonstrations for members and guests. Paper & Ink Arts and John Neal Bookseller always set up a mini store for members to shop.

This year, of course, their tradition could not continue as in past years. They instead hosted a virtual event and invited interested parties to participate. Below is a brief recap of their event -- something our Guild might consider at some point.

Debra Dick cut snowflakes from paper on which she had done lettering and artwork. Eleanor Winders demonstrated using oil pastels in layers with lettering. Cynthia Dantzig demonstrated the Braille system, explaining the system of dots for sighted people as well as visually impaired. Barry Lorentz demonstrated Glorious Gothic Capitals Susan Steele lettered and painted on holiday ornaments using a layout template for her work. Lynne Yun gave a brief history of European Writing Masters. Olivia Kane discussed using typefaces for lettering inspiration. And finally, Anna Pinto and Christopher Calderhead demonstrated their process of joint lettering -- each did a small piece, and the other added to those pieces.

We are certainly not New York, but this might be a good project to draw interest to our Guild and what we do.

Ann Cobb, Workshop Chair

# Nashville Calligraphers Guild Calligrabuddies

Have you been searching for a way to stay motivated to practice your calligraphy during the pandemic? Have you been missing our Guild meetings and workshops this year?

We are “borrowing” an idea that might encourage you to stay connected to our Guild and to share your skills and practice your lettering. The European Pointed Pen Collective developed the idea of Calligrabuddies to do just that.

In the Calligrabuddies program, you will be matched to another calligrapher for 2021 to keep each other company, encourage and motivate each other, share knowledge, exchange envelopes — whatever you can think of to keep practicing and producing calligraphy pieces.

Please email the information below to Ann Cobb ([cobbann02@aol.com](mailto:cobbann02@aol.com)) by January 15 to be included in our program. By entering the program, you give us your permission to share your contact information with your Calligrabuddy. You can include the main script or scripts that you want to work on in 2021 so that we can try to match you with someone who might be working on the same hand(s).

If you know of a Guild member that you would like to be your buddy, please include that information. We will attempt to match you with that person — but cannot guarantee requested matches. Our plan is to match each person with one other Guild member.

We will provide opportunities for you to share your practice and your work in our Guild newsletter and in Zoom meetings.

We encourage all members to participate no matter your skill level.

If you wish to participate, please email the following information to Ann Cobb no later than January 15, 2021.

Name

Email Address

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone Number

What script or scripts do you plan to focus on in 2021?

Name of a Guild member that you wish would like to be your Calligrabuddy.

# **Festive Flourish** with Heather Victoria Held

Reviewed by Ann Cobb

What better way to greet December than to spend two days creating holiday flourishes with the incredible Heather Victoria Held. Heather taught through Acorn Arts (Harvest Crittenden's web site) and led 150 of us through constrained flourishes.

Constrained flourishes differ from offhand flourishes in that they are bounded by a shape. Our shapes consisted of stars, Christmas trees, and other holiday ornaments. Heather suggested that we use cookie cutters to pencil in our initial designs.

References suggested were Ornate Pictorial Calligraphy (which is a reprint of Fascinating Pen Flourishing), Ames Compendium of Practical Penmanship, Old-Fashioned Floral Illustrations, Old Fashioned Christmas Illustrations, and Vintage Christmas Cards. Suggested nibs were Zebra G, Hunt 22, and Hunt 101; suggested inks were Old World Iron Gall and McCaffery's Penman's Ink (black), and Dr. Martin's Bleed-Proof White. Suggested practice papers included Rhodia, Strathmore 400 Series Drawing Paper, or Maruman Imagination. Project papers included Michael's Recollection Card Stock in various colors, Artagain black paper, and Mi-Tientes papers. She adds color with Faber-Castell Polychromos colored pencils, Diane Townsend pastels, Sakura Stardust Gelly Roll Clear pens, Swarovski Hot Fix Crystals, and Finetec metallic watercolors.

Heather uses a straight holder for her flourishing work. She began our sessions with her usual pencil oval warm-up exercises. After the ovals came figure-eights, both horizontal and vertical. Then these exercises were done with pen and ink. These warm-up drills relax the person and allow him or her to focus on the sound of the pen on the paper.

We began by creating cartouches, adding multiple strokes and curves. We looked at negative spaces to know where to add more elements.

We worked on half-sheets of paper, approximately 5" x 7". Heather suggested that our designs be no larger than 3". When working on dark paper, she suggested that we use a plumbers soap stone pencil to lightly draw our initial design. These lines erase quite easily.

Helpful hints included:

- keeping a separate rinse jar for Dr. Martin's Bleed-Proof White so that our color does not get contaminated.
- keeping a separate rinse jar for rinsing gold from brushes and nibs. You can then pour off the excess water and recapture the gold from the bottom of the jar.
- use Gem Tack Glue to adhere crystals to your work.
- shadow main strokes with Sakura Gelly Roll Clear Pen.
- when your design is completely dry, remove pencil lines with a kneaded eraser, Black Factic eraser, or a Tombow Mono eraser.
- embed your signature or initials within the design on a curve.
- create the base of a Christmas tree using figure eight strokes decreasing in size.
- don't use color unless it adds to the design.
- flourishing cannot hide bad lettering.

As with all of Heather's classes, she inspired and amazed us with her designs. She is such a sharing, giving teacher – never "hiding" or "withholding" any technique. She shares everything she does freely and graciously.

She plans two more flourishing workshops through Acorn Arts in 2021. These will feature more advanced flourishing techniques. So if you are interested, watch for more details.



## Watercolor Borders with Vivian Mungall

Reviewed by Ann Cobb



*Artwork by Ann Cobb*

IAMPETH Master Penman Vivian Mungall recently taught a Watercolor Borders class through Zoom where she shared her secrets for creating the beautiful borders that she adds to the certificates that she creates. If you missed this wonderful workshop, she will be teaching it again in late winter 2021.

Vivian demonstrated three different borders ranging from relatively simple to more detailed. She creates her border outlines in pencil and does not outline them. Her initial outlines are done on tracing paper where she indicates dark areas and shadows with pencil. She sometimes adds colored pencil or marker so that she has a map to follow regarding her colors.

Her tools include Winsor-Newton Artist Watercolor Paints, Arches 140# hot press watercolor paper (with scraps for testing colors), Robert Simmons White Synthetic Sable Round Brush (size 1 or 2) for blending colors, Princeton Series 4050 Heritage Synthetic Sables Brush Round (size 2) for actual painting, straight pen holder with pointed nib, and white china plate used as a palette.

Vivian's camera was approximately 6" from her design, so students could very easily see every detail of her process.

As in all creations, lettering is done first, gilding is done next, followed by painting and embellishing.

Recommended resources include The Macclesfield Alphabet, The Zanerian Manual, Business Educator magazines (University of Scranton Library), and Botanical Painting in Watercolor by Billy Showell.

Vivian's recommendations include making color strips of your paints, from very watery to quite thick, making lots of notes on your papers and samples so that you know what you did when you need to repeat a design, lightening pencil lines with BLUTACK (from Amazon.com) rolled into a long roll, and using a very dry brush technique.

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Her technique showed a definite difference between light and dark, included very light area for highlights, and painting all leaves/petals of one color at one time so that you know where you are going. She builds up color very slowly with several coats of paint.

If you are interested in learning to paint borders, I highly recommend this class. Watch for dates for her next session.



## **Filigree with Benoit Furet**

Reviewed by Beth Paul

Having seen his article in the Bound & Lettered magazine (vol. 17, #1), I was excited to see that Benoit Furet was offering an online class on filigree. It was two, two-hour classes.

Benoit first gave a short history of filigree, which was in vogue from the 12th century through the 15th century, and he pointed out the colors that were traditionally used in filigree. He then showed us how to break up the negative space and fill it with “the golf club” which is really pretty to use. Warning: It is not as easy as it appears! He also showed other designs to be used as extra elements to enhance the letter. It is quite easy to get carried away doing this.

At the end of the second class, Benoit asked to see samples so I emailed the sample here. I received a reply back with a very nice critique.

I really enjoyed this class and I will definitely be doing more of these designs.

He can be found on FB. Look for Anachropsy Benoit Furet. Be sure to look at his photos, especially his Christmas window full of filigree ornaments.



### **About the Guild**

The Nashville Calligrapher's Guild was formed in 1981 to foster the continued study, practice, and use of calligraphy among its members and to encourage community awareness of the art of calligraphy. To this end, the Guild meets five times a year, publishes a newsletter, and sponsors workshops and related activities.

Membership inquiries can be directed to Sharon Shirley at 615-545-1481. Membership is open to anyone interested in calligraphy. *The membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. Dues are due on June 1 and are considered delinquent if not received within six weeks of that date. Dues are \$30 per year for a regular membership. Membership forms can be found on the website. Checks are made payable to **Nashville Calligraphers Guild** (no abbreviations, please!) and mailed to Treasurer at P.O. Box 41485, Nashville TN 37204.*

Meetings are held the second Saturday in September, November, January, March, and May. The Guild meets at Plaza Artist Materials in downtown Nashville, 633 Middleton Avenue, Nashville, TN 37203. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. with social time immediately before at 10:00 a.m. (NOT during COVID pandemic, until further notice...).

The Nashville Calligraphers Guild can be found on Facebook and Instagram as well as the NCG website at <http://www.nashvillecalligraphersguild.org>.

Contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Submissions are made with implied permission to be used on a space-available basis as well as being subject to editing for length, clarity and conformance including but not limited to title and captions. Edits are not routinely returned to authors for review before publication due to time constraints. Photos and artwork may be reduced to accommodate available space. Please send high quality digital files for text, photos and original artwork to [bethletters@bellsouth.net](mailto:bethletters@bellsouth.net).