

NOVEMBER 2019

**A Weekend of Work:  
Class Results of  
Heather Held's "Enchanted Meadow"  
and "The Victorian Pen"**



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CALLIGRAPHERS  
GUILD  
2019-2020 BOARD  
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LOGO DESIGN: Vicki Brandt

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Susan Wallace, Carol Hall, Ann Cobb,  
Carol Ann Baily, Ruth Farwell, Christina  
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you to Heather Held and all her class  
members who shared their work.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone!

I hope everyone is having a wonderful Fall. We finally have a nip in the air after an especially hot early Fall.

We had three wonderful workshops with Sharon Hanse and Heather Held. If you would like to share what you did in the workshops please bring it to share at our meeting. It's nice for the others who couldn't go to the workshops to see what was done in them.

We have some exciting workshops coming up in the new year that will be included in the newsletter. We also have Carol Hall planning some really good meeting programs for the new year.

If you have your exchange envelopes and forgot to bring them to last meeting you can go ahead and bring them. It's nice to see the envelopes regardless of when. If you have anything else to share please bring it. You can inspire the rest of us with your beautiful work.

Happy Writing!

- Susan Wallace  
NCG President

For those of you who took Heather Held's classes, George Harmerling offers another source for the decorative crystals:

[https://www.firemountaingems.com/shop/kw1d647yksf7ndq?navsrc=top\\_1\\_SwarovskiRhinestones](https://www.firemountaingems.com/shop/kw1d647yksf7ndq?navsrc=top_1_SwarovskiRhinestones)

And those of us who have studied with Reggie usually purchase our gold leaf from Wehrung & Billmeier at:

<https://www.wbgoldleaf.com>

They are based in Chicago, and are the last company who does their own gold-beating in the United States. Many shades of gold, silver, variegated metals, much to see.

## BLACKBOARD BOOGIE BOARD WRITING TABLET - Review by Chris Hackenbrack

Well, I got myself a new toy and I thought you all might be interested in it. It is a Blackboard Boogie Board I got from Amazon for \$40.00.

It is liquid crystal paper, which is the new tech version of the Magic Erase drawing board of my childhood. There is no need for charging as it has a long life battery. The version that I got is see-through so that you can use an 8.5"x11" guideline sheet. It comes with a magnetic stylus.

This drawing tablet, in my mind, is perfect for practice, warm up, and layouts. It is pressure sensitive, though the included stylus point is too thick. While I look for one with a

finer point, I am using a sanded bamboo skewer. The big draw for me is that it saves paper.

There is a free app with which you can take a photo of your work and save it. I have not downloaded the app as I don't know how this would be any different than taking a photo with your phone and saving it.

The description purports pinpoint erasing functionality. I have not found that to work. When you are done, you erase the whole page with the press of a button.

This is not a tablet like an iPad, and for me it is a very portable way to take practice with me wherever I go.





# 2019-2020 NCG EVENTS SCHEDULE

November 9, 2019 - Guild Meeting

January 11, 2020 - Guild Meeting

**February 27 - March 1, 2020 - Scribehaven**

March 14, 2020 - Guild Meeting

**March 28, 2020 - "Celtic Knots" with Beth Paul**

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

May 9, 2020 - Guild Meeting

2020 - 2021

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

**October 10-11, 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 maximum workshop numbers. Workshop teachers must often be booked two years ahead due to the teachers' calendars. Many are now booking at least two 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

## Nashville Calligraphers Guild Study Groups

This past year, study groups were formed in different geographic areas in order to continue practice and study of calligraphy beyond the Guild workshops and programs

### *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)

### *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.

Their Monthly Schedule through May 2020:

Oct. 17 Copperplate 1 – with Ruth Haskins

Nov. 21 Copperplate 2

Jan. 16 Pointed Pen for Modern Scripts  
– with Chris Hackenbrack

Feb. 20 More Pointed Pen for Modern Scripts

Mar. 19 PP for Modern Scripts Show & Tell

Apr. 16 Envelope Design

May 21 Envelope Design Show & Tell



Left to Right:  
Mary Jackson,  
Nancie Schweikert,  
Chris Hackenbrack  
and Carol Ann Baily  
of *Scribes West*

## “THE ENCHANTED MEADOW”

Have you ever wanted to create lovely forest creatures that are often seen in children’s books? Do you love the pastel colors and lovely florals? Heather Victoria Held is a true master in creating all of these.

Her Enchanted Meadow workshop led us through the process of designing both the forest creatures and the beautiful flourishes upon which they sat. Heather provided a thorough, beautiful, and complete handout which walked us through the complete process of design, rendering, and decoration.

We created bunnies accompanied by flowers, acanthus leaves, and accent strokes. Heather uses Daniel Smith watercolors, Faber Castell Polychromos colored pencils, and McCaffery’s brown ink. Favorite sources of inspiration include: Beatrix Potter, Kate Greenaway, Cicely Mary Barker, Marjolein Bastin, and Valerie Greeley, among others.

Heather’s delicate touch and fine lines are evident in her birds, bunnies, squirrels, foxes, butterflies, and many other creatures of nature. She enhances her work with beautiful flowers, acanthus leaves, and various accent strokes.

All of Heather’s work is as delicate and gentle as the person that she is.

-Ann Cobb



This was another wonderful workshop with the incomparable Heather Held. As usual, she provided plenty of gentle encouragement and individual attention to everyone. With Heather’s guidance, our first tentative sketches became fully formed miniature bunnies full of personality. Before long they began to multiply like... well... bunnies and before you knew it, we had a warren-full of adorable bunnies. We then added some of Heather’s signature ethereal acanthus leaf and floral vines to give the bunnies a home.

I only have one complaint. This was a one-day workshop. It was not long enough. I wanted more time to explore the meadow to meet more of its enchanting inhabitants. Since our time was so short, I would have liked to have concentrated on the miniature animals so we may have had time to meet some of the bunnies’ friends, but Heather gave us plenty of resources to continue our study on our own.

- Kimberly Blevins





## “THE VICTORIAN PEN”

Who better to learn how to make floral arrangements on paper than from florist and flourisher Heather Held? We were lucky to have not one, not two, but THREE days with Heather this October in Nashville.

Following a Friday session of the Enchanted Meadow, Heather guided us through a busy, busy weekend of the Victorian Pen – a workshop in designing, drafting, executing and embellishing off-hand flourishes with a mix of pointed pen flourishes, florals and other elements. Additionally, we learned many methods of dressing them up – adding color using different mediums and of course Heather’s signature bling, Swarovski crystals and gilding in gold.

On day one of the Victorian Pen, we learned how to create several types of floral and leaf designs, botanical accents from spring twigs to winter holly, pine and poinsettias, and more. We then put these pieces together like a puzzle to form ornaments that could form corner frames, laurels or elements that simply grow out of the words themselves. These types of design elements are easy to grow organically on the page, and do not require much pre-planning. They can beautify a piece after writing, without much added risk.

To maximize learning time, while designing these elements we learned many ways to dress them up to add value, color, and bling – from colored pencils to watercolor, pastels and crystals and more. By the end of the first day, everyone had created a beautiful sample sheet of all the techniques applied to four corner elements (and more if they found the time).

On the second day, we developed more complicated design pieces. These require some forethought and pencil sketching prior to the final inking (unless your name is Heather and you’ve got 1000’s of them under your pen already). We studied how to simplify ornamental decorations such as acanthus scrolls to find their simple linear shapes for inspiration. Using these as skeletons for our own designs, we grew acanthus leaves,



*Heather's examples completed in class.*

pointed pen birds, flowers, butterflies, dragonflies, and more.

These complicated design elements take some thought and planning up front, but once you have the general idea of it and apply the skills learned from day one, they render very quickly into a beautiful piece. They can be used as a stand-alone design on their own or to really dress something up.

The handouts alone that Heather provided are worth their weight in gold leaf. Pages and pages of full-color inspiration, research, and book references as well as step-by-step of everything she went over (and some bonus material), and a full color gallery of her own work were included. A very welcome parting gift – she has made it very simple to follow along and re-create the steps we did during the class.

- Christine Shaw



## WORKSHOP REVIEW

“Decorated Letters” with Sharon Hanse  
Sept. 21-22, 2019

I recently enjoyed another great Nashville Calligraphy Guild two-day workshop: Decorated Letters with Sharon Hanse. Sharon is an outstanding artist and was enthusiastic about sharing her work process, techniques and materials during these two days.

The workshop started with everyone designing a capital letter, and thinking about different embellishments add to the design to reflect some personal meaning. After we had sketched out our designs and refined them, we transferred them to water-color paper, then the real fun began!

Sharon demonstrated various ways to add depth, color, and gilding to our designs, using various media including metallic powders, gouache, and gold leaf. I’m new to gilding and was a bit overwhelmed with the amount of information, but was glad to be introduced to several different methods to explore during the workshop.

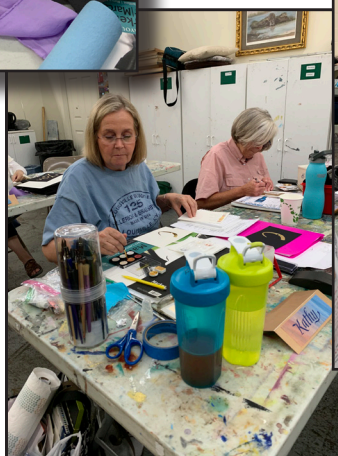
During the two days, I made two versions of my gilded letter design. One with a medium for flat gilding, and one using Instacoll to create a raised gold gilding. This was a first gilding experience for me, and while mine wasn’t perfect, it was fun to see what could be done with these materials.

I was amazed at the variation of letters produced by the group—some very modern, some very traditional, but all lovely. It’s always fun to be surrounded by so many talented guild members who are willing to share their own tips and techniques. I came away exhausted, but with a lot of information, techniques, and ideas to explore, refine, and incorporate into my work in the future.

- Ruth Farwell



*Instructor Sharon Hanse*





## Here's An Inexpensive Hobby...

The newsletter interview: Well?...since I was fortunate to be hosting Heather Held for her 3 days ( 2 workshops), it seemed obvious to interview her!

For those who have never met Heather, she begins her classes commenting about how introverted she is and how she's the most anxious person in the room. Before calligraphy, Heather worked in a florist shop (loved doing arrangements but not dealing with the customers), and in a sewing shop where she had a following (smocking, embroidery, etc...). While in a gift shop here, she pointed out an intricate folded pillow cover that she used to do.) While those jobs were very creative, they were not jobs in front of others. Meanwhile, Chris, her husband, was growing tired of stepping on pins and the expense of material (I'm visualizing a stash) and threads and I'm guessing machines. So he thoughtfully walked in one day with a Sheaffer calligraphy set (that we all bought) saying, "here's an inexpensive hobby for you"!!!! She quickly realized she didn't like broad pen, and already having a subscription to Victoria Magazine, she found the pointed pen. And the heavens opened up. She googled Victorian penmanship and found IAMPETH, the site having lessons and people to meet.

2003 was her first IAMPETH in Cleveland (she was president by 2014). Michael Shull talked her into sending in a proposal to teach in 2010 at the International Calligraphy Conference and she was chosen. However, she couldn't bring herself to stay in the dorm with the other teachers but a little hotel nearby. Michael Sull created a Spencerian Heritage Award along with a letter, saying "you can do this" which she read over and over calming her down. Her anxiety was real.

She could talk one on one. She met her husband on a double date-although not her's! She was with Chris' friend!!!!

Favorite book- Ames Compendium of Practical and Ornamental Penmanship. Also, any of Billy Showell's botanical books.

Hint- study as much as you practice!

Favorite hand -it's a tie vote- English Roundhand, Spencerian, and Italian Hand (she does not use the word Copperplate, but rather English Roundhand. And Italian Hand is a pointed pen hand also)

Other passions- gardening and walking... which she combines in walks around her kidney shaped garden with a St. Francis (bird feeder) in the center. She also walks to town almost every day. And

## INTERVIEW WITH HEATHER VICTORIA HELD



*Interviewer and Interviewee! Ruth Haskins, left and Heather Held, right*

add reading and embroidery to that list. It never bothered her when her daughter, as a child, played in her smocked dresses-she could always whip up another.

Her studio? Up until 2017, it was a small desk-30 square inches-she referred to her space as a Harry Potter under the stairs-cupboard space. Which brought up the discussion of other IAMPETH teachers with very small work spaces- Nan DeLuca, years ago she mentioned at IAMPETH that she literally had her desk in a New York apartment closet. And I think she mentioned John DeCollibus worked off a small space too! Both fabulous calligraphers. When you think about it, it kinda takes away any 'my-space-is-too-small-excusses! Well, Chris to the rescue, he built a detached studio-18' x 23', heated, and AC with nice windows. (No plumbing, that involves more codes and permits, but she's just 20 steps away from her house).

Favorite quote-"Believe in the beauty of your dreams"- Eleanor Roosevelt and "I must have flowers"- Monet.

Favorite tool- sit down for this!.....Sukura Clear Gelly Roll pen!

But the best question was- do you have any books in you? Yes, 2 in fact!!!! OMG- I can't wait for those!!!!

-Ruth Haskins

**Next Meeting: November 9, 2019**  
**Plaza Artist Materials**  
**Downtown Nashville**

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

## **THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM**

### **Dark Paper, White and Metallic Inks, and Sparkle -- Oh My!**

Most of us work with black ink, walnut ink, or color inks/gouaches on white or off-white paper. When we see work done with white, gold, or silver lettering and design on dark paper, we are always impressed with the result. But which paper is best to use? And which white and metallics work best? Will the paper remain dark, or will it fade over time? Will the white actually look white on the black paper? Will the gold or silver retain their metallic qualities?

Join us at the November Guild meeting as we experiment with various white, gold, and silver pens, pencils, markers, and inks on dark paper and find answers to some of these questions. We will be testing many kinds of media on dark paper. Bring your favorite nib holder with your favorite nib and join us for this fun round-robin program!



### **PARTICIPATION TABLES**

For the past few meetings, the Guild has set up tables for members to enjoy. If you have anything suitable for either table, please feel free to bring it to the meeting. **WARNING!** Do not get the tables mixed up. We would hate for you to give away a piece of art unintentionally!

#### ***SHOW AND SHARE TABLE***

We will have a table available for members to share their projects with the group. It can be an envelope you received, a project you have completed, an art journal or samples from a recent class or workshop you have taken (hint, hint...). Seeing what others are working on inspires the rest of us and promotes the creative process.

#### ***FREEBIE TABLE***

If you have an extra copy of a book, a bottle of ink or paper pad that you would like to give away, or something else that is art related, you may bring it to put on the table. **BUT...**if no one wants it, **YOU** will have to do something with it, it cannot be left for the Guild or Plaza to handle.

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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 Sharon Shirley at 615-760-5676. 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.

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