



January 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

December was a busy month for the Guild with the Brentwood Library exhibit, Carol Hall's watercolor workshop, and a Zoom party.

A big thank you goes out to Carol Hall for helping hang our Brentwood Library Show on December 1st and to Kristina Howard for coming and videotaping the exhibit. Their input was valuable and helped to curate a great show. While the hanging wall pieces were taken down in December, the display cases are still full our guild members' work and some of the tools used in the process. Personally, I think the cases look great and I hope you get to see them if you get a chance to go to the John Holt Library in Brentwood. The display cases will be up through January.

I really enjoyed our Holiday Zoom Party on December 10th. To be honest, I wasn't sure how a zoom party would really work. But people shared what they were working on, and things they had learned in Carol Hall's watercolor embellishments class. It was amazing to see what could be done with a blob of color and a few lines. If Carol teaches again, I would advise you to sign up. What they learned was impressive!

After a busy December, it feels good to start a new year with so much to look forward to!

Our next Guild meeting will be in person at the Frist Museum. Rose Wathen will be doing the program, so it is bound to be good! She is so creative and such a good teacher that whatever we do will be fun.

Please remember to send in your reservations for Scribehaven at Lake Barkley in Kentucky, February 22-25, 2024. This will be our 25th year and most likely, our last. Let's make this one our best yet and go out with a flourish. Many, many thanks to Vicki Brandt who has made Scribehaven possible. Our guild is so much richer for her efforts to build stronger bonds between our members.

In March, our meeting will be at Paper and Ink Arts where we plan to have a much belated anniversary celebration. Details to follow.

That's enough for now. I wish you all a very happy, healthy, and productive 2024 - and I hope to see you soon.

Valerie Cypress
NCG President

NCG Schedule for 2023-2024

*Note: Meeting locations are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.
Be sure to check social media for the latest information.*

**NASHVILLE
CALLIGRAPHERS
GUILD
2023-2024 BOARD OFFICERS:**

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SCRIBEHAVEN: Vicki Brandt
WEBSITE: Christine Shaw
SOCIAL MEDIA: Kristina Howard
SUMMER ENVELOPE EXCHANGE:
Carol Hall
LOGO DESIGN: Vicki Brandt

2024

January 13, 2024 -- Guild Meeting at the Frist Museum

February 22-24, 2024 -- Scribehaven 2024.

March 9, 2024 -- Guild Meeting at Paper and Ink Arts

May 11, 2024--Guild Meeting at the Frist Museum

September 7, 2024 -Pointed Pen Versals with Mike Kecseg (Zoom)

Other Calligraphic Events

June 22-29, 2024, International Calligraphy Conference, Davenport, Iowa

June 30 - July 6, 2024, IAMPETH Conference, San Antonio, Texas

Thank you to the contributors of this issue: Valerie Cypress, Vicki Brandt, Ann Cobb, Rose Wathen, Kristina Howard, and Ginny Pennekamp.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Pointed Pen Versals with Mike Kecseg

Mike Kecseg will be joining us via zoom on Saturday, September 7, 2024, to teach us his Pointed Pen Versals. Mark your calendars now so that you don't miss this workshop.

Mike is an IAMPETH Master Penman and an outstanding teacher. He has taught for the Nashville Guild several times in the past.

More information about this workshop as well as spring workshops will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. December has just been busier than I would have liked, and workshop planning and scheduling became a victim of my schedule.

Ann Cobb
Workshop Chair

JANUARY MEETING

IN PERSON

Saturday, January 13, 2024 @ 10:30 a.m.
at the Frist Museum
919 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203

(Parking will be discounted for Guild members. If it does not come up on the screen when leaving, buzz the attendant and tell them you are a member of the Guild.)

****Note**** - *Since the meeting is in person and the flu season is in full swing, everyone is welcome to wear masks if desired.*

JANUARY PROGRAM

Decorative Letters in the Style of Sherri Kiesel

With Rose Wathen

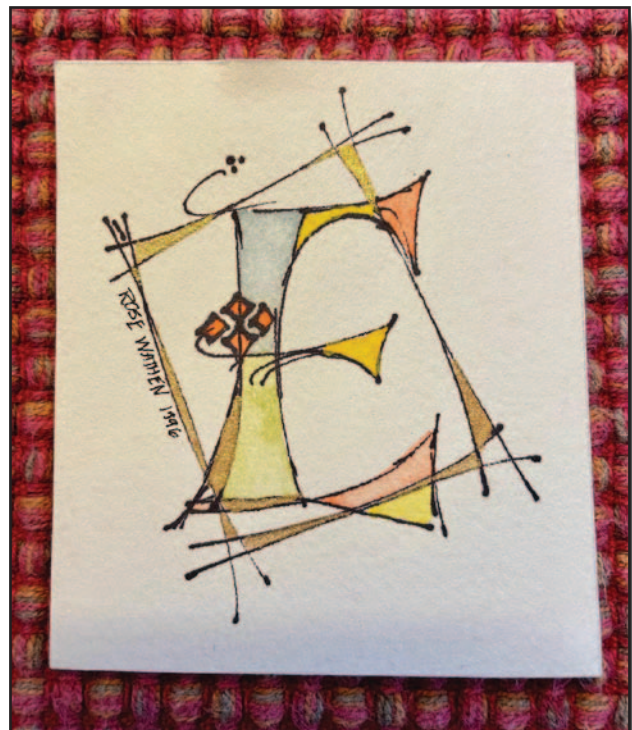
In 1996, our Guild hosted Sherri Kiesel, teaching her lovely letterforms at Volunteer State. Now, all these years later, I am still “drawn” to her letters. They are light and airy capitals that I have used for monograms, an illuminated first letter of a paragraph, and for gifts. They all have a glimmer highlight. We will use pencil to draw, micron pens to outline, watercolor pencils to fill in each letter, and shimmer paints to highlight. All skill levels can do this! Come and experiment with us!

Provided:

Watercolor papers
Handouts & examples
Shimmer paint to share
Watercolor pencils to share
Paper towels
Water jars
Silver and gold gouache to share

What to bring:

Micron pens, 01 or 03 or 05
Small brush (size 0-2) or water brush
Pencil & eraser
Finetec or other shimmer paint (don't buy, I will will extra)



SCRIBEHAVEN 2024

New Year greetings to all my calligraphy comrades. This is the last call for our retreat, Scribehaven. We are including the registration form in the newsletter. If you would like to attend, please send in your form as soon as possible, and don't forget to make your lodging reservations. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact me. I would love to chat, and I look forward to seeing YOU at Scribehaven!

Vicki Brandt
BrandtVL@aol.com
(865) 661-4108

LETTERING PROJECT 2023-2024

Reminders for our Word of the Month project.

Here are the simple rules:

1. 3" x 5" paper -- colored, plain white or black, handmade, your choice of color and type.
2. Create the assigned word in any calligraphic style you like, embellish it, flourish it, emboss it -- make it yours.
3. List tools and materials on the back side of the paper.

We will be creating a handmade book at the end of this 2+ year project in which you will place your words. So keep that in mind as you choose a color scheme.

Sound like fun? Feel free to join us on this journey. Go back to hands that you have learned since Covid sidelined us all or hands that you studied in live workshops -- any hands that you like. This is your opportunity to be creative.

Your next words are:

- January -- Magic
February -- Nature

Here are the words in the previous newsletters, they are:

2023

- January -- Awesome
February -- Bloom
March -- Color
April -- Dream
May -- Earth
June -- Fancy
July -- Gem
August -- Hope
September -- Ideal
October -- Jazz
November -- Kite
December -- Lace

Have fun with this project.
Ann Cobb

Scribehaven Retreat for 2024

Scribehaven is the annual retreat open to all NCG members. This retreat is an opportunity to experiment, work on unfinished projects, and fellowship with other kindred spirits who love lettering as much as you do.

Where: Lake Barkley State Resort in Kentucky—about 90 miles north of Nashville.

When: February 22 - 25, 2024

Lodging: ***You are responsible for your own room reservation.*** A block of lodge rooms will be held for NCG members. The lodge rooms have had a recent refresh. The cost has increased to \$149.95 per night with no additional discounts. Rooms are comfortable with usual amenities and all have balconies overlooking the lake. All walkways from lodge rooms to the meeting room/dining room are covered. Call (270) 924-1131 & use “group code #3401” to reserve your room.

Food: ***Meals are on your own in the dining room.*** A full buffet is available on Friday & Saturday, or you may order from the menu. The dining room is downstairs from the meeting room with magnificent views of the lake.

A \$25 non-refundable deposit is due by January 31, 2024. This small fee offsets the cost of the meeting rooms & supplies. Please make checks payable to “Nashville Calligraphers Guild” (**do not abbreviate**) & complete the registration form below. Please mail both to: Ann Cobb, workshop chair, 134 LaPlaza Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075.

Questions/comments: Call or email Vicki Brandt, BrandtVL@aol.com, (865) 661-4108.

2024 SCRIBEHAVEN RETREAT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (home & mobile): _____

Email: _____

*Emergency contact (name & phone of someone **NOT** attending retreat): _____

**GUILD EXHIBITION at the BRENTWOOD LIBRARY
DECEMBER 2023**



Calligraphy pieces in the case at the Library.

Photos by Valerie Cypress



Photos of each section from left to right.





Larger calligraphy pieces on the wall.





REVIEW OF ONLINE CLASSES

IAMPETH Virtual Demo Block 2 review - 11/16/2023

by Ginny Pennekamp

Last year's IAMPETH Virtual was a blast and so I was very excited to sign up and participate in this year's program. I chose Demo Block 2 which included an hour with Randall Hasson on Versals, an hour with Gia Graham on Digital Drop Caps, and an hour with Thomas Vezina on Versatile Vyaz.

Randy Hasson is a master at versals and took us through a 45 minute history of the "hand" and many variations. I learned that versals are historically the colorful capital letters at the beginning of paragraphs in illuminated manuscripts, that they have very few rules, and they can take an infinite number of forms. Randy took us through a quick tour of how to construct Roman versals with and without serifs, how the rounded and hand-drawn Lombardic versal style differs from Roman, and then he walked us through his preferred construction. I was inspired by the history and by all the many styles of versal on display - from Claude Mediavilla to Ann Hechle to @jokeboudens, Barbara Close, and margaret-shepherd.blogspot.com. I'm looking forward to creating my own, and to our workshop with Mike Kesceg on versals next year!

Gia Graham is a warm and lovely teacher who took us through an incredibly relaxing demo on creating Digital Drop Caps using an iPad, an Apple pencil and Procreate software. I haven't done any digital calligraphy yet - I'm very intimidated by the process - but holy cow did Gia make it look easy and fun. Gia teaches many classes on the internet. You can find videos and more from her at giagramham.com. One of these days, I'm definitely going to steal my son's iPad and try this out - and I'm going to follow along with this demo when I do it!

The big draw for me in this demo block was Thomas Vezina and his Versatile Vyaz, which I'd been eyeing for weeks on his Instagram, @tv_calligrapher. I adore hands that are elaborate and illegible! Tom is an incredibly charming dude who walked us through his introduction to calligraphy - learning cursive in school, to teaching himself Copperplate on YouTube, and then researching Vyaz in order to try and create an English language take on the traditionally cyrillic hand. Tom walked us through his alphabet construction and then briefly talked to us about spacing and how to start "connecting" and "knotting" the letters as we combine them into words. Vyaz can stay a simple and elegant picket fence, or become an increasingly intricate and complex abstract work of art. This demo was a lot of fun - I'm going to be tinkering with this hand a lot in the future. It is elegant and sophisticated and has such a stand-out flair!

Ginny Pennekamp



Art by GinnyPennekamp

WORKSHOP REVIEW

Review of: Watercolor Elements, December 2-3, 2023 with Carol Hall

It was December 2nd, and there were three other places I were supposed to be that day. A watercolor class felt deplorably self-indulgent when there were other obligations to tend. But I had been begging Carol for years to host a class so I could learn from her, so this was technically my first priority, indulgent or otherwise.

In the end, it turned out to be the desperately overdo self-care to ignite the soul. I cannot overstate how inspiring and empowering Carol's Watercolor Elements class was, and I would encourage anyone who has the chance to attend this course.

The premise was unlikely- walk away with 15 completed watercolor mini prints, all focusing on different techniques that even beginners could learn? We've all been to classes where the handout is ambitious, and the instructor veered into other whims but didn't cover the proposed content. Not so here. The handouts were attentively written with step-by-step instruction and colorful examples, so that we could duplicate the techniques at home.



There were wonderful exemplars of doodles and letterforms to work from, keeping the "sketching" component quick and easy for those of us less proficient in that regard (like me!). Carol carefully walked us through each exercise that encouraged play in the various techniques. Some of the skills featured were stamping, micron over abstract shapes or mini backgrounds, awakening concentrated color on the paper, and wet-on-wet color blooms. Shape and texture manifested from abstract to



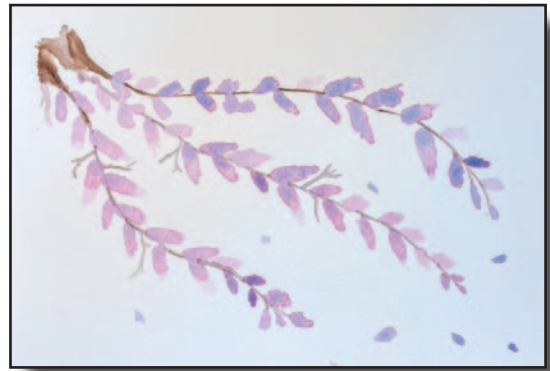
Art by Kristina Howard



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structured, and allowed plenty of creative input from each student artist. Since watercolor requires some waiting, she balanced that by moving on to the next activity to permit drying time, utilizing class time to the fullest. It is clear how Carol has refined and concentrated all that she has learned about how to teach these techniques. At the end of it, I was astounded to find myself packing up 15 completed pieces that could serve as happy mail if sent along.



Covering so many varying techniques meant that every student left the course with a favorite new method that best highlighted their current skills set and style, and the class culminated in a mini-exhibition with our favorite pieces matted and displayed. It was a fantastic way to celebrate how accomplished it left us feeling!



I can offer no higher praise for this class than to say that, the next day, I *excitedly* tackled the monstrous task of cleaning out my closet. In other words, this class filled my creative cup to the point that I was overflowing with joy and accomplishment, and it permitted me to channel that residual high energy and enthusiasm into finishing a dreaded task. With clean spaces around us to breathe and function, creativity has more room to flow.

A huge Thank You to Carol and my fellow classmates for making more room for creativity in my life.

Kristina Howard

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 Chris Hackenbrack at deMuralist@gmail.com. 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. Meeting locations may vary. Meetings usually 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.