

EST. 1981
Nashville
CALLIGRAPHERS GUILD

May 2020



**Members of the Nashville Calligraphers Guild
at Scribheaven Retreat
February 27- March 1, 2020
Lake Barkley, KY**

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

PRESIDENT: Susan Wallace
VICE PRESIDENT: Carol Hall
TREASURER: Laura Kraft
RECORDING SECRETARY:
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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

Thank You to contributors of this issue:
Susan Wallace, Carol Hall, Vicki
Brandt, Donna Hacker, Jan Hurst,
Ann Cobb, Chris Hackenbrack, Sheryl
Bracy, Valerie Cypress and Rose
Wathen.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Fellow Scribes!

Well...2020 has certainly been interesting so far. We had a stormy day for our January meeting, our March meeting was canceled because social distancing had just started, and as of right now, the pandemic continues. I hope everyone is safe and continues to be safe. We may live in uncertain times at the moment but one thing is certain -- our love of calligraphy. While we are not able to be in the same room and share our love of calligraphy, we can find comfort that our calligraphy friends are out there and we will be together again.

We had a wonderful time at Scribehaven. Who knew that would be a last trip for a while. You can see the fun time we had with the photos in the newsletter. Thank you to JoAnn, Sheryl, Ruth, and Chris for the programs you put on for us. And, thank you to Vicki for organizing the event.

Going forward, we vote on Guild officers in May. We will be sending out an email with a link to the SurveyMonkey site to vote. There will be two emails. One for the vote on nominations and the second for the vote for those nominated. We will give you five days to vote. The board had a virtual meeting in April. We discussed a possible summer meet-up; however, given how "iffy" things are at the moment, we can't promise anything. We will just monitor the situation and if it looks possible to have a meet-up, we will let everyone know. We all want to meet but we want to do it safely and do what is allowed.

It could possibly be Fall the next time we see each other in person. If you have a lettering project or exchange envelopes to share, please post them on social media for all of us to see. Use the #nashvillecalligraphersguild. It's nice to see what other people do and also nice to have the connection with others.

Stay safe!

Susan Wallace,
NCG President

Editor's Note:

Because of the current health situation, the May issue of the NCG newsletter will not be printed and mailed, but will be sent out digitally as a pdf. Because of this, the reader may note minor changes in the look of the newsletter, the most obvious being the change in font as it is felt that the font most easily read on the computer screen is Arial. However, the newsletter itself can still be printed off for members who prefer a hard copy.

Also, as mentioned in the President's message, it may be autumn before we are physically together again, so be sure and check emails for further updates on Guild activities, such as voting, dues, meeting updates, etc. Stay in touch and stay safe.

2020 NCG EVENTS SCHEDULE

Workshops “Celtic Design” with Beth Paul and “Botanical Art 01” with Miranda Fuller - TBD

September 12, 2020 - Guild Meeting - TBD

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

October 17-18, 2020 - Pointed Pen Variations” with Bill Kem - Postponed until Spring 2021

November 14, 2020 - Guild Meeting TBD

ELSEWHERE

June 27 - July 1, 2020 International Calligraphy Conference in Slovenia (canceled)

July 6 – 11, 2020 IAMPETH in Atlanta (canceled)

*****Guild Workshop Update*****

Due to the Covid19 quarantines, closure, and concerns, we will not be opening registration for the fall workshops in May. As we monitor the situation and work with Plaza Artist Materials to determine when it will be safe to once again gather there for workshops, we will keep you informed.

As you are aware, we postponed Celtic Knots with Beth Paul and Botanical Art 101 with Miranda Fuller. Those two workshops will be rescheduled as soon as it is safe to gather in a group.

We are also postponing Pointed Pen Variations with Bill Kemp. I have talked with Bill, and he agreed that it would be best to postpone until April 2021, when things in our world are hopefully more settled.

Right now, Sheryl Bracey’s Ruling Pen/Writer and Folded Pen is still on the calendar. But we will not open registration for that one until a later date.

Please watch your email as well as our Guild web site for updates on our workshops. And keep on lettering!
-Ann Cobb, Workshop Chair

NCGuild Study Groups* *Suspended for now...check with coordinator*

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

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)

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 for schedule of monthly programs and ensure a place is set for all.

***Please be aware that attendance at study groups does not mean automatic membership in the NCG nor receipt of newsletters and discounts. To be a member, dues must be paid to the treasurer.**

The Scribheaven Experience, 2020



In an email to Vicki Brandt, Donna Hacker's comments...

"...about Scribheaven. I just loved it! [Vicki's] hard work made it flow seamlessly! The presentations were so fun! That JoAnn Bates is such a marvelous teacher. She has so much joy! Sheryl's wc journals were awesome! Signed up for Joanne Sharpe's class immediately upon return home. The papermaking session was a lot of fun too!

There was a slower pace this year which sure suited me, but most importantly, I got to really get to know some people who I've always liked a lot but our friendships grew. I know Jan [Hurst] felt the same way.

There was a lovely spirit about the place! I reflected on that and felt part of it was due to everyone rising to the occasion to make sure it was a success—because none of us wanted to let [Vicki] down!!!"

SCRIBEHAVEN 2020 - Review by Jan Hurst

Going to Scribehaven 2020 was up in the air for me until a few weeks before the scheduled dates. I missed a grandson's birthday in order to attend, but they got along without me, and we shared cupcakes after I got home. With all that has ensued since that lovely several days, I'm so glad I went!

A couple of members met me in nearby Cadiz, KY, on that Thursday, where we visited a few shops and went to an early dinner at a many-star-worthy restaurant, Harper House. Great food and great service were both on the menu. That was a very good entry to the long weekend of fun.

As I recall, the weather was beautiful – no complaints at all. It can be dicey in February, but we really lucked out this year with lots of sunshine to warm things up. Rocking chairs on the veranda and a sweet welcome sign at the Sunrise Room greeted us, followed by beautiful name tags made by Carol Hall. Every year, the nametags have been unique and lovely. This year was no exception. In honor of Vicki Brandt, who usually plans and chairs the event but who was unable to attend this year, Carol painted a little bird on a branch on each fringed fabric tag. Everyone mentioned how great they were, and one friend even plans to frame hers. (Thank you, Carol!)



Jan, sitting at her table as Scribehaven.

The atmosphere was very relaxed and welcoming. I'd been busy with wedding jobs and needed that relaxing vibe. Every year, there are some great programs to avail ourselves of. They're always good, and naturally, this year's were, too. A few members shared ideas in a mostly informal atmosphere, conducive to fun. I learned about – and purchased when I got home – a stamp positioner that looked like so much fun. Why? I have not used my rubber stamps in years, but her demo made me feel that this was something I had to have. (Yep, I am resigned to think that I really am 'easy' as my sister and her husband used to say about me when it came to their girls. True then, true now.) Some demos were impromptu to whomever was nearby, and a few notable ones were planned.

Ruth Haskins and Chris Hackenbrack did a duo demo on hand papermaking with lots of good examples and a little embossed square for each of us to keep. They were funny and knowledgeable and everyone enjoyed seeing their papermaking skills in action. Chris, when asked, also told how she'd decorated her cute Tom's style shoes with painted flowers. They were a hit!

Sheryl Bracey showed us her journals, explained some of the processes and gave us each a handout of watercolor-dotted papers for us to 'ink' a la her online classes with JoAnn Sharpe. At least a few of the attendees were sold on the classes by Sheryl's enthusiastic descriptions – I know both Donna Hacker and I signed up for the Watercolor Whims Pen and Ink class when we got home. I have yet to go beyond class one, but I will get back to it soon.

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JoAnn Bates showed us many techniques for decorative mail and greeting cards and gave a sweet green gingham paper bag full of samples to each of us. Her enjoyment was contagious. There were so many darling examples even oldies like me probably learned a cute trick or two.

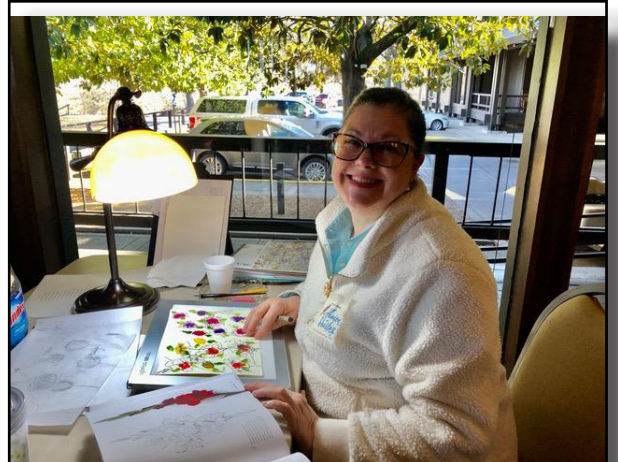
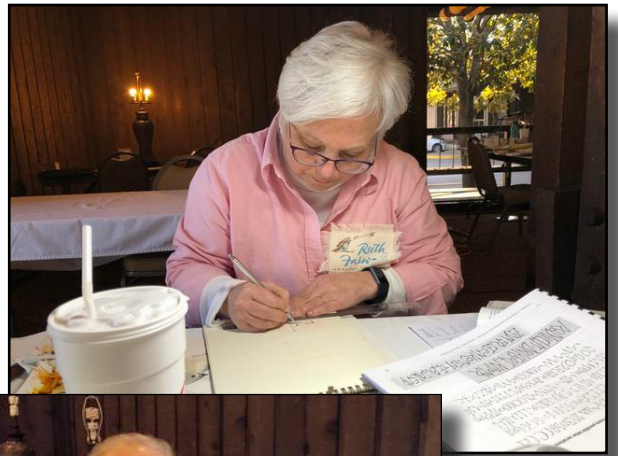
Many people came with a project in mind, and worked on it during the weekend. Others were inspired by the goings-on and did something else. I had intended to work from my Heather Held Enchanted Garden and Victorian Pen workshops, but instead, I lettered my sisters' and sisters-in-law's names with some flourished decoration. I was happy to go home with actual gifts for people I love. Sharon Shirley worked on things she'd learned from Suzanne Cunningham and Angela Welch in a recent workshop she'd attended. She also brought some beautiful books with inspiring images and some instruction that many of us pored over. Carol Hall worked on envelope exchange using Year of the Rat stamps. Very cool! Donna Hacker worked on Heather Held flourishing. George from Memphis completed several quotes.

There were many beautiful projects going on throughout the room. I can't remember what each person worked on, but the tables were full of beautiful and colorful works, and the pleasant sounds of friendly conversations and occasional laughter were uplifting. There was no hint of the tragedies to befall us: the devastating tornado in Nashville and a world-wide pandemic.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the cafeteria staff and the good food. We shared many good meals in genial company. Jack the Chef even brought out platters of delicious fried shrimp one night – just for us!

When the world gets back to normal – and it will one day – plan to attend Scribheaven for an inexpensive several days and nights in a beautiful setting with people whose company you will enjoy. It's a great relaxing place to spend some time, and you can work at your own speed – or do nothing at all.

NOTE: Lake Barkley State Resort Park is currently being used as a quarantine location for people who have or may have been exposed to COVID-19 and need a place to stay.



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

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



What are You Doing These Days?

Now that your house is all clean and straight, what do you do next? All local art and calligraphy workshops have been cancelled. Art and craft stores are closed to inperson shopping. Movie theaters are closed, as are most other stores and shops. So what do we do?

Let's think about some possibilities

First, consider participating in the Guild's Envelope Exchange. That is something that we all can do, no matter our level of skill. All you need to do is sign up with Carol Hall, and agree to create 6 envelopes to be mailed throughout the summer. Your envelopes can be as simple or as decorative as you want to make them. You will be thrilled with the envelopes you receive from members of your group.

Second, think about all the workshops you have taken – whether with our Guild or elsewhere. We always get excited when we learn new things or improve our skills. Pull out your notes and hand-outs from one of these workshops. Spend some time working through these materials. Create a piece either for yourself, a friend, or a future Guild exhibit. Finish some of the pieces that were begun in that workshop.

Once you are happy with what you have done from that workshop or when you are tired of that hand or technique, move on to another hand or technique or workshop. This is a great time to go back and practice your learning.

Third, use this time to study your reference books. Read and study. Most calligraphy teachers will advise that one should spend as much time studying as lettering. Find exemplars and try to replicate them. Look at examples to find layouts that you like, and create a piece using this layout. Stretch your skills.

Fourth, this is a good time to create those color charts and sample books of your inks, paints, gouaches, pens, and all your mark-making tools. In my preparation for the Guild program on golds and whites on dark papers, I started a sample book of those metallics and whites on black and navy papers. I can now look at those samples to decide what to use for each project.

Do the same sample books for your colored pencils, watercolor pencils, graphite pencils, pastels, and other media. Keep all these sample books at hand so that you can try various media for your projects.

Fifth, look at on-line learning opportunities – but look carefully. Some teachers are great artists



Ann's sample pages of golds and whites on dark papers.

and are great teachers. Some teachers are great artists, but not good teachers. Some teachers have not studied the basics long enough to properly break the rules of the particular hand. Study with tried-and-tested artists. You know the quality of the teachers that our Guild brings to Nashville – look for that same quality in on-line teachers.

And, finally, appreciate this quiet time that we have all been given. This is our opportunity to improve this art that we love. Stay safe, and stay creative!
-Ann Cobb



Rose Wathen has been giving art exercises to her middle school students, Art Recreation (*above*) and mandala made of natural materials (*below*).



What Guild Members Are Doing...

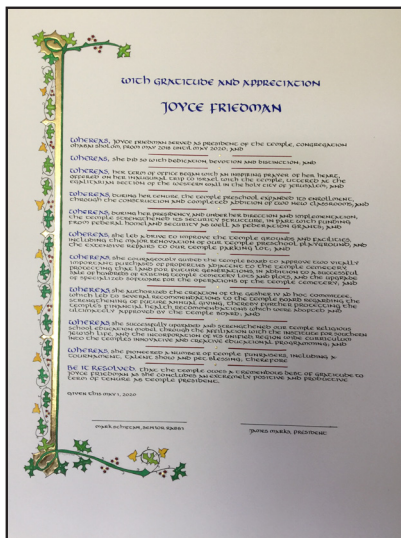


“Supporting the economy by buying goodies from John Neal Bookseller!” - Beth Paul



“I have worked mostly on small projects since social distancing began. I’ve had a hard time focusing to do anything too complicated. So, I have worked small—on cards for special people and those who are more isolated due to their circumstances. These are approximately 5” x 7”. They are quick to do and bring me a lot of pleasure.” - Vicki Brandt

“Mostly spending my time at home working on cards, family, friends, and to <http://www.moreloveletters.com> Also, today, started playing with lettering using a small paint brush and my new Dr. Ph Martins Hydrus Inks, love the inks, lettering needs practice. I post all finished projects to Instagram @ChristyPalette and use #NashvilleCalligraphersGuild in the comments.” - Chris Hackenbrack



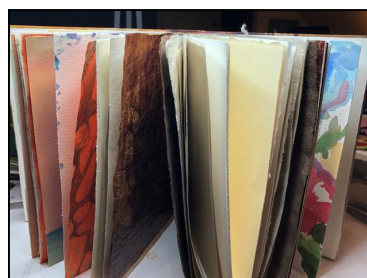
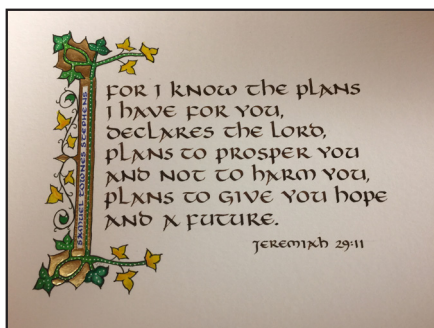
“I addressed lots of Easter cards and am about to address my granddaughter’s wedding invitations... Here is a journal I made out of an old book. You take out the pages and put in your own. I made two. One of them was used to do the online Sketchbook Revival. Below is a “quirky bird” I painted... I think she’s quite delightful!



Mostly, I have worked on rehabbing a 1935 house for our granddaughter and her ‘almost husband’ to live in. Our other granddaughter, Autumn has been staying with us, doing classes from UT Chattanooga and quilting.”

- Sheryl Bracey

Valerie Cypress has been working on a Resolution (left) and Jeremiah 2 (below).



Changing Times by Beth Paul

Turn on the news these days and without doubt, you will hear someone mention how our lives have changed and will never be the same again. Yes, we live in scary times but the fear comes from the threat of infection and uncertainty, not the threat of change. We are simply not accustomed to seeing change in such a short amount of time. A case in point is the art of calligraphy. There are countless books and other sources pertaining to the history of calligraphy and from those, it is easy to recognize how the art has changed over the centuries. But calligraphy has changed greatly in our own time. Have we stopped to consider how much?

I first became aware of calligraphy in the 60's, the time of what I nickname the "Speedball Era." I fell in love with the Speedball kit with the different nibs and the Speedball booklet that contained examples of lettering, candy to my eyes. But that was my only exposure for a long time. There was no other information I could find in my own small world other than an odd book in the school library which had no text, just pages of styles of lettering.

Fast forward to the 80's and the "age of calligraphy groups". I had finally found others who knew what calligraphy was, and it was wonderful! I joined several mailing lists of Guilds around the country and received their newsletters. I began to find books on calligraphy other than just the Speedball manual. In 1993, I discovered the Nashville Calligraphers Guild which opened up my world to the broad spectrum of calligraphy, through conferences and workshops. I discovered there were masters of calligraphy, living and teaching, not just in the pages of the books.

Then the "age of personal computers" came about. Instead of calligraphy, there are now fonts. At first, it was very frustrating, at least for me, trying to earn money addressing envelopes. Brides didn't want to pay calligraphers when computers could print calligraphic style fonts quickly and cheaply. However, at least in my experience, the result was a better appreciation of the skills needed to create calligraphy. Upon receiving a card from me, the spouse of a friend remarked that he "had to get out his magnifying glass to make sure it wasn't printed." I took it as a compliment.

The computer also brought about another change to

calligraphy...the world became small with the Internet. I have met so many calligraphers I never would have heard of, let alone studied with, if it had not been for the invention of the internet, emails and websites. As technology has progressed, the resources have expanded as well, and now we have thousands of images of exquisite calligraphy on our screens. Libraries all over the world have digitized the archives of historical texts, once locked away for the sake of preservation but unavailable for study and enjoyment. Currently, we are in the "age of YouTube" and live chat. We can learn online in real time, watch videos of instructors repeatedly and talk to them in the comfort of our own homes.

As these phases have come and gone, it has meant adjustment to our lives and the way we enjoy this art versus the frustrations of the time, whether it was lack of knowledge, lack of understanding or lack of access. In this current phase, I am frustrated at the lack of what I call background. The current trend seems to be "modern calligraphy", similar to what would be labeled casual lettering for lack of a better term. A search of the top ten calligraphy books currently feature this style of "hand lettering", most of which have pages of letters which are to be traced with a marker.

YouTube is filled with videos on how to write this modern style. The one that disturbed me the most was a young lady teaching strokes while gripping the marker like a child grips a fat crayon in preschool. I am frustrated at the lack of proper instruction of letter forms, but how can I expect to see that when there is doubt about whether viewers or instructors for that matter, have even been taught proper handwriting skills? But that is another topic for another article.

However frustrated we may be with our current situation, whether it is our world or our interests, there will be change. No need to fear it, rather hope for better. I hope that the current casual style of calligraphy leads younger folks to embrace our art and hunger for more so that calligraphy continues to grow and prosper. Just as I hope that our world situation soon changes for the better so that we all can grow and prosper again.

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.