

WINTER/FEBRUARY 2024

Mysticalligraphers

www.calligraphyconnecticut.org

THE CALLIGRAPHY GUILD OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT



Co-President's Message

Winter is full of wonders. The season is an opportunity to find warmth (literally and figuratively). Some fill the time up with outdoor adventures, appreciating the stillness of nature. Others stay in the comfort of their own homes, stirring tea or hot cocoa. The important thing is to take a moment to appreciate winter and all of its splendor before it melts away in a matter of months (which can't come soon enough for some of us!).

We began in November with an amazing handmade artists book for our Page Exchange. The theme: Jabberwocky. It stretched us, and we came away with a sense of accomplishment. We pushed the envelope of what was possible design-wise. We thank Gail for her patient faith and offer of one-on-one workshops, walking many of us through the possibilities of paste paper and lettering! A big thank you to Pam Lambot for making the connection with the Mystic Chamber of Commerce to decorate and display not one but two trees in downtown Mystic for the holidays! Our calligraphic decorations were well received.

Milly Carlson volunteered her home yet again for our Holiday Party. It was a warm and cozy evening with a hand made card exchange; a performance by Stu Sharack on his hammered dulcimer; and our supply swap of donated calligraphy supplies, books and ephemera. Karen Burgess and I got all items sorted, packaged and labeled in advance. Many of us made an additional card for Sean, with our appreciation for all his efforts as Sunshine/Social Director. He thanked everyone and really appreciated it!

Muffy German and Karen Burgess collaborated on a poem, written by a library staff member in memory of Diane Gillece. With Muffy's lettering and Karen's illustration the final piece was an elegant tribute! Thanks to Gail who delivered the final artwork.

Let's stay healthy, warm and appreciative of what this season has to offer. Remember it takes all of us contributing to make Mysticalligraphers a fun and creative experience. We appreciate everyone who comes to our meetings, participates in our activities and volunteers to get things done - whether it is an exhibit, a get together or workshop, or ideas for our newsletters!

Annette Chittenden, Co-President

Announcements

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE*

WINTER - FEBRUARY 1

SPRING - MAY 1

SUMMER - AUGUST 1

FALL - NOVEMBER 1

*APPROXIMATE

SPREAD THE

SUNSHINE!

SEAN IS ALWAYS
LOOKING FOR CARDS
TO SHARE WITH
MEMBERS.

Milly was completely surprised and pleased she won an Honorable Mention Award in a Members Exhibit at the Mystic Museum of Art. Although this was a non-juried show, she has previously been accepted into juried shows at this museum.

Milly's message to us is we do a lot of interesting and creative work. It stands up more than admirably to many visual artists' work in the Southeastern CT area. Please do consider entering some of your work in a local show when appropriate.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **2024 Calligraphy & Lettering Arts Conference**
(calligraphyconference.org) **"ROMAN HOLIDAY"**
JUNE 22 - 29, 2024 - scholarships available.
Hosted by Chicago Calligraphy Collective at
St. Ambrose University - Davenport, Iowa
- **IAMPETH Conference July 1 - 6, 2024,**
San Antonio, Texas - scholarships available
- **Waterford Library -Our November exhibit -**
49 Rope Ferry Rd. Waterford, CT 06385
- **Westerly Cooperative Gallery of Westerly, RI**
(ACGOW) May 2025 - New Date

OUR
HOLIDAY
TREE
DISPLAY -
MYSTIC
CHAMBER
OF
COMMERCE



Holiday Party at Milly's ↷

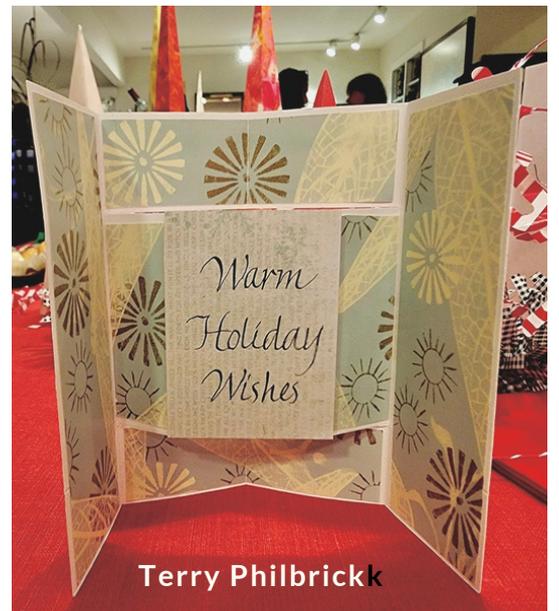
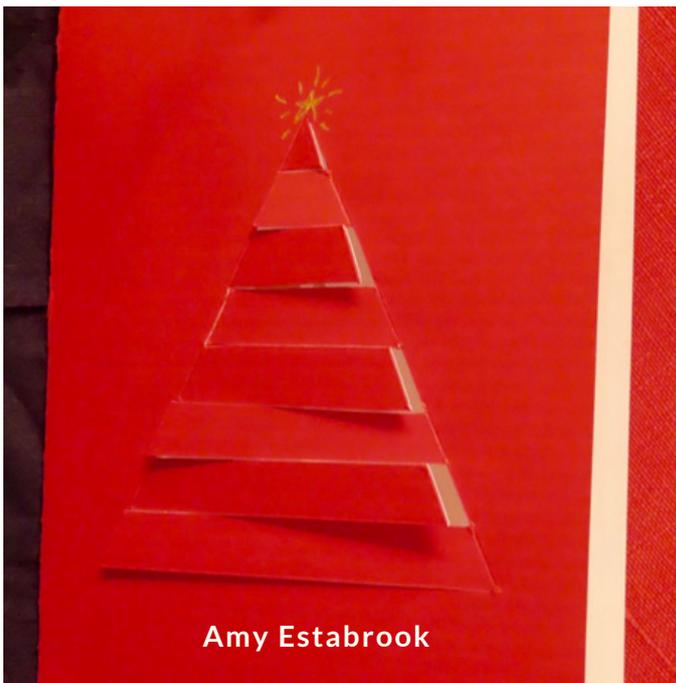
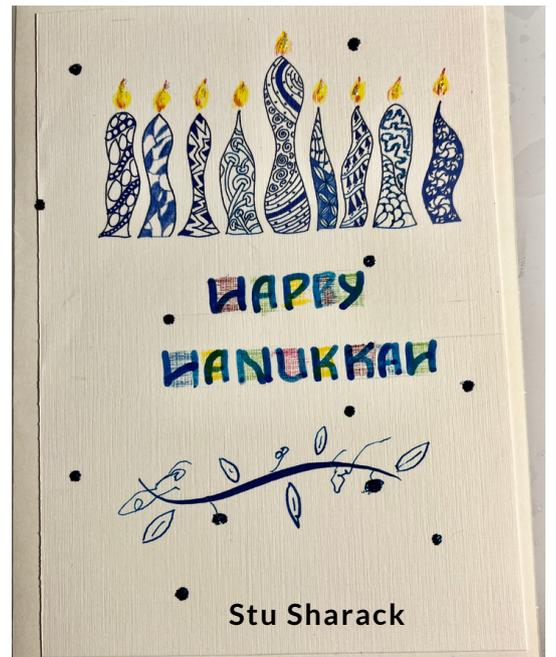
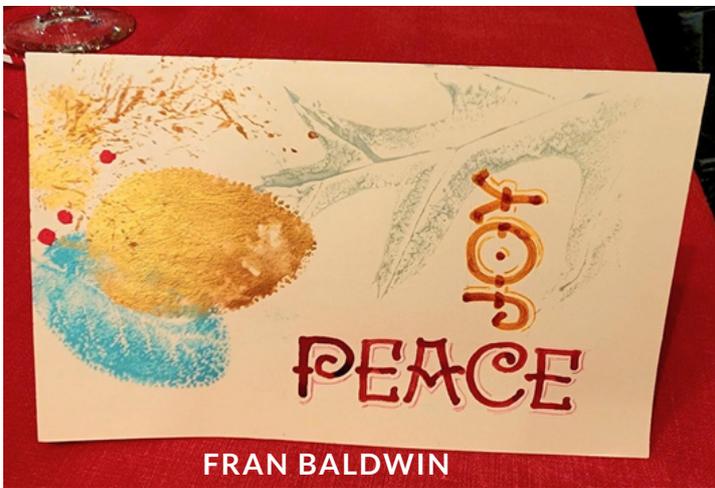
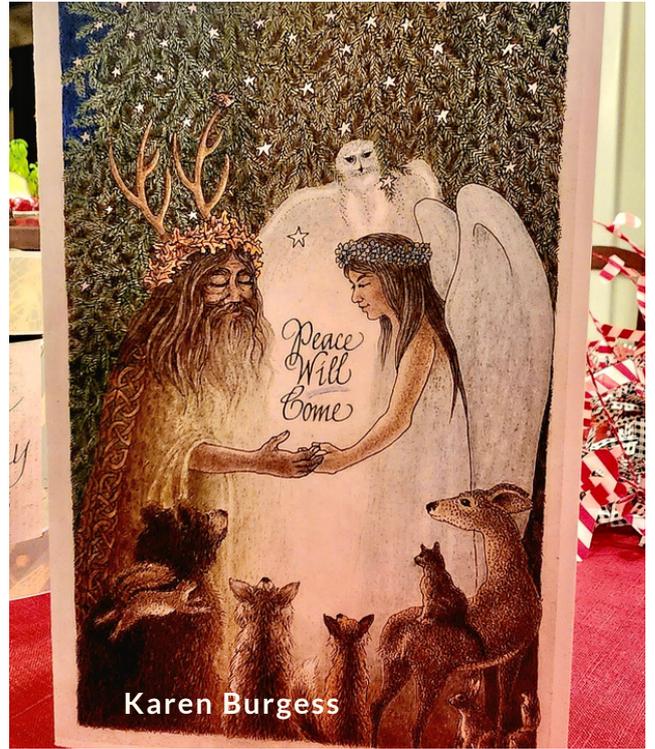
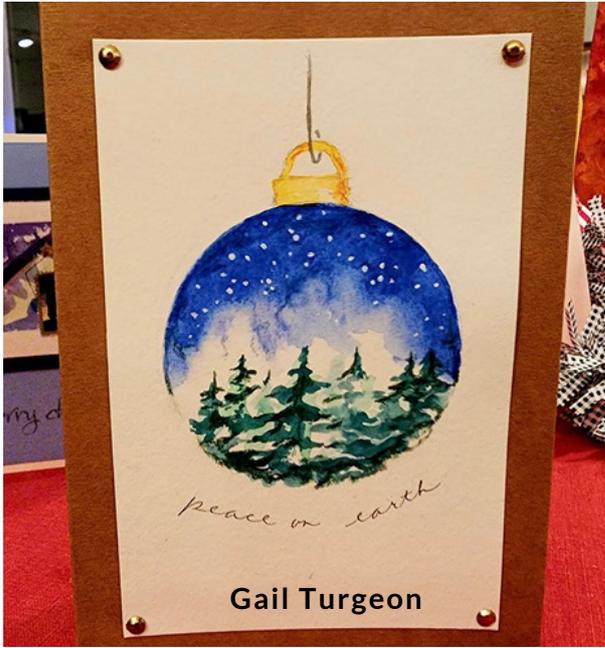


Hammered Dulcimer Performance - Stu Sharack

Julieta admires ornaments
created by Pam Lambot



Holiday Card Exchange



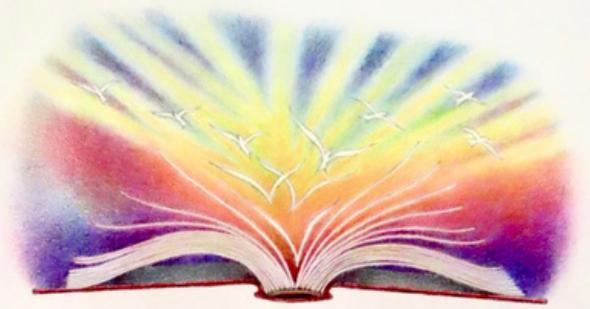
A STORY OF LOSS AND JOY

Mysticalligraphers have held their monthly meetings at the Mystic and Noank Library for decades. When the Director of the library, Chris Bradley, asked for a favor I was glad to oblige. Chris asked if Mysticalligraphers could pen a poem for one of their dear librarians, Diane Gillice of Stonington, who had died in a home fire a few days after Christmas in 2022. Diane's husband, daughter and grandson safely escaped the fire.

A heartfelt poem was written by a fellow librarian, Philip Kuepper. Muffy German generously volunteered to pen the poem and after the lettering was completed, Karen Burgess volunteered to add a beautiful illustration to complete it. This creative artwork will hang in the children's library as a memorial and thank you for Diane's committed work in the children's reading room.

We thank Muffy and Karen for generously donating their time and tremendous talent! It gives us a chance to demonstrate our appreciation of the working relationship we have with the Mystic and Noank Library and our appreciation of Diane.

Pam Lambot



In Memory of Diane Gillice

When Diane was present
She brought with her an edge,
an edge, electric,
with energy, like the energy
of children that flowed
with the energy of the children
who were her "Storytime" students.
They knew her as "Miss Diane,"
which, when they addressed her,
gave *aura* to the atmosphere,
the *aura* of acknowledgement,
the *aura* of learning.
It was this that helped give the library life,
and because of the life given, *heart*,
heart that will beat anew
every time a book is opened,
heart that will beat anew
every time a story is told.
Heart is the felt moment
that moves us forward.

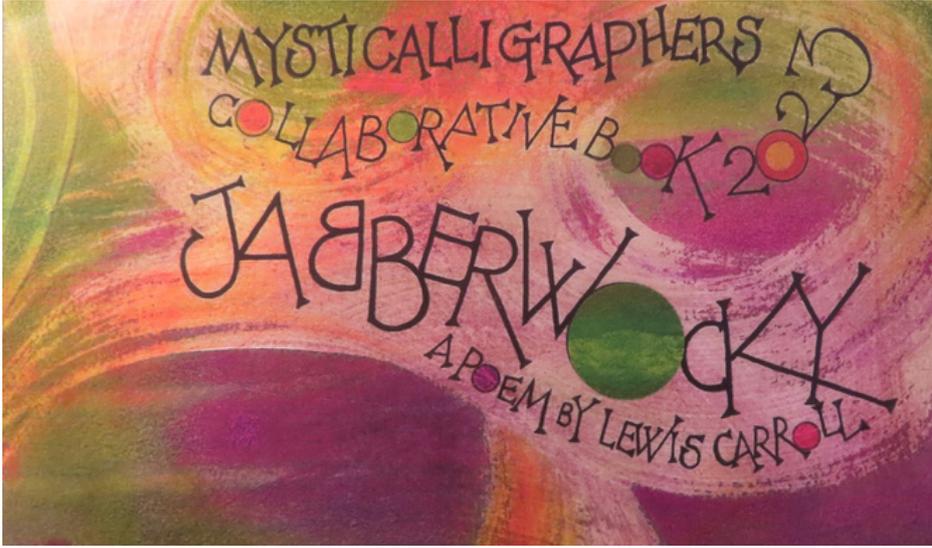
Philip Kuepper



**Thank you to Gail for presenting
the piece to the Mystic and
Noank Library staff!**

JABBERWOCKY

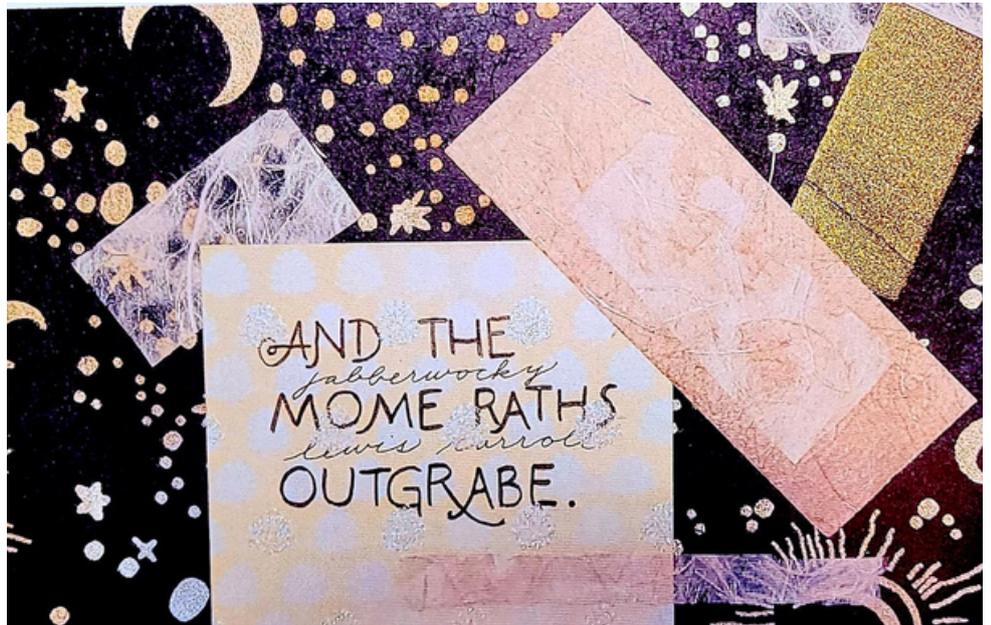
OUR COLLABORATIVE BOOK - 2023



Karen Burgess

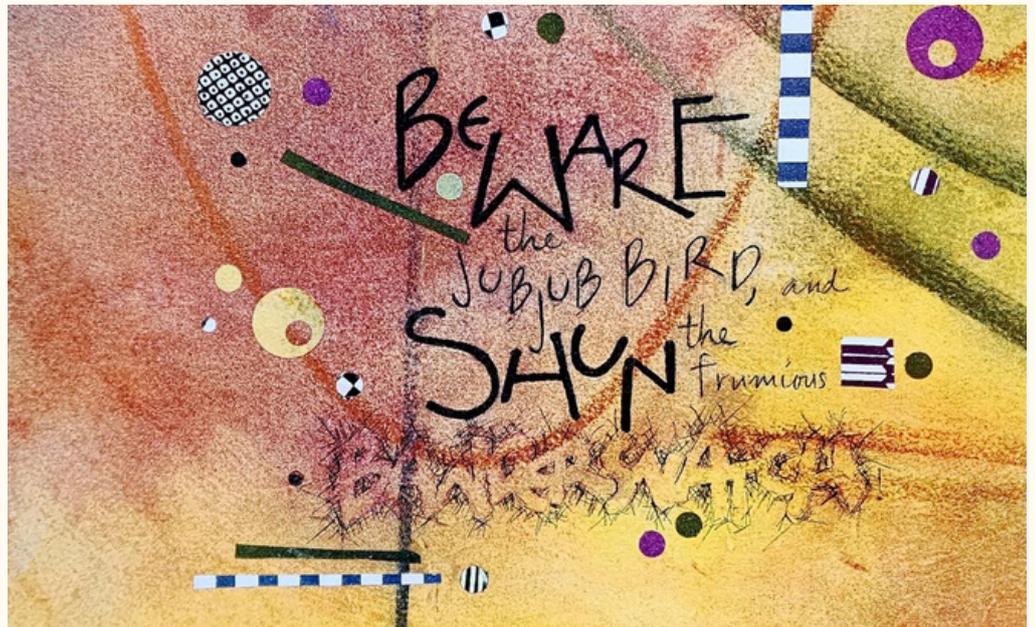


Julieta Worley



Amy Estabrook

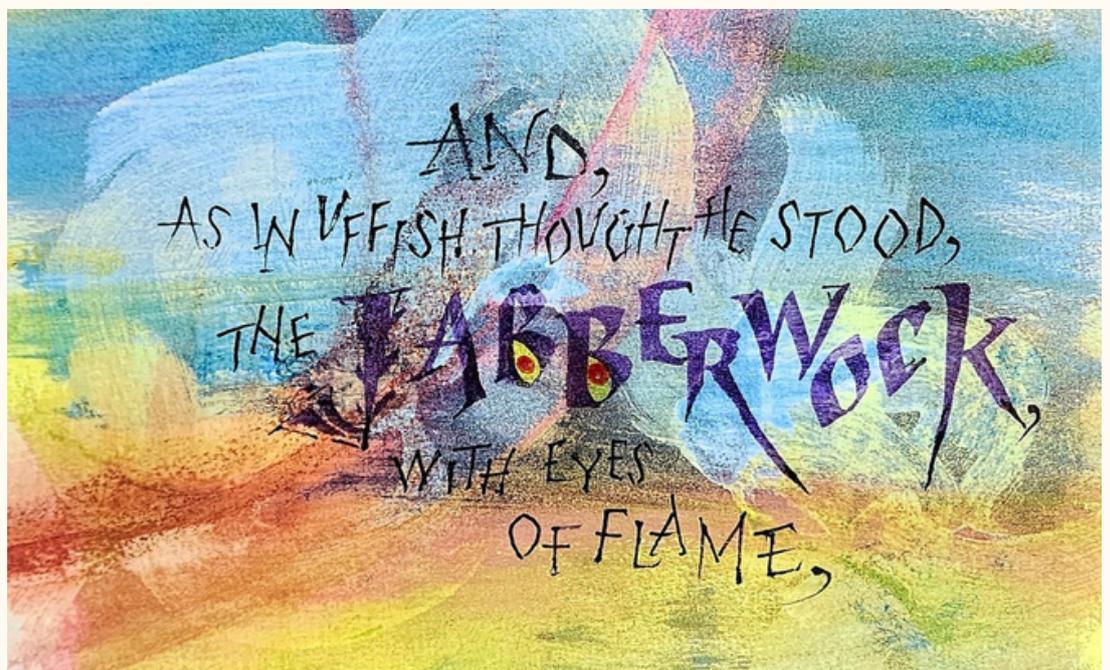
MORE JABBERWOCKY



Gail Turgeon

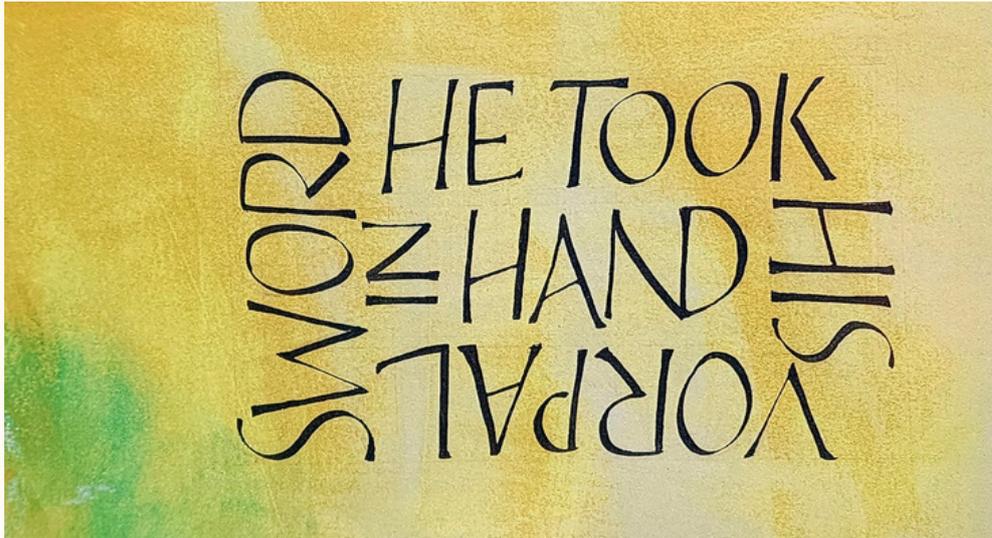


Stu Sharack

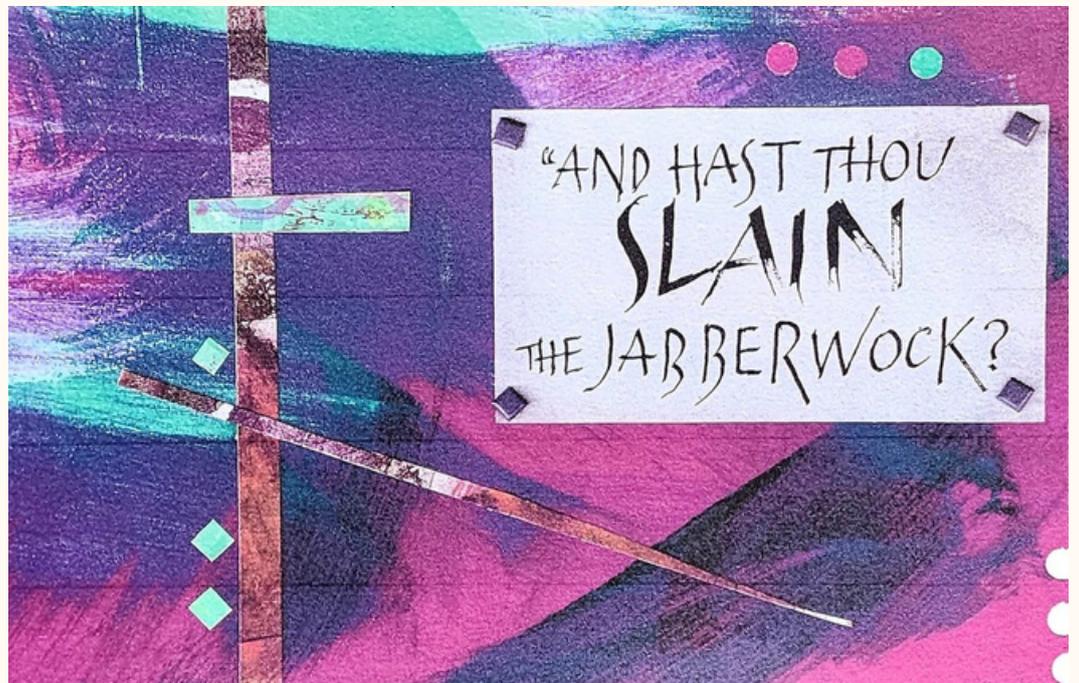


Muffy German

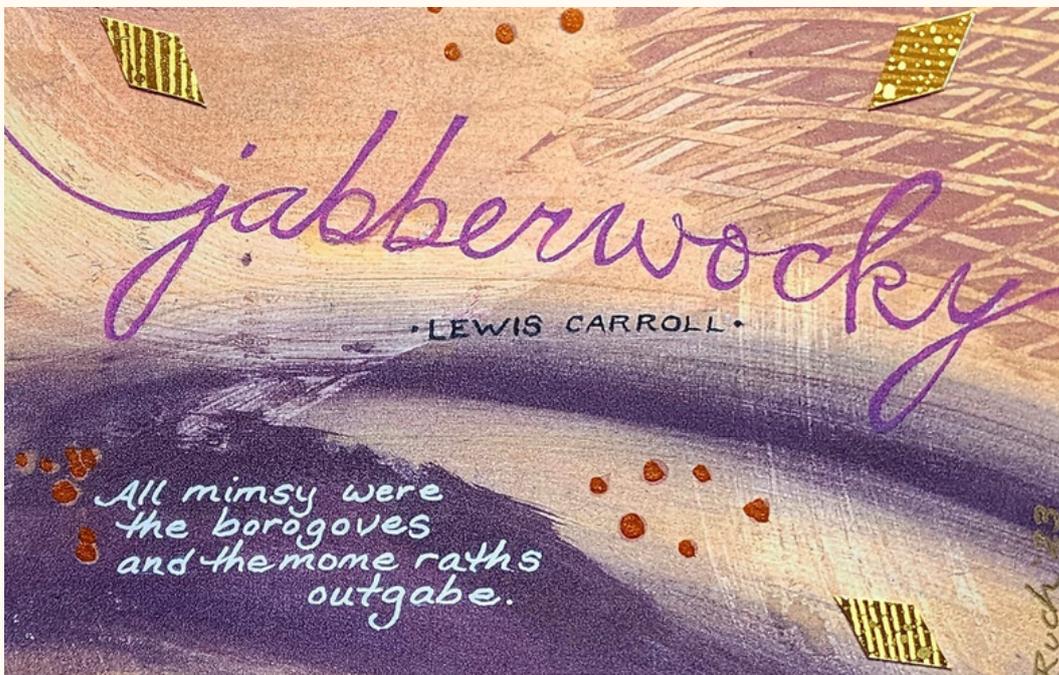
MORE JABBERWOCKY



Fran Baldwin



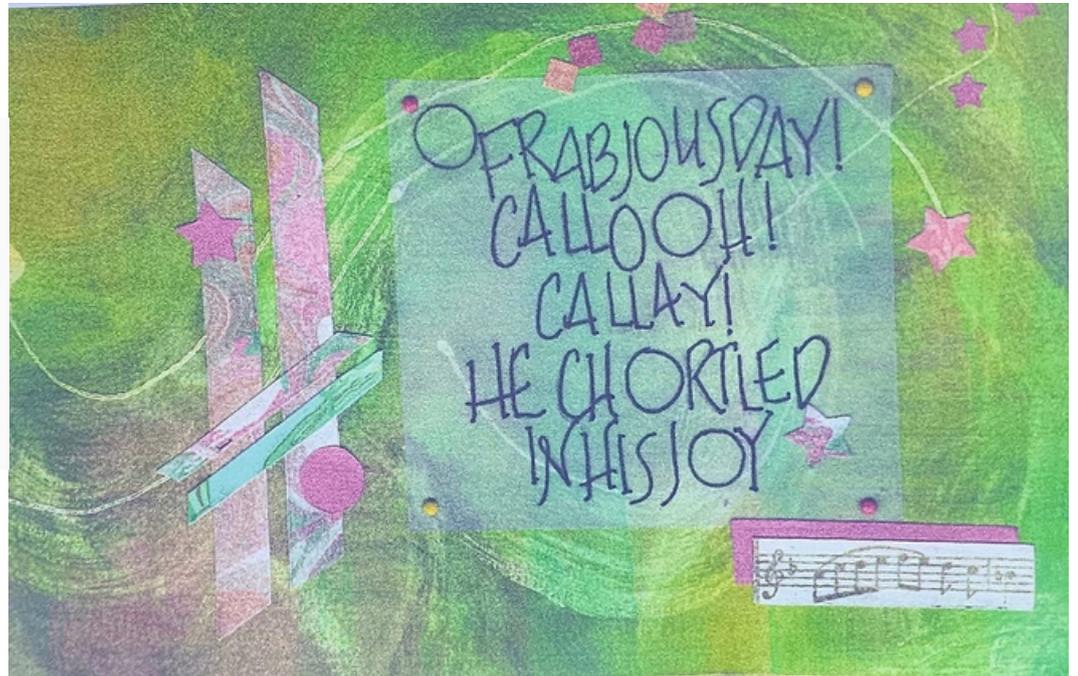
Terry Philbrick



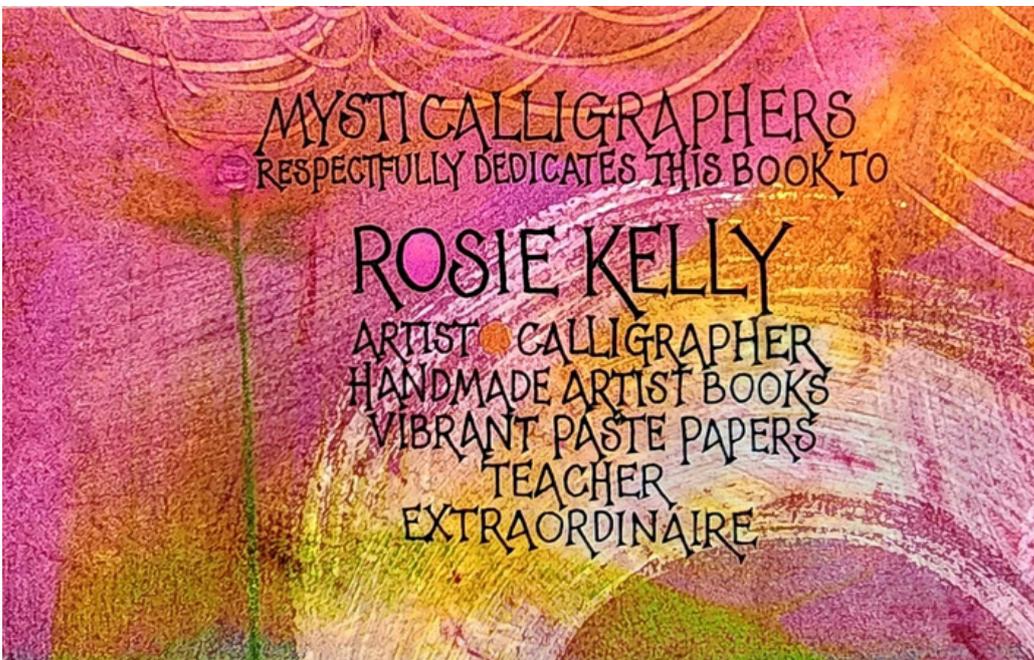
Dee Ruch



Melissa Stratton



Barbara Reed



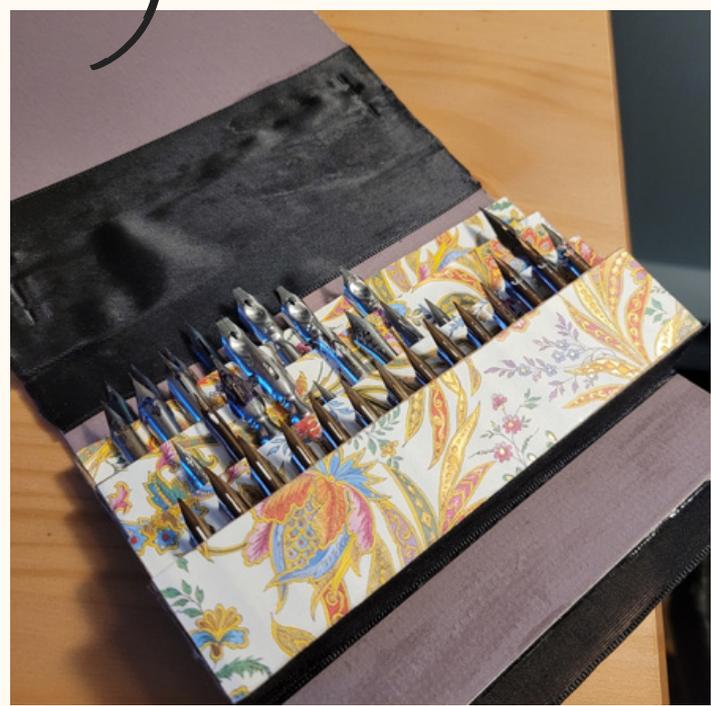
Karen Burgess

Julietta's Recommendations

On my Christmas list this year, I had asked for a heat foil pen, and Santa delivered! It came with some rainbow foil and the results are so neat. It is super easy to use! I am looking forward to buying other foils so I can start using them on cards and projects.

I also received embossing pens so I could use them with the powders that I got at the Mysticaligraphers' party! Not as easy to use, very messy, but the results were beautiful. I had some textured paper, and it definitely did not work on that. Pictured here is my attempt on flat, boring paper.

I am making myself a cardboard nib holder...it's amazing! Here is the idea, links below, and instructions (photos attached).
<http://annepages.blogspot.com/2012/05/nib-nest-instructions.html>
<https://chavelli.com/blog/cardboard-calligraphy-nib-organizer>
And here's someone who made it so beautifully!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVe18f0DyIM>



Chunk It Up!

A Review by Stu Sharack

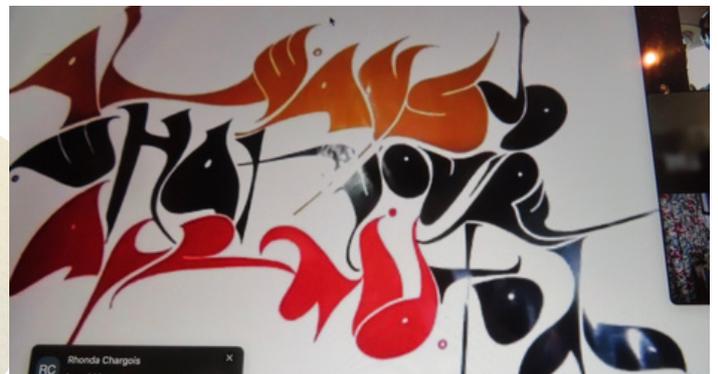


3 Samples from
Julie Wildman's workshop

Isn't it a lot of fun to play with letters?? In December, Julie Wildman offered a gift to former students of hers by presenting a free 1 hour Zoom holiday gathering where she demonstrated how to create new versions of capital letters. Focusing on the black letter hand, she suggested starting with a breakdown of the basic strokes and then by double stroking and flaring, one can modify the letter to make it your own. She likes to use a Princeton flat shader brush #6 with gouache to create the funky, chunky letter in either rounded or angular form. Walnut ink and color blending by slightly dabbing a very wet watercolor brush with red, green, and brilliant gold over the brown provides a very lovely letter. A shake of Schmincke gold powder gave it a classy touch. She finalized the letter with some walnut pen highlighting and shading around the edges. The party ended with Julie spinning a random name wheel to give away 6 gifts to attendees. Congratulations to Annette for being a winner! It was also a delight to meet up and wish our member, Ann Pasquier from Florida, a Merry Christmas.



Stu's samples



Julie Wildman

MY STUDIO

BY VIN TRAPANI



Studio Space at our home in PA was a no brainer. I chose the (bed)room with the most windows and with the most natural light for my studio. It had a strange layout with a couple of extra corners/wall juts but that made me want it more. All my little eclectic pieces fit well and I could face my main work table toward the center window and the television as I record and use YouTube videos for different craft projects.

The kitty-corner desk against the wall holds my favorite reference books and that's where I do my freelance doll face-ups/repainting/customizing.

The little antique white cabinet houses my collection of calligraphy pens/inks and other special items.

The ladder shelf behind my desk houses about 75% of my rubber stamps. It took a little while to figure out the space but I'm finally okay with it.



2024 Upcoming Programs

2024 Upcoming Programs

Thank you again to those who have volunteered to present a program to the group! Don't forget to Email the group, Annette, or Stu around the first of the month with your materials list and hand outs.

- Feb 14 - Jig Saw Art with Julieta and Stu
- March 13 - Ink-xploration with Milly
- April 10 - guest artist Adam Paul Heller
- May 8 - Alphabet dayz and unique tools with Stu and Gail
- June 12 - Intro to B Nib, inspired by Rick Paulus, with Fran
- July 10 - TBD - please let me know if you're interested in presenting a Program!
- July 24 - Masking fluid with Annette
- Aug 14 - Decorative multimedia wall hanging with Ellen and Gail
- Aug 28 - Oil marbling with Annette, Ellen, and Stu
- Sept 11 - Annual meeting and show & share
- Oct 9 - Foundational hand with Muffy
- Nov 13 - Page exchange coordinated by Gail : Alphabet design
- Dec 11 - Holiday party

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

**What an extraordinary way the reed pen has
of drinking darkness and pouring out light!**

Abu Hafs Ibn Burd AlAsghar, Andalusí poet