



March 2024

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Fellow Scribes!

The daffodils are starting to bloom and the weather is getting warm again. That must mean Spring is around the corner! Such a beautiful time of year.

I am looking forward to our Guild meeting on Saturday, March 9th, at Paper and Ink Arts. Not only will I feel like a kid in a candy store, but we will be celebrating the Guild with a party! Our Guild has been going strong since 1981 and that is something worth noting. We will start gathering at 10 a.m., have our meeting at 10:30 a.m., and then enjoy spending time together over assorted sandwiches, fruit, and cake.

I want to give a shout out to Vicki Brandt for organizing another relaxing Scribheaven retreat. The weather was sunny, the conversations lively, and I think everyone came back feeling grateful for the opportunity to spend a weekend with friends. Thank you Vicki!

I also want to give a big thank you to Ann Cobb who has spend countless hours preparing for the Paul Antonio workshop on March 16th and 17th. What a great opportunity to have a calligrapher of his caliber teaching us. Thank you Ann!

I hope to see you at the next meeting or sometime soon. Until then, happy lettering!

Valerie Cypress  
NCG President

## MARCH MEETING IN PERSON

**Saturday, March 9, 2024**

**Meeting @ 10:30 a.m.**

**Program to follow  
at Paper and Ink Arts**

**113 Graylynn Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214**

## MARCH PROGRAM

Our March program will consist of a Try-Before-You-Buy event at Paper & Ink Arts following our Guild meeting.

Molly and the crew will have some new products available for us to try out. This will also give you opportunity to actually have products in your hands that you might have been wondering about.

Take a look at their web site, and have your shopping list ready for March 9. Be ready to test anything you may be considering. This is your chance to give yourself some presents to use in your studio.

Also, please let Molly and the staff know how much you appreciate them. We are so fortunate that this calligraphy superstore is right here in our back yard.

In addition, we will be celebrating the Guild's 40+ years of being a part of the calligraphic family at a time where some Guilds are struggling or in some cases, no longer in existence.

Please join us as we enjoy refreshments, new products, and good companionship!

**NASHVILLE  
CALLIGRAPHERS  
GUILD**

**2023-2024 BOARD OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT: Valerie Cypress  
VICE PRESIDENT: Beth Paul  
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WEBSITE: Christine Shaw  
SOCIAL MEDIA: Kristina Howard  
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Carol Hall  
LOGO DESIGN: Vicki Brandt

## 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.*

### 2024

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

**March 16-17, 2024--Fraktur and Its Attendant Flourishes  
with Paul Antonio at Paper and Ink Arts (in person only)**

*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, "Roman Holiday" International Calligraphy Conference,  
Davenport, Iowa

July 1 - July 6, 2024, IAMPETH Conference, San Antonio, Texas

Thank you to the contributors of this issue: Valerie Cypress, Ann Cobb and Vicki Brandt..

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## 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. Winter has just been busier than I would have liked, and workshop planning and scheduling became a victim of my schedule.

Ann Cobb  
Workshop Chair

## SCRIBEHAVEN 2024

Scribehaven was once again a relaxing February weekend playing with ink and getting new ideas as we went around the room amazed at what everyone was doing. However, the real value of a retreat is getting to know each other which happens over shared meals, bouncing ideas off one another, and not having the normal distractions of home. A few demos also help!

This year, Rose presented her handout of letters in the style of Sherri Kiesel and Carol Hall showed us how to do bookbinding without sewing. George Harmeling brought his extensive collection of fountain pens to show. Fellow fountain pen enthusiast, MaryAnn Mize added her experiences as well.

All this, along with a beautiful setting made for a great weekend. Thank you to Vicki for all the work in putting this retreat together.

Valerie Cypress

## PAUL ANTONIO COMING TO NASHVILLE

Guild Friends,

We are excited to welcome Paul Antonio to Tennessee in March. Paul will be in the US to attend the NAM-TA Conference in Louisiana. He reached out to the Memphis Guild and to our guild to ask about teaching a workshop while he is here. Since he will be doing some work with Paper & Ink Arts on this trip, we decided that Nashville, TN, 37204 would be the location.

Your votes were close regarding what Paul would teach, but Fraktur was the most-requested hand.

The workshop will be in-person only, so if you have not already signed up, you should do so sooner rather than later.

Paul will also be presenting a lecture on Friday evening, March 15, at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin entitled 3500 Years of the Western Alphabet. This lecture is for adults only as well as middle, high school, and college students. Thanks to our own Kristina Howard for helping with the arrangements for this lecture.

The lecture is free, so feel free to attend if you are interested. Information regarding the lecture and its location are included in this newsletter.

Ann Cobb  
Workshop Chair

**\*\*\*\*EARLY NOTICE\*\*\*\***

**Annual dues for the Nashville Calligraphy Guild will expire on  
May 31, 2024.**

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 or turn in to Marsha French, current Treasurer at the next meeting.

Since the newsletter goes out to current members only, anyone not paid up by September will not be on the list and will not receive the latest information of all the upcoming events for the new year. Don't miss out!

**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:

March: Ocean

April: Play

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

2024

January -- Magic

February -- Nature

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

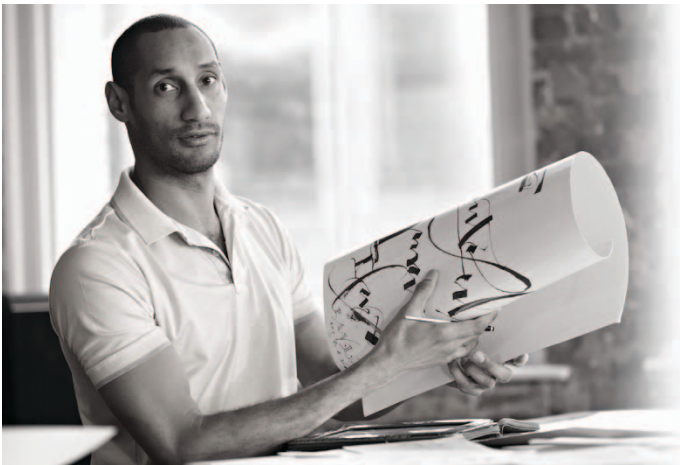
You are cordially invited to attend  
a lecture by

**Paul Antonio**

**3500 Years of the Western Alphabet**

Friday, March 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Volunteer State Community College -- Gallatin  
Black Box Theater in the Steinhauer-Rogan-Black building  
Across the hall from the Fine Arts Gallery



Paul Antonio grew up in Trinidad in the West Indies. He fell in love with calligraphy and started serious practice at the early age of 9.

Paul's OCD nature turned out to be a gift once his love of calligraphy kicked in. It facilitated his learning about the many different scripts and keeping them in a structured historical order.

His sense of compulsion also assisted with using the plethora of tools, materials, and surfaces needed for the practice of calligraphy. This also supported his

passion once it spread out to include not only Western Script but all written letterforms from the world over.

In 2000, Paul set up Paul Antonio Scribe, where he trained apprentices and took on commission work from the fashion industry. The business also afforded him the space to write a book on Copperplate Script, which led to his becoming an internationally renowned calligraphy teacher. His classes range from the 2nd century scripts all the way to the present.

Paul has served as one of the Crown Office Scribes who still handwrite some of the laws of the United Kingdom.

Join Paul as he shares the journey of discovery of how the Western alphabet developed out of Egyptian Hieroglyphs and Cuneiform. He will focus on the manuscript culture to show the extent of our European Calligraphic Tradition

This lecture is presented by the Nashville Calligraphers Guild in cooperation with Volunteer State Community College. The lecture is appropriate for adults and students in middle school, high school, or college.

Please email Ann Cobb at [cobbann02@aol.com](mailto:cobbann02@aol.com) to RSVP due to limited seating.

## Fraktur and Its Attendant Flourishing

*A two-day in-person workshop with Paul Antonio, March 16 and 17, 2024.*

I love Fraktur. It is the reason I became a scribe. I have always taught flourishing as a separate course as I feel too many teachers add it on at the end of a script. In this 2-day workshop, I will teach you how to get started with Fraktur and will incorporate the teaching of the specific types of flourishes used to accompany the script.



Day One will begin with pencil work to allow for faster learning of the script and its flourishes. The pencil work will also open up some historical pointed nib Fraktur that I discovered in the Zurich Archives over 20 years ago.

Day Two will use broad edged tools of your choice, markers, pen and ink, quills, or parallel pens. Please ensure that you are able to handle the tools of your choice as this class is not about tool control, but script lettering.

### Fraktur and Its Attendant Flourishing

with

**Paul Antonio**  
**March 16 and 17, 2024**

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**At Paper & Ink Arts**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**

Workshop Cost: \$ 175.00

A sample of Fraktur script showing the letters 'Abcdefghijklmn' and 'opqrstuvwxy' in a decorative, calligraphic style.

A sample of Fraktur script showing the letters 'abcdefghi', 'jklmnop', 'qrstuvw', and 'xy' in a decorative, calligraphic style.

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### Fraktur and Its Attendant Flourishing

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alt. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Workshop Fee \$ 175.00** Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **Nashville Calligraphers Guild**

Mail checks and registration form to:

Ann Cobb, Workshop Chair, 134 La Plaza Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075

# IN MEMORIAM

The calligraphic world was shocked and saddened at the loss of these two icons on December 9, 2023.

Larry and Marsha Brady played an enormous role in the calligraphic world and touched the lives of countless calligraphers including members of the Nashville Calligraphers Guild.

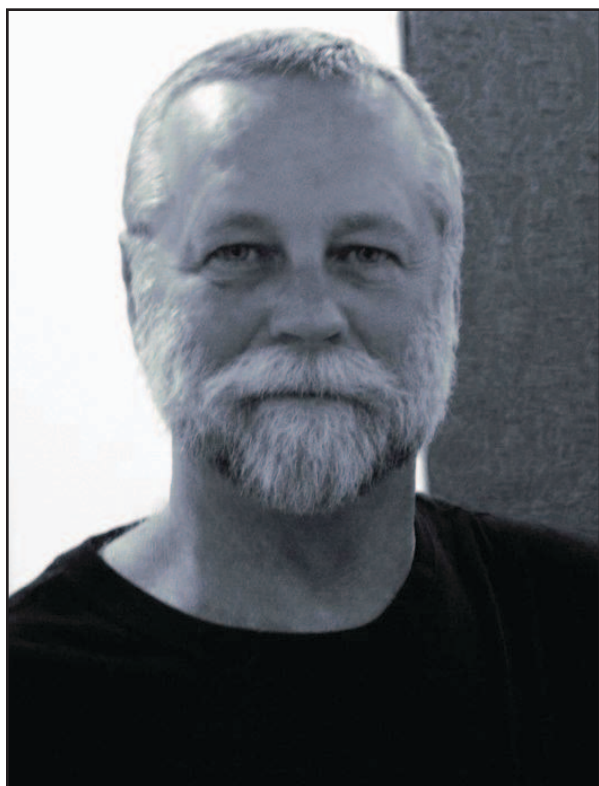
For those who do not know of their legacy, please watch the video by Randall Hasson on youtube as he reviews their careers and stunning art that they produced over the years as well as the impact they have had on future generations of calligraphers.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChK\\_HtHi3Ds](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ChK_HtHi3Ds)

If the above link does not work, go to HassonStudio and search for the video:

“Marsha and Larry Brady: A Legacy in Lettering”

*[Ed. note: For more about Marsha Brady, see a special message from Vicki Brandt in this issue.]*



Another loss...this time, Michael Clark. Sadly, Michael passed away on February 26, 2024 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Taken from Michael's GoFund Me page:

“Michael Clark's unique work as a designer, calligrapher, commercial lettering artist, font designer, and teacher has influenced scribes around the world. There are few in the calligraphic community unfamiliar with his distinct design style as seen within his compressed and contemporized Roman letterforms; his unconventional use of Speedball nibs and marker pens; and his astonishing manipulation of the simple and often underrated draftsman's ruling pen, as well as the newer, curved-edge ruling pens. Michael's dedication to the lettering arts and the calligraphic community has been unwavering for decades – his stunning work an inspiration to students and peers alike.”

Michael's work is featured in his book. “In a Long Breath...” which can be obtained at John Neal Bookseller.

## ***To Marsha with Love***

On December 9, 2023, the art world lost two icons—Marsha and Larry Brady. Together, they were one of the most dynamic and prolific artistic teams of our time. Both were lifelong teachers and creators of exceptional art. While I did not know Larry personally, I was blessed to know Marsha as were many other NCG members. I have often opined that I am a Marsha Brady baby. No single teacher has done more to influence my lettering than Marsha.

Marsha Brady resided in Los Angeles, California before retiring to Colorado. She was an educator. She loved children and began her career in education teaching special needs children as well as junior high and high school. Larry's love of graphic design and lettering soon became Marsha's passion. She began teaching not only lettering workshops throughout the United States but abroad—as well as a two-year college course in lettering at Cerritos College in the L.A. area. At the time, this was one of the only college-level calligraphy courses in the U.S.

I met Marsha when my own lettering journey began in Los Angeles in 1990. Even though I was brand new to calligraphy, I knew I was in store for something special when I signed up for one of Marsha's workshops. I had heard the gossip that she was a taskmaster. I heard she expected students to be serious minded, and she even assigned homework! I was terrified! So, I decided on "Monoline" for my first class with her. In my mind, how could I mess up stick lettering??? Our assignment was to write a nursery rhyme of our choice and exaggerate one of the letters as a design element. I chose, "Hickory Dickory Dock" with the emphasis on the O. Wow!! Even I was impressed with how my piece turned out. I was clearly on a roll. I was certain Marsha would be impressed. As she critiqued my work, she was gentle and complimentary in a reserved way. She then turned to me and said, "By the way, it is not 'the cat ran up the clock,' but the mouse ran up the clock." I was horrified at my mistake. She gave me a big hug and assured me I was doing fine. That experience and many others taught me not only the value of an honest critique, but the importance of infusing it with kindness, encouragement and a little humor. I will never forget that hug! Undoubtedly, anyone who knew Marsha has a similar story.

Marsha and Larry have left a legacy. As lettering artists, we always seem to be striving for credibility and occasionally recognition. Sometimes, the general public and even the art world doesn't quite know what to do with us. That never mattered to Marsha. She elevated calligraphy with her unceasing professionalism, immense knowledge, grace, compassion, generosity, humility and (yes) her humor. Every time she stepped in front of a classroom, you knew this would be a master class in whatever letterform she was teaching. The venue and circumstances did not matter. Marsha always came dressed to the nines. She gave the very best of herself to each of us and expected no less in return. I will be eternally grateful for having known Marsha and being able to study with her. I hope each of you will feel a little bit of Marsha whenever I hug you or offer words of encouragement. That was Marsha's true legacy. Thank you Marsha (and Larry too). We all have big shoes to fill. What the world needs now is more love AND calligraphy!

Vicki Brandt





Marsha at work



Teaching Humanist letterform



L-R: Sheryl Bracey, Marsha, Carol Percy & Barbara Melkin



**Marsha & Larry Brady**



Teaching Formal Romans  
Carol Percy looking on



Striving for excellence!



Always generous & willing to help!  
Doing dishes with Vicki Brandt (L) & Marsha French (R) following a long day teaching Italic in Birmingham, Alabama



Rose Wathen Demonstrating “Sherri Kiesel Letters” at Scribehaven.

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#### 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](mailto: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](mailto:bethletters@bellsouth.net).