

EST. 1981  
*Nashville*  
CALLIGRAPHERS GUILD

March 2020



**NASHVILLE  
CALLIGRAPHERS  
GUILD  
2019-2020 BOARD  
OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT: Susan Wallace  
VICE PRESIDENT: Carol Hall  
TREASURER: Laura Kraft  
RECORDING SECRETARY:  
Kimberly Blevins  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:  
Ruth Haskins  
MEMBERS AT LARGE:  
Lilo Regen  
Robyn Hall  
Marsha French  
Chris Hackenbrack

**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  
SCRIBHAVEN: Vicki Brandt  
WEBSITE: Kimberly Blevins, Laura Kraft  
SUMMER ENVELOPE EXCHANGE:  
Carol Hall  
LOGO DESIGN: Vicki Brandt

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy (Almost) Spring!

Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early Spring so we are almost there. I'm already seeing the daffodils poking out of the ground.

We had a wonderful program in January with Sheryl showing us all about paste papers despite the storm outside. Our March program is about Journaling with Carol Percy. I look forward to seeing beautiful creations. This will be a lot of fun!

Beth Paul will be teaching Celtic Knots in March and Miranda Fuller is teaching Botanical Art in April. These will both be great workshops. If you hadn't signed up yet, send Ann Cobb your registration and fee for the programs.

As I'm writing this, the trip to Scribehaven is being planned. I can't wait to share all that happens over the retreat weekend. I'm looking forward to Chris and Ruth's program on Friday night and Joann's program on Saturday. I also hope to get in a walk around Lake Barkley too!

As always, if you have a lettering project or exchange envelopes to share please bring them to the meeting. Your projects and examples are very helpful and inspirational to the less inexperienced of us and nice for the newcomers to see what we do. And, I'm sure the experienced pros will love seeing it too.

Happy Writing!

Susan Wallace  
NCG President

Thank You to contributors of this issue:  
Susan Wallace, Carol Hall, Ann Cobb, Sheryl Bracey, Carol Percy, Mary Henderson, JoAnn Bates, Laura Kraft, and Chris Hackenbrack.

A special thank you to Vicki Brandt for her lovely cover art.



In her Member Interview, (ed. note: See page 5), Chris Hackenbrack mentions a website she enjoys, [Moreloveletters.com](http://Moreloveletters.com). (Hint: Google "the world needs more love letters".)

The website was started by a student who used to anonymously drop simple notes like "You are loved", "You are beautiful", "You can do it" around her campus. Then she discovered how much the little notes meant to the finders so that's when she started the site.

People can request cards for others who need encouragement, then you send a card in for that person and the cards are sent to clients. They get about 250 cards from all over the world. Some of the recipients have found Chris on Instagram and direct messaged her with their appreciation, saying how they have kept all their cards to reread them when needed. Sounds like a great site. Hope we all can check it out.

# 2019-2020 NCG EVENTS SCHEDULE

**March 28, 2020 - “Celtic Design” with Beth Paul**

**April 18 - 19, 2020 - “Botanical Art 101” with Miranda Fuller**

*May 9, 2020 - Guild Meeting*

**September 26, 2020 “RulingPen/Folded Pen” with Sheryl Bracey**

**October 17-18, 2020 - Pointed Pen Variations” with Bill Kemp**

## ELSEWHERE

**June 27 - July 1, 2020 International Calligraphy Conference in Slovenia**

**July 6 – 11, 2020 IAMPETH in Atlanta**

### Workshop Information

Workshops are open initially to Nashville Calligraphers Guild members. If spaces are available one month prior to the workshop dates, registration is open to non-members.

Workshops are planned based upon survey results from the Guild Workshop Survey, done every other year. Teachers and/or workshop topics that are suggested by members are investigated and may be booked if the workshop is one that was mentioned frequently in the surveys. We must schedule workshops that are of interest to the most members possible. Otherwise, we do not meet minimum workshop numbers. Workshop teachers must often be booked two years ahead due to the teachers' calendars. Many are now booking two or more years out.

We try to make workshops affordable to our members; thus, we often schedule two one-day workshops taught by local guild members, and two two-day workshops at least one of which is taught by an out-of-town teacher. Thank you for your support of our workshops and our Guild.

Ann Cobb, Workshop Chair

## NCGuild Study Groups

Listed below are the study groups formed in different geographic areas in order to continue the practice and study of calligraphy beyond the Guild workshops and programs:

### ***A Drop of Ink***

Where: Marilyn Stirrett's home (Old Hickory) or Paper and Ink Arts

When: Second and Fourth Thursdays at 9:30 am.

Contact: Ann Cobb: (615) 330-9486

### ***Scribes West***

Where: Green Hills Public Library

When: Third Thursday, 1:30-3:30 pm

Contact: Nancie Schweikert (615) 356-2770  
or Carol Ann Baily (Communicating Coordinator)  
at [carolannbaily@gmail.com](mailto:carolannbaily@gmail.com) for schedule of  
monthly programs and ensure a place is set for all.

***Scribes West*** meeting dates for the Spring are:

March 12th-Show and Tell of our Pointed Pen Modern Scripts

April 16th-Envelope Design

May 21st-Envelope Design Show and Tell

### ***The Calligraphy Art Girls***

Where: Mary Henderson's home (East Nashville)

When: First Monday at 11 am.

Contact: Mary Henderson: (615) 228-9416 (land line)

# Summer Envelope Exchange

Want to stay in touch this summer? Wish you knew other Guild members better?  
Want to share your love of lettering? Here's your chance:

Join The NCG Summer Envelope Exchange!

The theme is: **Walking on Sunshine**

The exchange will run from **June through August, 2020.**

How it works:

By signing up, you are committing to send approximately **six** envelopes:  
two envelopes in June, two in July, and two in August.

You are asked to bring the envelopes you receive to the September Guild meeting to show and share!

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, 2020.

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, by virtue of participating, 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 do not need to put anything calligraphic into your envelope. You can if you wish, but no pressure to do so.

You must put something into your envelope -- perhaps a short note telling something about yourself, or share the techniques used to address the envelope.

If you want to participate, send the following information to:

Email: [caroljvh@aol.com](mailto:caroljvh@aol.com)

or via USPS mail: Carol Hall, 7400 River Road Pike,  
Nashville TN 37209

Please submit your information in the following format:

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



## Love Letters and Elvis!

Normally, I just randomly call members to interview. However, since I've procrastinated too long (down to the last 24 hours) to take a chance, AND I had to talk to Chris Hackenbrack....so she became my interviewee!!!

So after taking care of business (one of Elvis' favorite sayings), we started the interview. But first, I learned that, as a child, Chris lived in Orlando BEFORE Disney World. (And we think Nashville has changed in the last few years!!!) As one of four children, all close in age, add in their friends, their house with a backyard pool seemed like a constant pool party. Being on a swim team, Chris and her sister were offered a job at Sea World as a 'pearl divers'! The drive was too long (45 minutes) so she took a job in a mall. But wouldn't 'Pearl Diver' be great on a resumé? As an adult she moved to the beach in Gainesville, Florida.

How long have you been doing calligraphy? Introduced in 8th grade- she had half a semester calligraphy class with a broad pen. The pen was put down, until 5 years ago. Chris was addressing her Christmas cards and wanted them to be pretty. So she found the Guild, came to a November meeting and was convinced to go to Scribehaven in February! At Scribehaven Sheryl Bracey shared exemplars for English Roundhand... And she was off to the races, so to speak.

What's your go-to book? Molly Suber Thrope's *Modern Calligraphy* and *Mastering Modern Calligraphy* as well as *The Calligrapher's Business Handbook*.

Who do you follow on Instagram? She laughed- seems like 100s! She started with the Happy Ever Crafter on YouTube, where a new person was interviewed every week then Chris would follow that person, so the list grew weekly. More often than not, these people all followed Chris back and she interacts with them. Also, she follows Lindsey's and The Postman's Knock, which is also an email. But not all are calligraphers. James Clear, author of *Atomic Habits*, tiny changes remarkable results.... sounds really good for me!!!!

Favorite tip? Don't use a plastic pen holder. AND take a class with Sheryl Bracey!

## NCG MEMBER INTERVIEW: CHRIS HACKENBRACK

Start with classic English Roundhand before going to modern calligraphy. You can tell when people don't!

Good handwriting in school? Yes! In parochial school, they weren't allowed ballpoint pens, just fountain pens. (Have you also read that ballpoint pens have ruined our handwriting since the two pens are held differently? Chris, thank your school every day!)

\*Favorite hand? (best answer ever!) "My own!"

\*Least favorite? Broad edge. She likes looking at the hands, just not writing them.

What's your studio like? It's a front bedroom, with a wonderful window and an attached bathroom. Two lingerie dressers (great with their smaller drawers), bookcases and a desk. On the wall is a painting of Elvis (by Chris), and standing nearby is a life size Elvis!

Other passions? Family. Knitting. Dancing. In fact, she and her husband went on a swing dance week honeymoon. Besides dancing in the house, she does exercise dance class too. Her grandparents were from Croatia, which means music and dancing. So every Sunday, she and her family would dance around a pole (not to be confused with a pole dancer). Another passion is, of course, water color painting. If it stands still, she will paint on it - furniture, walls, canvases, cards, etc. While her kids were in school, she painted murals in the schools! She painted walls in her mother's home.... an 18 inch high "aquarium" in a bathroom that goes all around the room, with fish and a dolphin....artistic liberty!

Favorite quote? Depends on her mood. She couldn't come up with one at the moment but said she goes to Pinterest for her hundreds she's saved. She uses these saved quotes often. Besides birthdays, Christmas and Halloween cards, Chris told me about "the world needs more love letters.com". (Ed. Note: See info box, page 2, about "the world needs more love letters.com").

Favorite tool? A paintbrush!!! Any kind!

Anything to add? Yes! "Because people find me from the 'love letters' cards, they often say how talented I am. But the fact is it is ALL practice, a lot of practice."

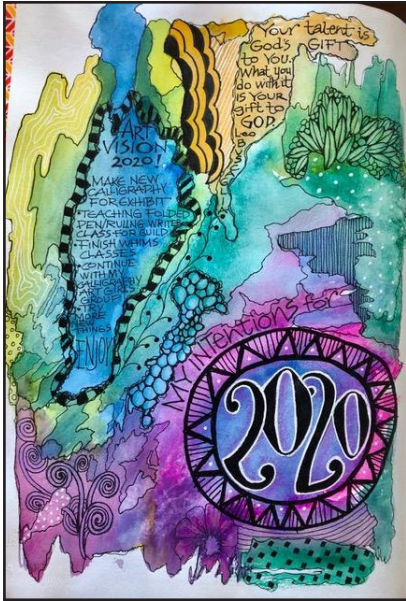
Not sure what Elvis means to Chris, but obviously the 'love letters' mean a lot, and Elvis sang 'Love Letters'! I see a correlation!!!

Ruth Haskins

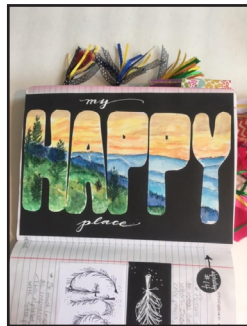
Next Meeting: March 14, 2020  
Plaza Artist Materials  
Downtown Nashville

Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.  
General Meeting 10:30 a.m.  
March Program  
(following meeting)

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM



Sheryl Bracey



JoAnn Bates

### The Joy of Journaling

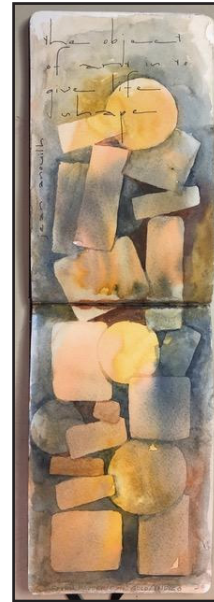
Due to internet access, there has been a revival in the field of journaling, and the result has been a plethora of creativity from many of our guild members.

Carol Percy will guide us on our journey into journaling by sharing her years of expertise on this subject with tips, prompts, and resources.

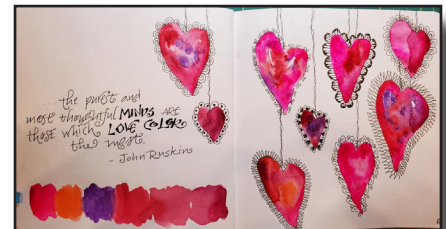
Anyone who has journals they would like to share, please bring them and we will set up in a "Round Robin" fashion so that each person can get a close look.



Carol Percy



Carol Hall



Mary Henderson

### 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.

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).