
WINTER / FEBRUARY 2023

Mysticalligraphers

www.calligraphyconnecticut.org

THE CALLIGRAPHY GUILD OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT



Artwork by Joann Hohensee

President's Message

By Annette Chittenden, Co-President

Whew! Did the past year go by fast or what? Our 40th Anniversary year, 3 Art Exhibits, our Page Exchange, a Valentine Exchange, a Holiday Card exchange, not to mention a wonderful, cozy Holiday Party at the Grange! Thank you to all our members for your help, participation and good will!

Stu and I had a "tech session" at the Mystic & Noank Library to learn more about the "Owl" for our hybrid meetings. Hopefully our meetings will go smoother for all. I have found a website that has great resources for Script writing - and with the Pentel Sign Pen markers I can practice without dragging my hand through wet ink! More details in the newsletter.

Get ready for this year's Art Exhibit at the Groton Senior Center in March/April. We have an opportunity to display more 3-D work as we have a lot of glass display shelves in the room we are located in! New work? Yes! Older pieces? Of course - but let's challenge ourselves to dive deep into our creative imaginations and come up with something new - simple or complex, there is so much inspiration out there on the web - check it out!

Our January presentation by Fran Baldwin, The Graceful Envelope, contained a treasure trove of inspiration! Google "The Washington Calligraphers Guild DC," to see awesome examples of lettering, layouts and techniques! Let's continue to encourage each other to practice and explore new worlds of lettering! Share your favorite websites, tools, books or quotes in our newsletters! Photos of something you are working on or have done in a workshop? Send them to me at achitt@comcast.net and text to Marie gmims422@gmail.com. Stay healthy, happy and curiously creative in this New Year!

Announcements

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, February 8th at 5pm: February Meeting, Mystic Noank Library

Friday, March 3rd at 10am: Hanging for the art show at Groton Senior Center (more info below)

Saturday, April 15th: Spring Newsletter submission deadline

EXHIBITS

MYSTICALLIGRAPHERS MARCH/APRIL ART SHOW - GROTON SENIOR CENTER

HANGING: FRIDAY MARCH 3RD AT 10AM.

The Groton Senior Center is open on Saturdays from 8:30am to 11:30am.

Those who cannot drop off their work on Friday can drop off artwork on Saturday.

The opening of our show will be announced later - after we have organized the show!

Groton Senior Center (Thrive 55+ Active Living Center)

102 Newtown Rd, Groton, CT 06340

-Milly Carlson

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE*

Winter - February 1

Spring - May 1

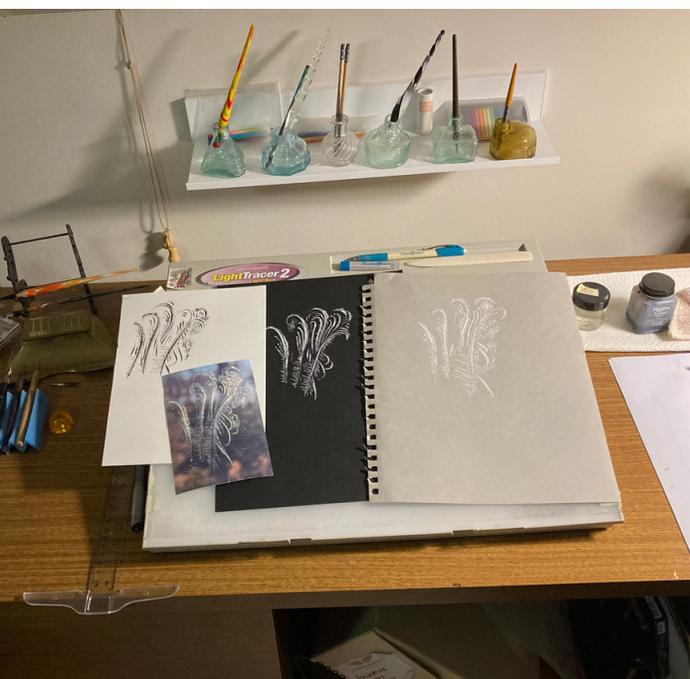
Summer - August 1

Fall - November 1

*Approximate :)

-Arlene Marcionette





MY STUDIO

Stuart Sharack

Well, I can't really call it a studio. It's more like a multipurpose room. It's where I do computer emails and browsing, practice music with my hammered dulcimer, and handle business stuff, but calligraphy seems to dominate this room. Seeing all the calligraphic paraphernalia, one might think I am a committed artist, but I am not. Like the stock market, my engagement goes in spurts up and down. For a while I may do nothing and then something happens, and I am really involved for the next few days. I must admit, though, that when I do it, I really enjoy it and often amaze myself at the results!

It occurred to me long ago that if a location and material are not readily out and available, there is less chance that I would engage in art activity. Having to take things out and then put them away diminishes the energy and inspiration. I made everything easy access so I have no excuses.

My main workspace is my desk with a slanted lightboard. For me, this is an indispensable tool for alignment and measurement. A rag and paper towel under my ink bottle and distilled water jar are most valuable as I just learned days ago when I spilled my bottle of Higgins, and it got absorbed by the paper towel. Of course, they are usually there to clean off my nibs. I have a large assortment of markers, paint brushes, paint pens, colored pencils, pens, and nibs which are all handy since one never knows which tool will work best on a particular project and paper.

Surrounding my work area are antique ink bottles, beautiful glass pens (which never work well for me), quills (which don't give me fine lines), and calligraphic wall art I collected or created. These serve as inspiration.

(Continued)

A tall bookshelf stores various blank note card stock, scraps of paper (Calligraphers don't like to throw any paper away!), a variety of good papers, and special tools for things like bookbinding and decorative hole punching. Another bookshelf is filled with my library of calligraphy books which are fun to browse through on occasion and sometimes study. Scrapbook binders house my collection of 19th century autograph books and penmanship art, decorated envelopes, and miscellaneous calligraphy ephemera. Storage drawers for my inks and rubber stamps and a large table for paint/collage projects complete my "studio." It's a great hangout spot, and you will find me there often!



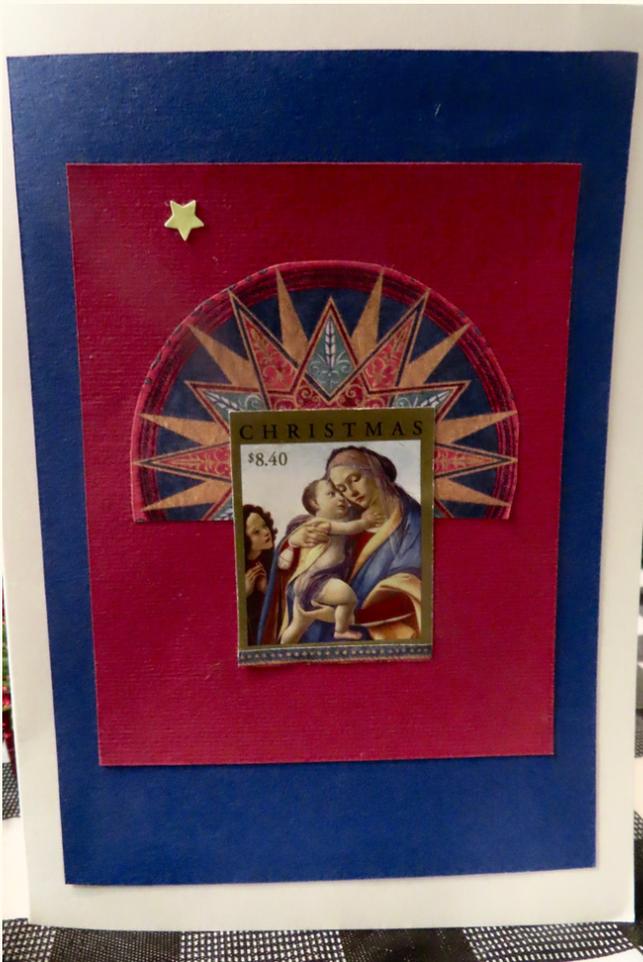
Holiday Party 2022

On December 14th, 2022, members met at The Grange for some Holiday spirit! Lovely lasagnas (regular and vegetarian) were provided by Pam Lambot, in addition to a lively, cozy atmosphere! We had our gift exchange, thanks to a friend of Milly's who donated a wide variety of art related items this year. Our Holiday card exchange took place as well, with lots of ideas to spark some future projects. We left with warm memories!



✦ HOLIDAY CARD ✦

Exchange

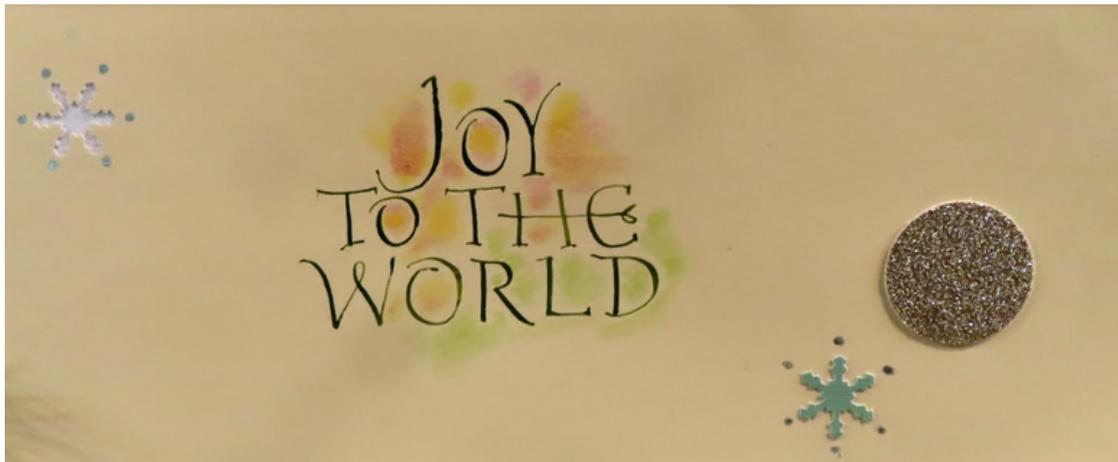


Clockwise from top left:

Stuart Sharack, Kim Curtin-Marino (outside), Kim Curtin-Marino (inside), Terry Philbrick, Barbara Read



Clockwise from top left:
Milly Carlson (inside), Ellen Koh, Karen Ragonese, Joann Hohensee, Milly Carlson (outside)



Clockwise from top:
Fran Baldwin, Annette Chittenden, Gail Turgeon, Karen Burgess, Sue Cunningham, Sean Kane

PENTEL SIGN PENS & COPPERPLATE WEBSITE

By Annette Chittenden

Full disclosure: being left handed, I avoid wet ink whenever possible! Then I discovered 2 items that changed my attitude. Still shy of wet ink, I found a marker that allows me to learn and practice without leaving half of the ink on my hand! The “Pentel Sign Pens” are a brush marker that dry quickly enough to get a rhythm going when practicing! They are sturdier than I thought - which is a great for a heavy handed calligrapher - and bonus: they come in a wide variety of colors!



The next discovery was an online copperplate calligraphy class for beginners!

loveleighloops.com is a website run by twins, Jillian and Jordan. Very clear, step by step, stroke by stroke, letter by letter videos. The price for classes are reasonable, but they also offer free guides and templates too. So, if you've wanted to learn or improve your copperplate/script letters - check out Jillian and Jordan at **loveleighloops.com**

FRAN BALDWIN'S *Graceful Envelopes*

Fran came to our January 11th meeting with arms full! Graceful Envelope samples from "Scripsit: The Magazine of the Philadelphia Calligraphers' Society" were passed around for study. She brought a flash drive full of samples from the Washington Calligraphers DC past Graceful Envelope entries.

Milly brought her rough draft of her entry that was accepted in the 1996 Graceful Envelope Contest. She illustrated a Smithsonian stamp complete with lettering - it was the birthday year of the Smithsonian.

Stu brought his collection of decorative envelopes and Terry brought a binder of Trix Bodde's collection of decorative cards and envelopes. It was overwhelming, stimulating and inspiring!



GRACEFUL ENVELOPE CONTEST 2018 | Theme: "Whatever The Weather"

IT'S NOT FOOD, BUT IT IS FOR THOUGHT...

"DON'T THINK. THINKING IS THE ENEMY OF CREATIVITY. IT'S SELF-CONSCIOUS, AND ANYTHING SELF-CONSCIOUS IS LOUSY. YOU CAN'T TRY TO DO THINGS. YOU SIMPLY MUST DO THINGS."

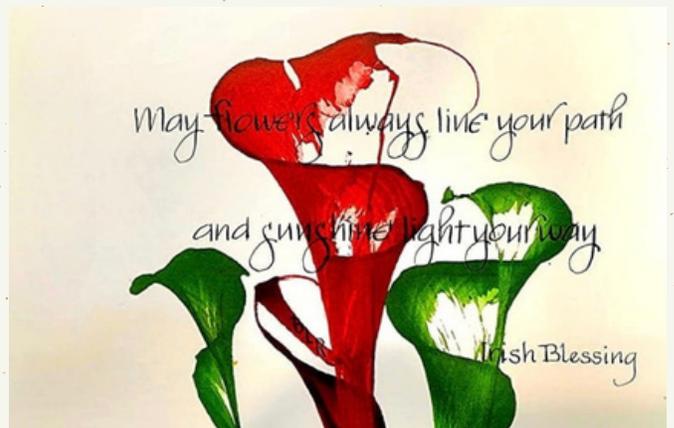
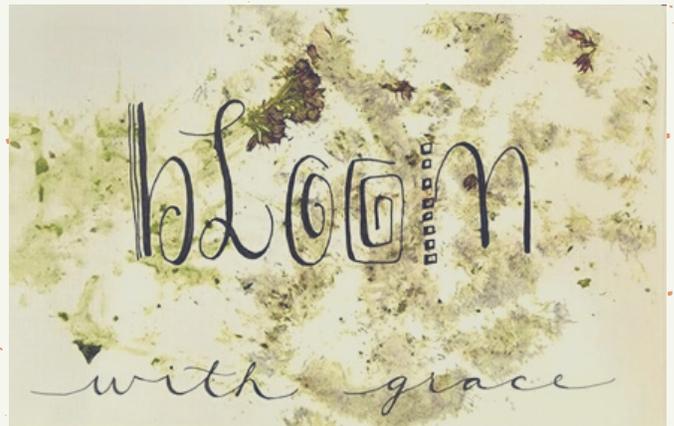
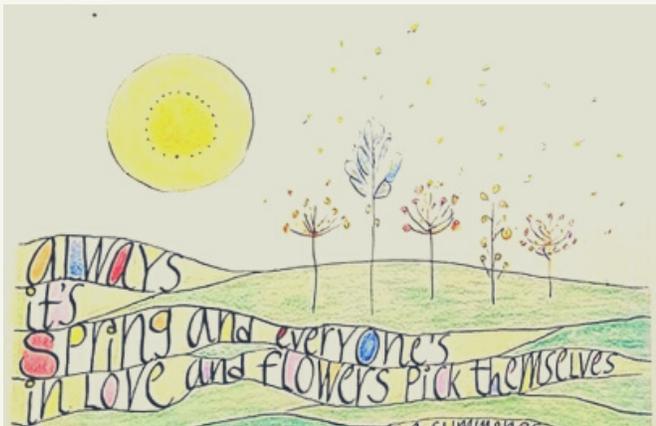
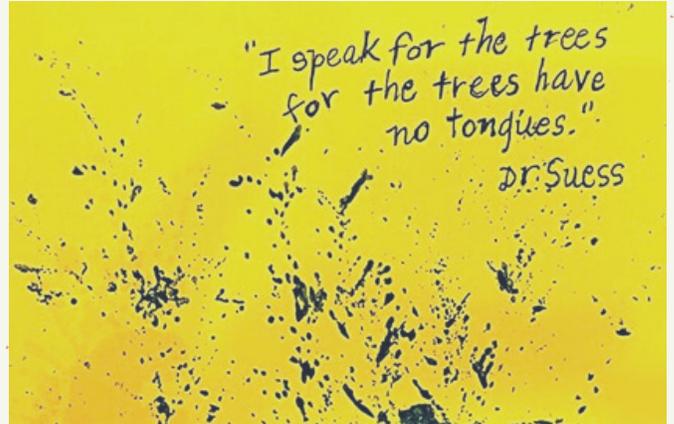
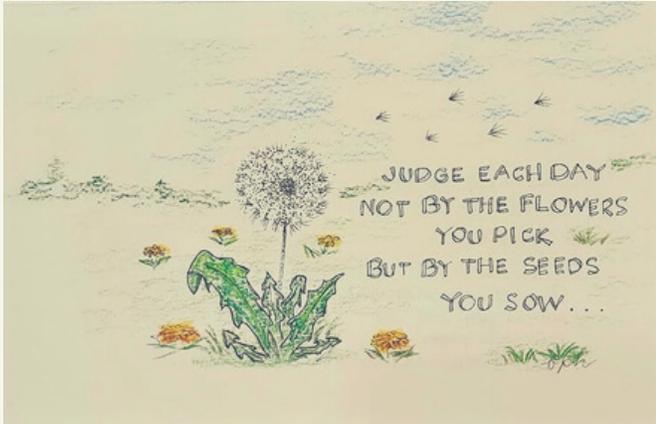
— RAY BRADBURY

Page Exchange

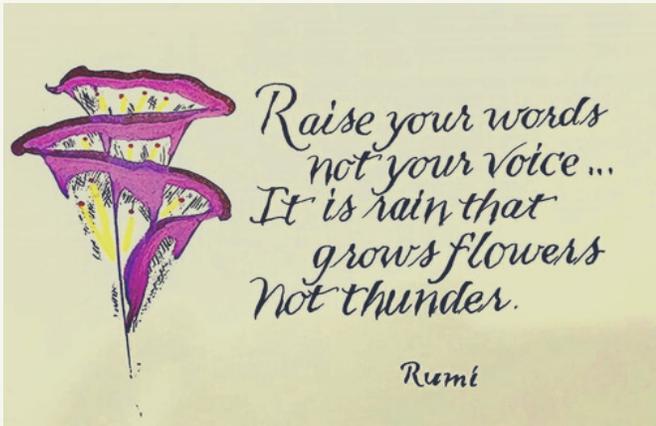
NOVEMBER 2022: BOTANICALS



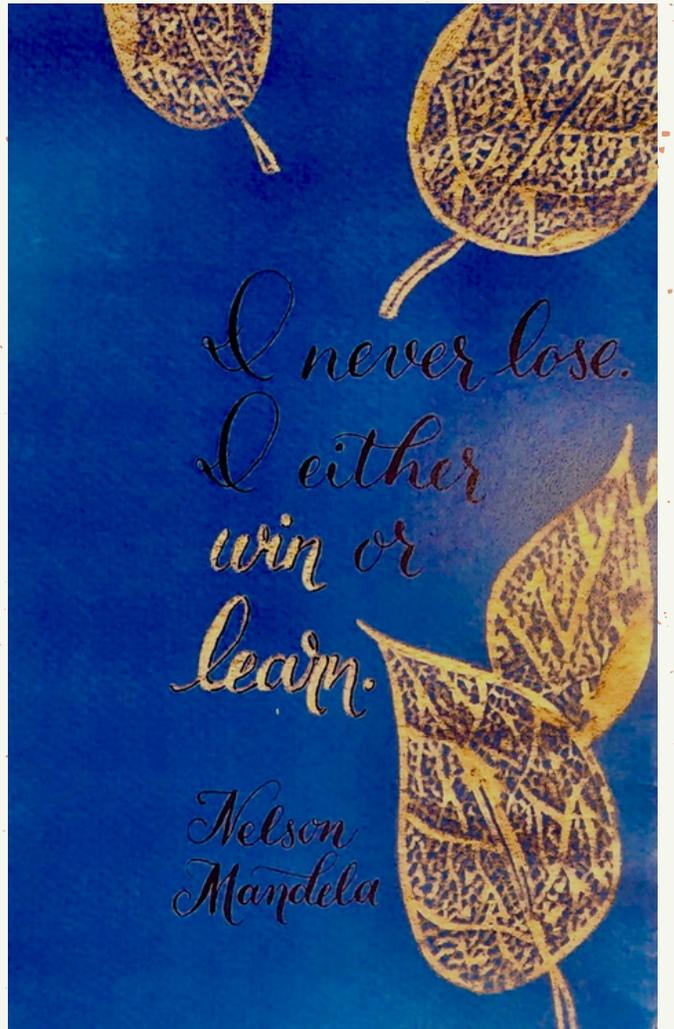
Clockwise from top left: Karen Burgess (cover-page), Fran Baldwin, Annette Chittenden, Kim Curtin-Marino, Karen Burgess



Clockwise from top left: Muffy German, Marię Galtieri, Sean Kane, Meghan Lamoureux, Barbara Read, Terry Philbrick, Ellen Koh, Barbara Heuer



Clockwise from top left: Dee Ruch,
Melissa Stratton, Gail Turgeon, Julieta
Worley, Vin Trapani, Stuart Sharack



2023 Programs Review

Feb 8 – Peace Doves with Annette

Mar 8 – Formal Romans (possible Reggie DVD) with Fran

Apr 12 – Guest Artist: Kathleen Borkowski

May 10 – Informal Romans with Muffy

Jun 14 – Romans quote on fake vellum with Gail

Jul 12 – Weathergrams and Stamps with Annette

Jul 26 – Paste Paper with Fran and Terry

Aug 9 – Book binding with Amy

Aug 23 – Melted crayon cards with Stu

Sept 13 – Annual meeting with materials swap
and/or show and share

Oct 11 – Fall/Halloween cards with Sean

Nov 8 – Page exchange

Dec 13 – Holiday party

A message for Program leaders: Please be sure to Email the group with the details of your program including materials AND handouts so everyone, including our Zoom-ers, can be in the know. Thank you!