



*May 2023*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Fellow Scribes,

I hope everyone is enjoying the Spring weather. I have been able to get out for some lovely walks and that is always nice. The beautiful green colors I see this time of year makes me want to get out the green ink to use for a project.

I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as President of the Guild. It's given me the chance to get to know people better. I realize a good portion of my tenure was held during Zoom meetings during the pandemic; however, we persevered and we came out the other side. I don't know what we would have done without something like Zoom.

We will be meeting at the Frist Museum again for our May meeting on Saturday, May 13th. The Frist has some good exhibits right now, so you might want to plan on staying to see the exhibits after the meeting.

Valerie Cypress has another exhibit scheduled for us at the Brentwood Library in December. You have the summer to work on a piece or two. The Guild will be reminding you again this fall; however, I just want to put another reminder out there before summer gets here.

Carol Hall has been busy putting together the summer envelope exchange. I'm very excited

## MAY MEETING

\*\*\*\*\*In Person\*\*\*\*\*

**Saturday, May 13, 2023  
10:30 a.m.**

**General meeting  
Program to follow:  
"Envelope Exchange 2023"**

**LOCATION:  
Frist Museum  
919 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37203**

**(Parking for the Frist will be  
a discounted rate of \$2 an hour)**

to read in this newsletter what the theme will be. She has teased that is going to be a really interesting theme. I can't wait!

I also know Ann Cobb has been busy with her IAMPETH duties. I look forward to her telling us all about the summer conference when she gets back. If other members go to the conference and post on social media, please tag the Guild so we can see what you are up to there.

I continue to encourage you to share your lettering projects or Exchange envelopes on social media for all of us to see. Use the #nashvillecalligraphersguild.

Happy writing!

Susan Wallace,  
President

## NCG Schedule for 2023

Note: Meeting locations and times to be announced closer to date

*May 13, 2023 -- Guild Meeting (Frist Museum, Nashville, TN)*

*September 9, 2023 -- Guild Meeting (TBA)*

**September 16, 2023 --Akim Curseive Workshop with Ann Cobb at Paper & Ink Arts (in person)**

**October 21 & 22, 2023 -- Watercolor Embellishments with Carol Hall at Paper & Ink Arts (in person)**

### **Other Calligraphic Events**

July 17 - 23, 2023 -- IAMPETH in Scranton, PA

### **Early Announcement for 2024**

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

### **NASHVILLE CALLIGRAPHERS GUILD 2022-2023 BOARD OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT: Susan Wallace

VICE PRESIDENT: Carol Hall

TREASURER: Marsha French

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Joyce Holleman

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Ruth Haskins

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Sharon Perry

Ruth Farwell

Teresa Gray

Miranda Fuller

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS:**

WORKSHOPS: Ann Cobb

EXHIBITS: Valerie Cypress

MEMBERSHIP: Chris Hackenbrack

NEWSLETTER: Beth Paul

SCRIBEHAVEN: Vicki Brandt

WEBSITE: Christine Shaw, social media

INSTAGRAM: Kristina Howard

SUMMER ENVELOPE EXCHANGE:

Carol Hall

LOGO DESIGN: Vicki Brandt

A big thank you to the contributors of this issue: Susan Wallace, Carol Hall, Valerie Cypress, Sheryl Bracey, Maryann Mize, Maggie Naylor, Ginny Pennekamp and Ann Cobb. And a special “thank you” to all those who sent me pictures to use. There were too many to include which is a good problem to have!

## **MAY PROGRAM**

This month’s program is all about the Summer Envelope Exchange. We will be showing envelopes from past years as well as planning for this summer’s Exchange.

Everyone is invited to sign up, regardless of their calligraphic expertise as this is a way to practice calligraphy and enjoy getting to know fellow members. See the information page elsewhere in this issue for details on signing up and what you need to do to participate.

This year, the theme of the Exchange is “Birds of a Feather.” Carol Hall and Beth Paul will have instructions on making your own envelopes as well as handouts to assist participants in decorating their “theme” envelopes. So, in addition to practicing your calligraphy, you can exercise your creative muscles at the same time!

**\*\*\*Note: Parking for the Frist Museum for the Nashville Calligraphers Guild meeting will be a discounted rate of \$2 per hour\*\*\***

While  
You  
Are  
There...

## **Beatrix Potter at the Frist Art Museum**

The current exhibit at the Frist Art Museum features the work of **Beatrix Potter: Drawn to Nature**. The exhibit is a Victoria and Albert Museum exhibit which is currently touring the world.

The exhibit celebrates the creative achievements of beloved English author and illustrator, Beatrix Potter. In Potter's 23 children's books, the author imagined an enchanting world of animals and gardens. This exhibit contains materials from Potter's diaries, letters, personal effects, photographs, sketches, and watercolors.

The exhibit runs from April 7 through September 17 in the upper-level galleries at the Frist.



*Artwork by Ann Cobb, inspired by the illustrations from Beatrix Potter*

# Summer Envelope Exchange 2023

## Nashville Calligraphers Guild

A very special opportunity to share your love of letters with our community of calligraphers.

***This year's theme is "Birds of a Feather"***

At our May program, the very talented Beth Paul will be sharing many creative ideas for putting birds on or in your envelopes! You won't want to miss this program.

The exchange will run from June through August, 2023. **By signing up, you are committing to send six (or seven) envelopes throughout the summer:** two envelopes in June, two in July, and two (or three) in August. \*

We all enjoyed seeing the fabulous display of unique and colorful sunflowers from the exchange last year, and look forward to seeing what the participants will dazzle us with at the September guild meeting, inspired by the theme : "birds of a feather".

You will be placed on a list with approximately six other Guild members. Your list will be emailed (or via postal mail) to you no later than June 1. The deadline to sign up is **May 15, 2023**.

Participants agree to let the recipients of their envelopes share the envelopes with anyone to whom they will show them in person. The envelopes cannot be placed on any web site or printed in any format without the written permission of the sender. Participants do, however, grant permission for Beth Paul, the newsletter editor, to publish pictures of envelopes in the Guild newsletter.

Remember this is a calligraphic exchange. You can add any design features that you wish, but the lettering should be the focus. You must put something into your envelope -- perhaps a short note about yourself, or sharing the techniques and materials you used to create the envelope., All skill levels are welcome!

**\* We want to emphasize that if you sign up, please keep your commitment to send an envelope to everyone on your list.**

**Send your information in the following format by May 20 to my email address:**  
**caroljanevh@gmail.com**

**Jane Doe  
123 Main Street  
Anytown, TN 00000  
xxx-123-4567 (phone)  
email address**



*Envelopes from Last Year's Exchange*

# LETTERING PROJECT 2023

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:

May -- Earth

June--Fancy

July -- Gem

August -- Hope

In case you didn't get the first four words in the previous newsletters, they are:

January -- Awesome

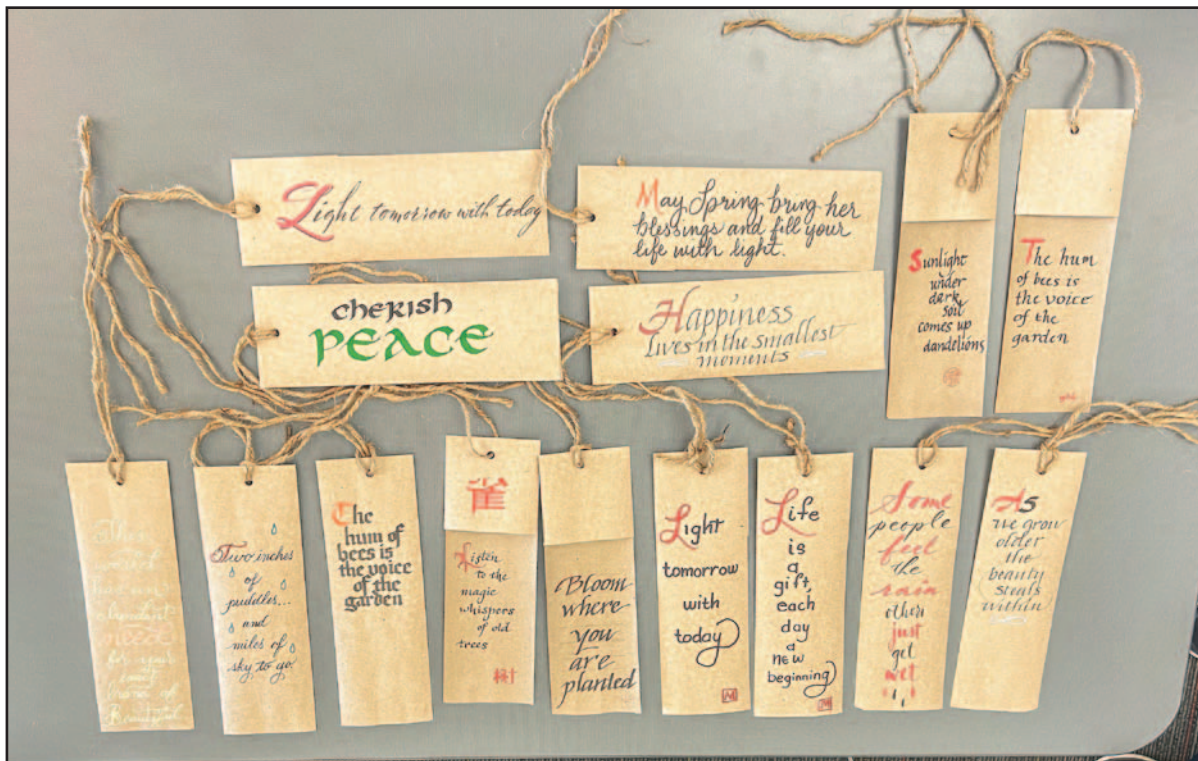
February -- Bloom

March -- Color

April -- Dream

Have fun with this project.

Ann Cobb



Chris Hackenbrack's program in March on weathergrams was a great success. Here is a photo of the results.

## Akim Cursive

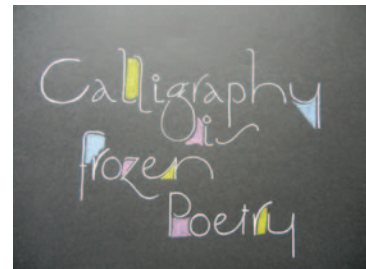
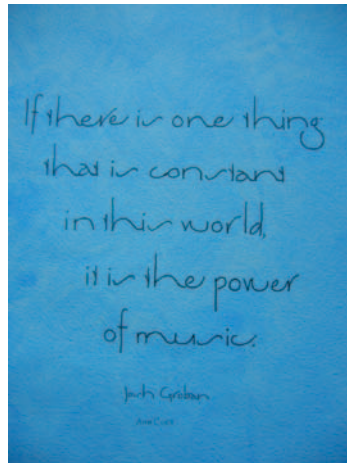
Akim Cursive is a hand created by calligrapher Hans-Joachim Burgert and is said to replicate the rhythm of the human heart.



Hans-Joachim Burgert (1928-2009) was a calligrapher, sculptor, and educator. He was instrumental in the foundation of the Berlin Calligraphy Collection at the Akademie der Künste by donating seventy works to the

collection.

We will briefly explore Burgert's version of Akim, then move into more expressive variations using several different tools. Once students become familiar with working on the variations, we begin writing longer texts and compositions, focusing on the rhythmic patterns for which Akim is known.



### Akim Cursive

with

**Ann Cobb  
September 16, 2023**

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**At Paper & Ink Arts**

Cost: \$ 50.00

## Akim Cursive

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Workshop Fee: \$ 50.00** 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

## Watercolor Embellishments

*A two-day watercolor workshop with Carol V. Hall October 21 and 22, 2023*

Learn how to create unique botanicals, decorate initials, and add calligraphic elements to your designs.



**Day One:** Explore at least 8 different ways to make simple flowers, plants and autumn leaves using watercolors.

**Day Two:** Learn several easy ways to embellish an initial and participate in a fun, neurographic exercise for name writing. We will wrap up the experience

by looking at some ways to add lettering to your designs. There's bound to be surprises along the way!



**The Finished Product:** Take home between 10-20 watercolor cards that you can pop in an envelope and send to friends, or keep as a reference book for yourself.

I hope you will join me!

### Watercolor Embellishments

with

**Carol Hall  
October 21 & 22, 2023**

9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**At Paper & Ink Arts**

Workshop Cost: \$ 115.00

Deposit Required: \$35.00

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## Watercolor Embellishments

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Workshop Deposit \$ 35.00** 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

# Scribehaven 2023



*Top L to R: George, Carol, Mary, Maggie, Valerie, JoAnn. Middle L to R: Sheryl, Rose, Laura, Maryann, Teresa. Front: Vicki, Scribehaven Chair*



One of the name tags made by Valerie Cypress.





## Scribehaven Review by Maryann Mize

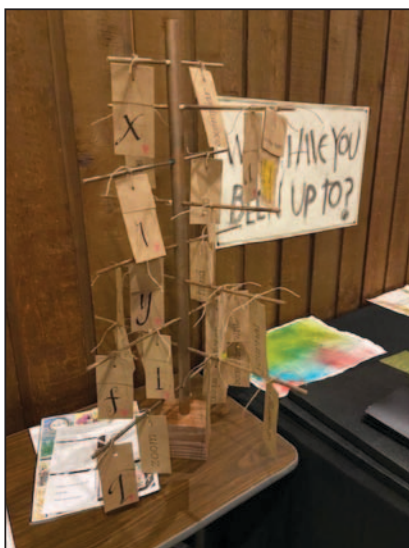
Have you ever attended Scribehaven? I had not. Additionally, I am new to the guild as a somewhat recent transplant to Nashville from Florida. And as I prepared to leave on Thursday afternoon for this three- and half-day event, I tried to explain what I was doing/going to my husband. His response was “So, you are going to sit in a room with strangers?”

Fast forward to Sunday afternoon, preparing to leave – I can say “There are no strangers in the room!”

How does a “room full of strangers” change to “no strangers”...and they are now friends? The wonderful generosity of kindred spirits reaching out to each other, including me as a newbie. Collegiality and community permeated the room as we worked on our individual projects and then headed to the dining room for our meals.

Let me pause for a moment and try to describe the facility, the Lake Barkley Resort – located in a state park on the waterfront of Lake Barkley. The facility was constructed in the 1950’s, has soaring huge wooden beam construction, enabling fabulous views from every angle. Its aging rustic patina was charming, wonderful venue. Having spent many hours in sterile, unmemorable, “all the same” conference rooms around country for decades, how delightful to enjoy the uniqueness of this rustic charm.

*Continued on page 10*



For her 26 Letter project, JoAnn Bates did mini-watergrams. She lettered Lisa Engelbrecht’s minuscule alphabet with calligraphic words on the back using B nib. “The ‘tree’ is one my mom used to display Christmas cookies when I was young.”



*Continued from page 9*

Did I mention that the setting was lakefront, surrounded by wooded hiking trails, too? There were several of us who enjoyed peaceful walks. As a birder, I enjoyed seeing many species on my walks, including a flock of white pelicans and two piliated woodpeckers.

What else made this a wonderful experience? The generosity of talent! Here’s a brief overview of the mini workshops/ demonstrations:

Rose Wathen – Letter press printing – Friday night after dinner, we all enjoyed learning about the printing process, thanks to Rose’s generosity of bringing a large box containing the special inks, brayers, etc. enabling each of us to “print” to our hearts content.

Carol Hall – Testing Tools – Carol shared an incredible assortment of calligraphic tools. She demonstrated each of them, and generously allowed us to do “test runs” to our hearts content!



**Check out page 14  
for the Weathergrams...**



Maggie Naylor – Dirds – we spend delightful time making dird birds, with Maggie generously providing all the supplies. We made birds to our hearts content!

JoAnn Bates – Weathergrams – JoAnn shared the history of Weathergrams, along with supplies, and we made weathergrams to display in the reception hall at Lake Barkley, receiving compliments from staff and other guests.

Vicki Brandt – Water Color demonstration – Vicki demonstrated watercolors, and how to use them, along with several projects we all could achieve success with, plus since I was having trouble, asked for some one on one time, which she gladly provided!

As this lengthy review concludes, you have probably noticed a continuing theme – generosity! And other generosity included \*\*\* making name tags for each of us, \*\*\* making a list of all the staff and then making beautiful calligraphic renditions of each of the names.

Thank you to everyone who was part of this wonderful weekend. I am already looking forward to next year!

# WORKSHOP REVIEW by Sheryl Bracey

## “Calligraphy as a Spiritual Discipline” with Holly Monroe Zoom Class

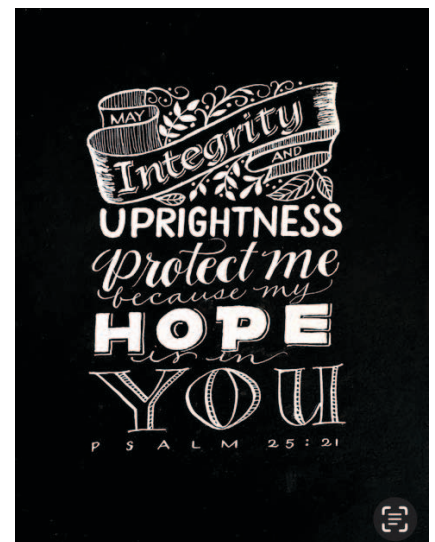
I have always wanted to take a class with Holly Monroe. I love her lettering skills, her art work and her heart. Many years ago at an international conference, I had breakfast with her and her calligrapher father, Cliff Mansley, who has now passed. He had his piece “The Love of God” on display there and I had always wanted to do that scripture/song. After seeing his, it was difficult but my version is hanging over my computer. I’ve tried to get in Holly’s classes but they were always full.

Several months ago, I saw Holly was teaching a class online called “Calligraphy as a Spiritual Discipline”. Those words made me want to do it, so I jumped at the chance. It was a two-day zoom class. The first activity we did was a one sheet book that was folded in a certain way. I had done one before but hers had a different twist to it. I did a couple of those, and we moved on to Chalkboard Calligraphy.

For that, we used Dr. Martin’s Bleedproof White and black paper. Some of her pieces also had color or white on colored paper. She started out by showing us how to make different types of banners. We were to choose a word that might be found in Scripture and do a verse or quote using that word. Mine was Integrity. (There seems to be less and less in today’s world.) She went through the process of designing the piece and then we worked on ours. It was hard to do because I kept wanting to watch her work. I got just as much out of seeing her process up close and almost personal. She told us to use banners, large and small lettering, different types of lettering, etc. “Integrity” really doesn’t show up in mine because it’s overshadowed with all of the detail around it but it sure was fun to do. I was hooked!



The third thing we worked on was expressive calligraphy. Holly said the people she admired for this type of work were Timothy Botts, Leanna Faye and Randall Hasson. Those were three of mine as well along with Holly. It is because of their worshipful pieces. She talked about color in letters, between letters and variegated letters. There there was movement with waves, curves, slant and shape. She covered the seven principles of Design and the seven elements of design.



*“Integrity” by Sheryl Bracey, Chalkboard Calligraphy during class.*

This was her first time to teach this particular workshop and I was glad to be a part of it. If you want to see what I’m talking about, look up Holly Monroe on the internet. You will find lots and lots of gorgeous pieces

*To see Holly’s work, go to [hollymonroe.com](http://hollymonroe.com)*

Sheryl Bracey, about the piece above: “When we were at Scribehaven, I borrowed one of Mary Henderson’s templates that she had purchased from “Postman’s Knock”. All you had to do for your design was draw the lines provided. While it helped your piece to go much quicker, it took away the creativity of doing your own. Both were fun to do.”

# WORKSHOP REVIEW by Ginny Pennekamp

## “Refining Your Italic” with Vicki Brandt

Paper and Ink Arts, April 23-24, 2023

I taught myself calligraphy when I was about 10 years old. And by that, I mean that I taught myself italic using markers that came with a workbook. Italic has been the hand I’ve used the most in the last 30+ years, and I almost always use the markers to write it – they come in handy for youth sports certificates, place cards for American Girl tea parties, and conference room reservation signs. So when Vicki Brandt announced she was teaching a class called “Refining Your Italic”, I immediately thought: yes, my italic sorely needs to be refined.

It was a joy and a pleasure to spend the weekend working with Vicki and several other calligraphers at Paper & Ink Arts. The first day of the workshop, Vicki dived into the foundations of a good italic hand and we put in the hard work on the basics: choosing and loading our nibs, mastering the modular strokes of the Italic alphabet, and reviewing the lowercase letters. You never know just how much you’ve forgotten until you go back to the basics. It was refreshing to get instant, helpful feedback and tweaks. I really appreciated Vicki’s approach to the hand, which was much less about doing everything fundamentally perfect the same every time, and much more about allowing the space for your individual style within the fundamentals to produce your own unique but classically sound and vibrant Italic.

The second day of the workshop, we breezed through the capital letters before getting a surprise demonstration of how to make a glue stick bound class folio out of our practice work. We played with writing short inspirational phrases in watercolors. It was so inspiring to see everyone let loose and show some of their personality in addition to what they had learned in the class.

At the very end of the session, Vicki took all of our play sheets, hung them on a wall, and isolated our “doodles” with a frame mat. It was a revelation that taught us each and every quickly scribbled work was worthy of a frame and a spot in one of our gallery shows. The italic hand is not something just for disposable calligraphy demands; it is worthy of finer things. My initial attraction to Italic has been rekindled. Vicki helped me see the beauty and simplicity that I’d gotten too used to ignoring and gave me the confidence to use it to make great works of art.



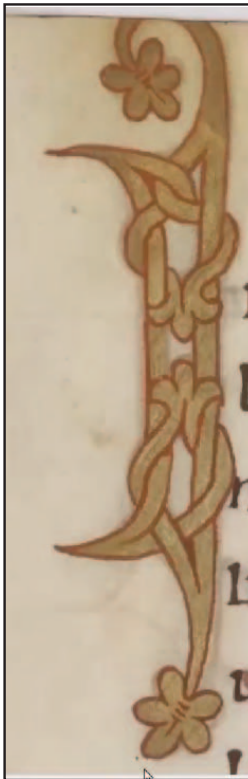
# WORKSHOP REVIEW by Beth Paul

## “Romanesque Capitals” with Benoit Furet Online at The Gentle Penman

Benoit Furet presented a two weekend workshop on Initials from a 15th Century manuscript. The sample he provided for the workshop was so beautiful, I had to know more. Benoit always does an excellent job of emphasizing the historical characteristics of the hand he teaches, usually during the first class. He devotes the second half of the workshop to showing us how to adapt the letters for modern use which I really appreciate.

The historical letters were constructed with intertwining elements with the rule that the structure itself was either painted or gilded with gold. The letters were usually outlined in red and the inside of the stems were painted red as well. We were given the url to the website ([https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS\\_Barb.lat.711](https://digi.vatlib.it/view/MSS_Barb.lat.711)) so we could study the actual forms and the variations. There were only a few initials that were missing and Benoit demonstrated how those would look based on the existing letters. During the second weekend, Benoit presented his modern look of connecting the letters, adding elements in a different way and using color to make the words pop.

These initials look so complicated but after watching Benoit draw the structures step-by-step, I found that going slowly and carefully, it becomes easier. I also found that it is important to understand the historical aspects before attempting the modern style. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about these beautiful letters and can't wait to produce an exemplar of my own.

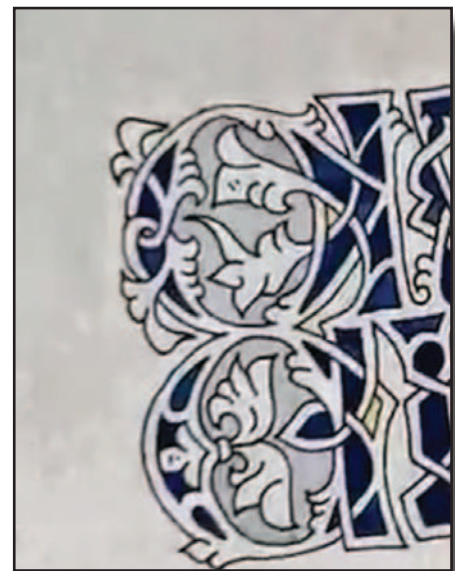


Original “I” from the manuscript



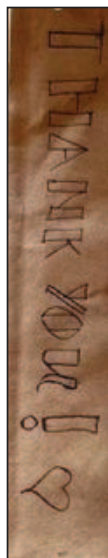
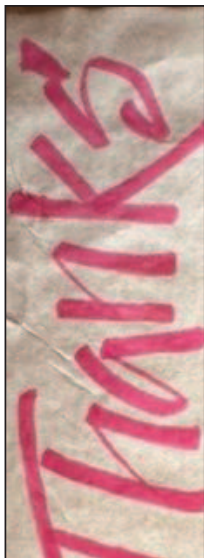
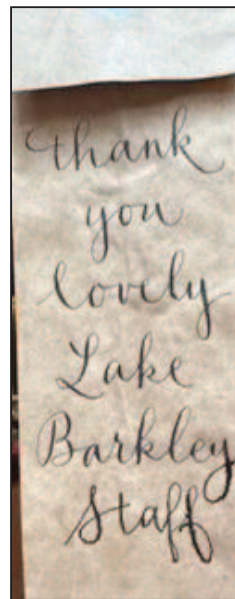
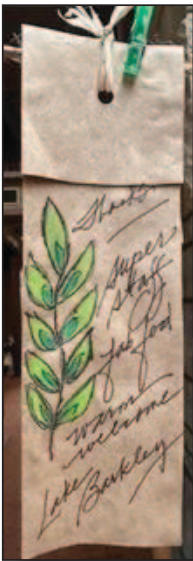
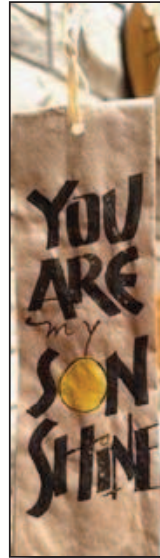
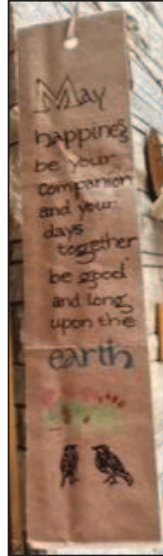
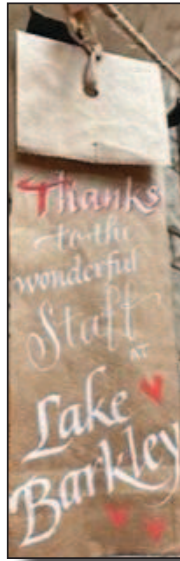
Sample of Benoit's lettering “I” and “L”

*See Benoit's work at [benoitfuret.com](http://benoitfuret.com)  
and under Anachropsy Benoit Furet  
on Facebook*



*Above: Benoit's modern adaptation of the letters. Note that letters are joined and the inside negative space is colored as well as the stems.*

# SCRIBEHAVEN 2023 WEATHERGRAMS



**IAMPETH Update**  
**Ann Cobb, IAMPETH President**  
**2022 - 2023**

Plans for IAMPETH's 74th Annual Conference are almost finished. Registration went well, and a few spots remain if anyone still wants to register to attend.

For those not familiar with IAMPETH, the conference classes are one day only. Attendees select a different class each day so that they get a good introduction to five different subjects. Teachers lined up to teach are experts in their various hands and techniques.

Subjects this year include Gilding, Old English, Engrosser's Script, Carolingian, Spencerian, Copperplate, Foundational, and Engrossing among others.

Our conferences are held each year in July or August and move around the country at the discretion of the president. They feature some of the best of the best teachers from around the country, as well as evening activities such as Round Robin, Silent Auction, Evening with the Masters, and other events.

Take some time to check out all the information on IAMPETH's web site. Whether or not you are a member, you have access to the Rare Books section, videos, artists, artwork, lessons, newsletters, and



other wonderful information. Our newsletters are filled with historical information on penmen from the past, techniques, tools, inks, and much more.

If you have questions, check IAMPETH's web site at [iampeth.com](http://iampeth.com) or feel free to ask me.

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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).