



November 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here it is, the middle of Fall already! Where does the time go?

I was sorry that I had to cancel our Guild anniversary party. We didn't realize October would get so busy for everyone! Hopefully, a less busy time will present itself when we can celebrate our guild.

Before you know it, many of us will be addressing Christmas envelopes in our beautiful calligraphy, and maybe even making the cards too! Sending holiday cards, even if they are late like mine often are, is such a great way to make people you care for feel extra special. It is a great way to practice a new hand or refine one you already know so everyone benefits!

December could be a busy month. December 1st, I will be delivering your pieces to the Brentwood

Library for display until Friday, December 29th. December 2nd and 3rd, Carol Hall will be teaching a botanical watercolor class at Paper and Ink. It is amazing how a few simple flowers really brighten up an envelope or piece of art. Maybe even a holiday envelope!

Please think ahead to February and Scribehaven. The retreat is such a great way to get new ideas if you are stumped on a project, try out new techniques, practice or just get to know everyone better. Vicki Brandt does such a stellar job overseeing the weekend to make sure all goes smoothly. I really hope you will join us!

I will miss the November meeting, but Beth Paul will do a great job in my place. I will see you at the January meeting if not before.

Happy lettering,
Valerie Cypress, President

NOVEMBER MEETING

November Program

**Saturday,
November 11, 2023
10:30 a.m.**

Program to Follow

**at the Frist Museum
919 Broadway
Nashville, TN 37203**

“Calligraphy Snowflakes and Wreaths”

We are getting into the holiday spirit with snowflakes and wreaths, calligraphy style! We will use a template to provide guidelines for our lettering and add elements of color, shapes and sparkle to enhance our designs.

You will need:

Pencil and eraser, Ruler, Compass for drawing circles, Protractor for drawing angles, Paper for sketching designs, Tracing paper

Also, your favorite lettering tools, color markers, sparkle pens, etc. to finish your designs.

**NASHVILLE
CALLIGRAPHERS
GUILD**

2023-2024 BOARD OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: Valerie Cypress
VICE PRESIDENT: Beth Paul
TREASURER: Marsha French
RECORDING SECRETARY:
Ginny Pennekamp
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Marilyn Stirrett
MEMBERS AT LARGE:
Susan Wallace - Past President
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

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.*

2023

November 11, 2023 -- Guild Meeting at the Frist Museum

December 2 & 3, 2023 -- Watercolor Elements with Carol Hall at Paper & Ink Arts (in person)

2024

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

February 22-24, 2024 -- Scribehaven 2024. See note on page 4.

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, Carol Ann Bailly, Erica McPhee and Sheryl Bracey. The quick responses and willingness to help is always very much appreciated and this newsletter could not be done without you.

### In Memoriam

Longtime Guild member and talented calligrapher, Pam Brown passed away on September 12, 2023. She was an active member of the Guild for many years. Her first workshop was 40 years ago with Sheila Waters. She attended Cheerio and many international conferences as well as workshops. Her beautiful smile and her sweet nature will be missed. The painting in the picture, done in acrylic with gilding, was given to a friend, a local pastor who hung it in the church for everyone to enjoy. It was on stage at her Celebration of Life Service.



## “Hands On” at Plaza...

The Nashville Calligraphers Guild was asked this year to once again to join in the “Hands On Creativity” at the Plaza Artist Materials the weekend of October 21-22, 2023.

The event was held outside under the big tent at Plaza’s new location.

Left: Chris Hackenbrack and Valerie Cypress at the NCG table.



## 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:

November -- Kite

December -- Lace

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

January -- Awesome

February -- Bloom

March -- Color

April -- Dream

May -- Earth

June -- Fancy

July -- Gem

August -- Hope

September -- Ideal

October -- Jazz

Have fun with this project.

Ann Cobb

# GUILD EXHIBITION BRENTWOOD LIBRARY

Everyone in the Guild is encouraged to participate in our exhibit at the Brentwood Library. Our work will be on display from December 1st to December 29th. The library is open every day (except holidays) so please plan to see it sometime!

Please have your pieces wired and ready to hang (even those we put in the cases). Label all packing material with your name and the title of your piece. Attach a label to the back and email me your release form. (Ed. note: See forms, page 5.) We need large and small pieces. Large for the wall, small for the glass case.

Here are the important dates:

Saturday, November 11th: Delivery of your pieces for the show to the Guild meeting. Someone will take them home for me to pick up later. If you cannot make the meeting, let me know and we will work something out.

Friday, December 1st at 10:00 am: I will deliver our pieces to the library and help hang the show. You may also bring your pieces directly to the library.

Saturday, December 30th: I will go to the library and take down the show and bring any pieces home that are not picked up.

Thank you for your interest and I look forward to seeing what you've been up to!

Valerie Cypress  
Exhibit Chair

John P. Holt Brentwood Library  
8109 Concord Road  
Brentwood, TN 37027  
615-371-0090

## Library Hours:

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Monday    | 9 AM - 8 PM  |
| Tuesday   | 9 AM - 8 PM  |
| Wednesday | 9 AM - 8 PM  |
| Thursday  | 9 AM - 8 PM  |
| Friday    | 9 AM - 6 PM  |
| Saturday  | 10 AM - 6 PM |
| Sunday    | 1 PM - 6 PM  |

# SCRIBEHAVEN 2024

Scribehaven 2024 is scheduled for February 22 - 25, 2024. We will assemble once again at Lake Barkley State Resort park in Cadiz, Kentucky. This has been our retreat home since 2008, and it has been a wonderful experience. But, 2024 will likely be our last opportunity to gather at Lake Barkley due to an extreme increase in the meeting room fee as well as lodging rates.

My hope is that we can all gather one last time and make this the best and most memorable Scribehaven yet. We will be sending out the registration form in a separate email sometime in November. If you have any questions/comments, please reach out to me. You may email or feel free to call. I look forward to seeing all of you at Lake Barkley!

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

## EXHIBIT GUIDELINES

1. All members are encouraged to submit work. Contributing artists must be current members of the Nashville Calligrapher's Guild, with dues paid.
2. You may submit as many pieces as you'd like but if space becomes a consideration, the exhibit committee will use its best judgment in choosing which pieces to hang. At least one piece from each exhibitor will be displayed (provided it meets all other requirements.)
3. All quotations must be accurate, words must be spelled correctly and if known, sources must be identified.
4. All pieces must be framed, clean and ready to hang with hanging wire attached. Sawtooth hangers are not acceptable.
5. Wrap your piece carefully. Bubble wrap is best. Wrappings that are clearly marked with your name will make it easier to return your artwork to you in the original packaging.
6. All work must have an entry label firmly attached to the back of the piece. A duplicate label must be submitted to complete the gallery list.
7. All artists must submit a signed release form which lists the titles of any pieces submitted.
8. The Nashville Calligrapher's Guild reserves the right to refuse inappropriate pieces.

## EXHIBIT RELEASE FORM

The Nashville Calligrapher's Guild accepts art for display from members with the assurance that the Guild and its volunteer workers will exercise all due care to protect property from theft or damage. However, the Guild and/or Gallery is not liable for loss or injury to a piece of work.

Please sign below to indicate that you will not hold the Guild or the Gallery responsible for damage or loss. Your Signature below indicates that you have read and agree to comply with the exhibit guidelines listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Please submit this completed form with your entry labels.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Titles of Pieces submitted for exhibit: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Piece: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials Used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Price, if for sale: \_\_\_\_\_

Value, if NFS: \_\_\_\_\_

Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Piece: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials Used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Price, if for sale: \_\_\_\_\_

Value, if NFS: \_\_\_\_\_

Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Piece: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials Used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Price, if for sale: \_\_\_\_\_

Value, if NFS: \_\_\_\_\_

Scribe: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Piece: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials Used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Price, if for sale: \_\_\_\_\_

Value, if NFS: \_\_\_\_\_

# DETAILS ABOUT THE UPCOMING WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

## Watercolor Elements



Come explore this lively, colorful, and unpredictable medium! Together, we will make at least 15 different experiments that will result in some exciting surprises.

There will be extensive handouts with pictures to help guide you through each process. Here is a sneak peek at some student work from the first experiment. The blue one was done by my 8 year old granddaughter, who doesn't like to follow rules! (My favorite kind of student.)

The supply list is minimal and you will be able to order a kit with some specific supplies from Paper and Ink Arts.

In the end, we will be adding words and sometimes borders to our pieces, giving them a finishing touch. I hope you'll be able to join us in December for a merry time with watercolors!

Carol Hall

## Supply List

Included in kit from Paper and Ink Arts: (price TBD)

Strathmore Ready Cut Watercolor paper 5x7 - COLD PRESS - 25 ct.

Cotman 111 #6 synthetic round brush, blue handle

Cotman 111 #0 synthetic round brush, blue handle

Micron black .05

Micron black .03

Additional supplies: (not included in the kit)

Watercolor set: Minimum: red, yellow, blue and white (Paper and Ink has this set on sale right now)

Item #S808 Koh-In-Noor Watercolor Wheel for \$10.99)

If you have questions about your watercolor set, email me at [caroljanevh@gmail.com](mailto:caroljanevh@gmail.com)

Palette for mixing colors (this should be flat, and is often included in a watercolor set. I will bring styrofoam plates for this purpose), water cup, paper towels, spray bottle, bond paper for sketching (just a few sheets), pencil, eraser, ruler.

Optional: Finetec metallic paints - gold and silver, Gelly Roll pen white, color wheel, other watercolor brushes you would like to bring



# WORKSHOP

## Watercolor Elements

*A two-day watercolor workshop with Carol V. Hall December 2 and 3, 2023*

**Note new dates!!!!!!!**

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 Elements

with

**Carol Hall**

**December 2 and 3, 2023**

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

**At Paper & Ink Arts**

Workshop Cost: \$ 115.00

Deposit Required: \$35.00

---

## Watercolor Elements

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

## WORKSHOP REVIEW

### Pat Blair's Watercolor Classes

by Carol Ann Baily

I first met Pat Blair when the IAMPETH Conference was in Franklin, TN. At that time, she headed up the White House Calligraphy Office. Her pointed pen work was spectacular. And she was very friendly and approachable in conversation and during the workshops. Once she retired, she had more time to devote to her other interests that include both pottery and watercolor work, often combined with calligraphy.

My first Pat Blair watercolor class was in the fall of 2021 when she offered a poinsettia class. I grew up in Florida where we had poinsettias growing in the yard, so I love poinsettias and often have selected Christmas cards and letter paper featuring them. This was a chance to explore working with wedge or triangular brushes. Pat provides beautiful handouts and the Zoom classes provide great closeup demonstrations of the strokes used with the wedge brush to create elegant leaf shapes put together to form arrangements of poinsettias. She loves to combine colors on the brush so that each leaf shimmers with a unique combination of colors that occur on the paper as the stroke is made. She offered the classes over two mornings so you have time to practice the first day's class lessons. She also provided the video of each class for several weeks, so you can continue to watch the demonstrations and continue to learn and practice the formations on your own. I was able to create a poinsettia design to decorate my annual holiday letter that year.

Since I so enjoyed my first class with Pat, I signed up for the spring flower class in 2022, working on pansies and iris. Then there was the summer flower class featuring sunflowers, our theme for the summer envelope exchange. So I used my watercolor sun-

*Continued on page 9*



*Continued from page 8*

flowers on my envelopes last summer. In the fall, I took Pat's fall foliage class. At the end of that class, I realized that I had completed the entire year of seasons. I found a Henry Thoreau quotation that spoke about fully enjoying each season. So I created a border of spring pansies and iris, summer sunflowers, fall foliage, and bright poinsettias with pine and nandina berries to surround the Thoreau "Live in each season as it passes" quotation. The original piece sold at the Centennial Art Center show this spring, along with several prints that I had made to sell. A print of the original that I framed for myself is included with this article.

Two weeks ago, I took another Pat Blair watercolor class using the smallest wedge brush to create a border of fall foliage, including brown-eyed susans and Tennessee coneflowers. I used what I learned in that class to create a border for this newsletter. I hope this will give you a idea of what you could learn from one of Pat Blair's watercolor classes and that you will consider joining one of those she offers. Her next online class is Poinsettias and Pine on Nov. 9 and 10 from 10:30-12:30 Central Time. Check out her online classes on her website at: <https://www.patblaircalligraphy.com/book-online>.



## WORKSHOP REVIEW

### “Celtic Knots: The Next Step” with Joy Daniels

I recently took a zoom class I have waited to take for a year. It was the “Celtic Knots: The Next Step” with Joy Daniels. I had her first class last year and loved it. Last time, we learned the basics of celtic knots and she provided a video review this time in case we forgot the method we learned last time.

Like the class last year, we had two sessions, Wednesday and Sunday. We started where we left off last year, doing circles but turning them into “wreath knots” just in time for the holidays. She then showed us ways to do odd shapes which she uses to make letters filled with celtic knots. I cannot wait to create my own alphabet!

The second class was about drawing triangle knots and interlocking them into bigger designs. The hardest part was doing the “double weave triangular knot in a square”. Joy made it look very easy but it can be very confusing if you don’t go slow and remember your “over and under” chant.

Joy also showed us a bit more about shading and color choices. She shared some of her beautiful pieces which are mostly done in colored pencil. And she shared one or two designs that just didn’t work out but “sometimes you don’t know until you give it a go.” Her recommendation is to try it just to see where it leads. You might end up with a beautiful creation.

Joy lives in Northampton, UK, and is a wonderful, patient teacher. While she said she didn’t know what else she could show us about celtic knots, she promised to see what she could do for another class next year. I am marking my calendar already.

Beth Paul



## WORKSHOP REVIEW

### “Fanciful Cadels” with Vivian Mungall

Vivian Mungall is known for her Cadels, having written a 300+ page iBook filled with examples and history as well as a hardback book with step by step instructions. I have both books but I sign up for her classes whenever I can so I can watch her demos.

The latest Cadels workshop I was able to attend was on Zoom, held by the Canadian Westcoast Calligraphy Society in Vancouver, British Columbia on three consecutive Wednesdays. These classes were based on a manuscript entitled “Ejecutoria de hidalguia de el Yllustre Senor Capitain Martin de Angulo Montesinos se recibio en estra Villa de Ossuna ano de 1567”

(<http://bdh-rd.bne.es/viewer.vm?id=0000008673&page=1>).

Vivian chose that particular manuscript because almost every page had a Cadel and examples of almost every letter of the alphabet.

Vivian used the examples to demonstrate the basic patterns used to create the letters and how they are interchangeable. By the end of the third session, we had a complete alphabet to follow.

Along the way we learned tips such as how to break up the letters into parts, draw first in pencil to work out the design, making sure to start with the spine for structure, and keeping the spacing between the strokes as even as possible.

Cadels are not just letters, they are puzzles, and each one can have a dozen variations before color and filigree are added. If I ever have a question, Vivian is quick to answer my email and is always happy to see what her students have to show.

Beth Paul



# BOOK REVIEW

## *Review of Sull's Manual of Advanced Penmanship*

by Erica McPhee

If you are at all interested in Spencerian Penmanship, you know the name Michael R. Sull, as the two are often spoken of hand-in-hand. The calligraphic community has just received the most incredible gift in Sull's new book, *Sull's Manual of Advanced Penmanship* in which he does a deep dive into his 40 years of experience to share all he has learned. Chapters include American Curative Handwriting, Ornamental Penmanship, Flourishing, and an extended appendix. What sets it apart from other calligraphy books is the depth and breadth of the experience Sull shares which so few in modern times have encountered.

Sull admits right in the preface that from the beginning of his career, he chose to write with combination muscular movement rather than whole arm movement. This may cause many a modern-day calligrapher to sigh in relief knowing they can openly embrace finger, wrist, and muscular movement. He further explains his reason for writing the advanced book was to preserve all he has learned and created over his extensive career that was not published in any existing text. This includes his Spencerian-styled monogram designs, Masterpiece Flourishing (a technique Sull created to emulate the lavish pen-work seen in *The Universal Penman*), signature writing, and the complex capital letters affectionately

named super twisters. He also includes novelty penmanship styles such as connected, relay, cross, backwards, and puzzle writing.

In Chapter 2: Ornamental Penmanship, Sull explains the foundational elements of advanced penmanship such as curvature, negative space, line quality, shading, balance, and spontaneity & movement. These are the secrets to advanced lettering and composition that so few books address in detail. He further drills it down to ink qualities and condition of the pen point. Every question you'd hope to have answered by a master penman has been captured by the kind gentleman who has shared his knowledge with eager students all over the world.

Perhaps the most delicious part of the book includes tips for flourishing, how to manipulate shaded strokes, and extensive instruction on twister capitals. Included are several examples of ornamental capital variations. Beyond that, Sull explains in-depth how to layout finished pieces, line breaks, negative space, flourish density, and composition. These are perhaps the most important insights we could hope to have shared with us to study, absorb, and apply in our own work. Very few of the many, many classes I have taken over the years discussed details such as shade control, understanding the use of curves, and the balancing of letters and flourishing in depth. Sull has left no detail out of this generous master class.

Last, but certainly not least, is the section on off-hand and title flourishing which includes instruction for bird flourishing, artistic line work, filigree, and banners. The final pages cover



*Continued from page 12*

Sull's self-titled Masterpiece Flourishing which simplifies what appears as complex - the flourishing seen in George Bickham's *The Universal Penman*. This is the only instruction of its kind and Sull leaves no stone unturned in sharing his legacy.

Not to be missed is the awe-inspiring story of the Master's Pen: a pen made from 40-million-year-old amber Sull sourced from Russia and 5,000-year-old bog oak. I'll save the rest of the story for enticed readers. The manual finishes with handouts, exercises, guide sheets, historical and modern work from many of today's accomplished calligraphers (all students of Michael R. Sull), and Sull's "Secret of the Ovals" which I won't reveal. But I highly recommend you purchase the book to find out!

Erica McPhee



*Lettering by Erica McPhee*

---

#### **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).