

SUMMER/AUGUST 2025

# Mysticalligraphers

[www.calligraphyconnecticut.org](http://www.calligraphyconnecticut.org)

THE CALLIGRAPHY GUILD OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT



Debby Reelitz

## Co-President's Message:

Well, it has been an exciting and busy summer with more to come this fall. I attended the IAMPETH conference in Norfolk, VA and a 3 day workshop at the University of Rhode Island with Laurie Doctor. Now I just have to process all my learnings and then get busy "MAKING THINGS."

In October our guild is offering a weekend workshop on Illuminated Letters with Debbie Reelitz. I hope you have signed up. See our flyer in this newsletter for more information. Remember that we are planning an exhibit at the Waterford Library in November. Be thinking about what you will display. Our exhibits are amazing so please join in. Our Fall season jigsaw puzzle project will be completed and mounted vertically for this event. Milly, our exhibit chairperson, reminds us to have everything framed and wired for hanging. She always does a superb job to ensure success.

Thanks to all those who volunteered to participate in the Mystic/Noank Library Spring Festival. The public enjoys having their name written on a bookmark. Events like this are a great way to spread the word about our guild and hopefully increase membership. Our appreciation goes to Pam, Gail, Fran, Terry, Annette, and Karen.

Thank you to Gail and Annette for presenting an introduction to Bister inks. Everyone enjoyed the earthy tones and ease of use. Apparently these soot based pigments were used by the masters of yore. By the time of this newsletter's publication, Terry will have presented a workshop on Suminagashi. Thanks for offering, Terry.

Just a reminder: Be thinking (or even starting) pointed pen work for our page exchange in November.

Welcome to our newest member, Evie Talbot! My goodness we are a busy busy guild!

Stu Sharack, Co-president



# Announcements

## NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE:

\*WINTER - FEBRUARY 1st

SPRING - MAY 1st

SUMMER - AUGUST 1st

FALL - NOVEMBER 1st

\*APPROXIMATE

**SPREAD THE SUNSHINE!  
MAKE CARDS FOR OUR  
SUNSHINE/SOCIAL DIRECTOR, SEAN KANE -  
TO SEND TO MEMBERS ON BIRTHDAYS AND MORE....**

## OCTOBER WORKSHOP WITH DEBBY REELITZ

**“INTRO TO ILLUMINATION”**

**Saturday October 4 - Sunday October 5**

**9 am to 5 pm**

**Stonington Grange Hall**

**637 Pequot Trail (rte. 234)**

**Stonington, CT**

**\$160 members \$170 non-members**

***plus materials fee***

***Make checks out and send to: Mysticaligraphers***

***P.O. BOX 267, MYSTIC, CT 06355***

***See Gail Turgeon or Pam Lambot for scholarship applications***

**Board Meeting Wednesday October 15, 2025 5 pm - 7 pm at Stu's house**

## NOVEMBER 2025 EXHIBIT

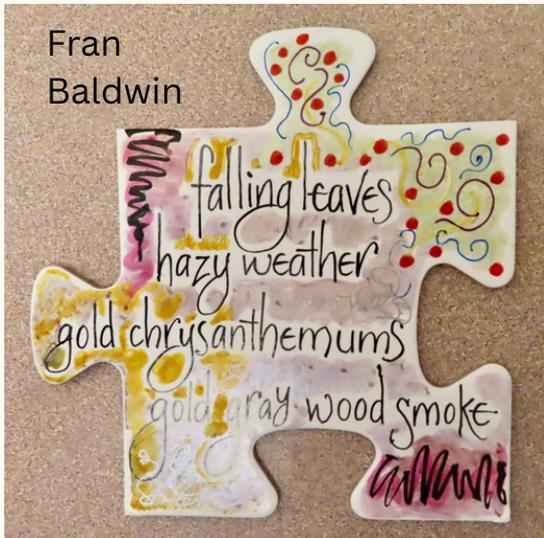
**WATERFORD LIBRARY**

**49 Rope Ferry Rd. Waterford, CT 06385**

***Plan on creating something new - and look through work done in presentations at our meetings for inspiration, or work done in previous classes. Now is the time to begin!***

# Puzzle Piece Highlights

Stu reprised our Puzzle Piece Project with a Fall Theme at our May meeting! Members generated so many creative pieces!. Kudos to Julieta whose original pieces were lost in the mail. She redid them and they arrived safely the second time - we persevere!!!



Fran Baldwin



Julieta Worley



Vin Trapani

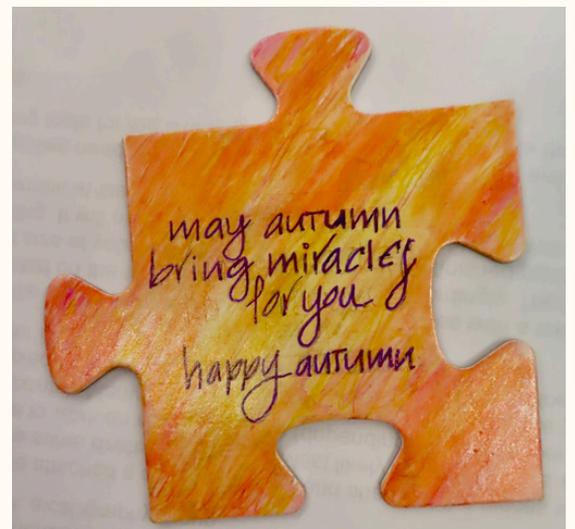


Terry Philbrick

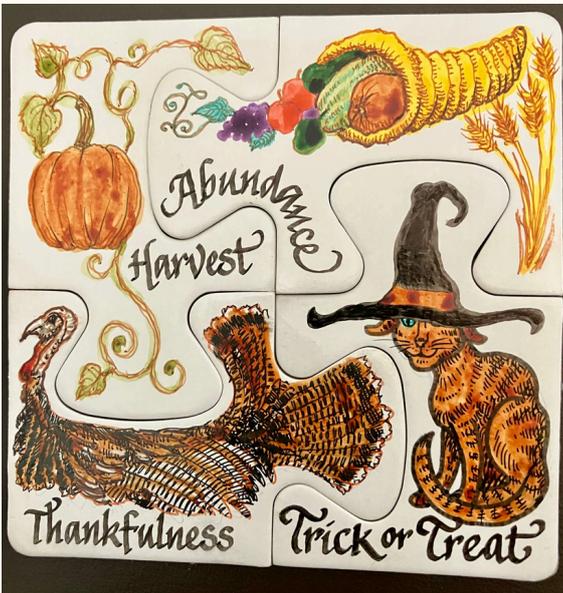


ANNETTE CHITTENDEN

Stu and members will assemble our Fall Puzzle for display in the Art Exhibit at the Waterford Library in November.



PAM LAMBOT



KAREN BURGESS  
(CORNER PIECES)



MILLY CARLSON

## Muffy Wants You!

Send articles, photos, flyers, newspaper clippings of members doing calligraphy related activities in the community. Drop Muffy a line, call, text or email ([muffykg@aol.com](mailto:muffykg@aol.com)). She is ready as historian to collect information.



PO BOX 267  
MYSTIC, CT 06355



For more information, please contact presidents:  
Stu Sherack 860-984-6575  
Pam Lambot 860-227-1308




Attend a Hybrid Meeting!

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The Calligraphy Guild of Connecticut

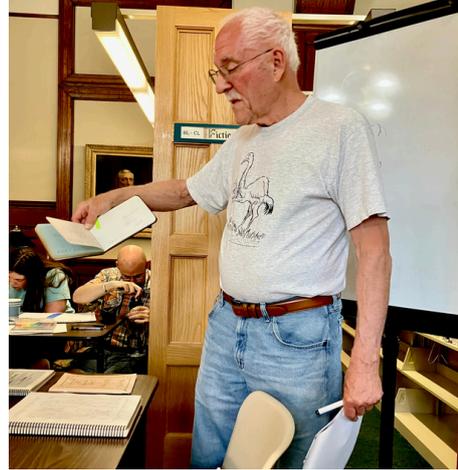
We are an enthusiastic group of people with a common bond...a love of all things calligraphic. Lettering from historic to contemporary forms is the focal point of interest for our members. Since the Guild's founding in 1982, members' interests have grown and expanded to include many related areas such as design, illustration, bookbinding, paper making and how these arts can be used with calligraphy. Our activities include monthly program meetings, weekend workshops, online newsletters, and exhibits.

We welcome members at all levels, no experience required. Come to a meeting in Southern CT or via zoom and check us out!



# Spencerian in June with Stu

Our theme this year - The Pointed Pen - was the focus of our June meeting. Stu presented the Spencerian hand, talking about various nibs, papers and styles. He shared one of his autograph books and we peered into historical uses of Spencerian. Stu also mentioned a website where he has purchased some of his autograph books: [papermaniaplus.com](http://papermaniaplus.com)



7/12/24  
Regina and Dan,  
Thank you for sharing your marbling process during your class. We were fascinated and excited to learn of the origins and creation of beautiful paper design. Your kindness was most appreciated.  
Stuart  
for  
Mysticalligraphers

At left, Stu's thank you letter to the Chena River Marblers Regina and Dan, for inviting us to watch their authentic traditional marbling class in Massachusetts.

# The Mystic Noank Library Annual Spring Friends Fair



Folks at the Mystic & Noank Library Fair enjoyed the lettering skills of Gail, Fran, Terry, Annette and Karen as they watched their names being transformed into beautiful bookmarks. When a stamp could not be found for a design, Karen obliged by drawing the animal - her fish was exceptional! Kudos to our Co President Pam for organizing supplies, designing a flyer and a procedure for people to submit a name to be lettered!





Collection of handcrafted wooden nib holders by Colby Cline

## IAMPETH

### A Review by Stuart Sharack

As the Beach Boys said, “Fun, fun, fun til...” That about sums up the 6 days of my third IAMPETH conference participation. This International Association of Master Penmen, Engrossers, and Teachers of Handwriting, held in Norfolk, Virginia, was filled with exhausting but worthy day long workshops and nighttime events. The pointed pen and broad nib offerings included French Ronde, Uncial, Engrossers Script, Spencerian script, and Gothicized Italic. Besides specific hands, classes included Exploring Watercolor, Quill Cutting, Ornamental Penmanship, and Automatic Pen Play.

The event began with a buffet dinner. It was a great first chance to meet other participants. I met folks from Scotland, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, India, Korea, China, Panama, et al. My roommate was one of the vendors, Colby Cline, who handcrafts beautifully designed wooden nib holders. I had a chance to connect with our past guest artists, Barbara Close and Rick Paulus. Where else can one find such a gathering of skillful and knowledgeable folks? Evening activities included a Round Robin where we moved from table to table trying out a variety of hands on activities, a qualifying and judged art exhibit, and a Study Room for anyone to hang out, learn, practice, observe, and socialize.

Paper and Ink Arts, open all day and evening, must have brought every item in their catalog! What could be more fun than touching and trying out their offerings! Next summer the conference will be in Salt Lake City. I’m saving my pennies now. Engaging energy “flourishes.” Come along.



Stu Sharack - for his grandchild



Stu and fellow participant

REFLECTING ON IAMPETH  
(International Association of Master Penmen,  
Engrossers and Teachers of Handwriting)  
FRAN BALDWIN



It was a wonderful, inspirational and intense week of calligraphy at the IAMPETH conference in Norfolk, Virginia in July. The classes I attended were: Flourishing and Ornamental Penmanship, Decorative Missal Capitals, Sparks of Creativity and Introduction to Spencerian. It was fun being surrounded by calligraphers from all over the globe, and immersed in hours of nothing else but lettering art. Everyone I met there was friendly and helpful, and happy to share creative ideas and useful information.

Very interesting was the Archive Room displaying a gigantic collection of historic specimens. Named the Henning Collection, on view were rare old diplomas, documents, fascinating letters and envelopes from the early twentieth century.

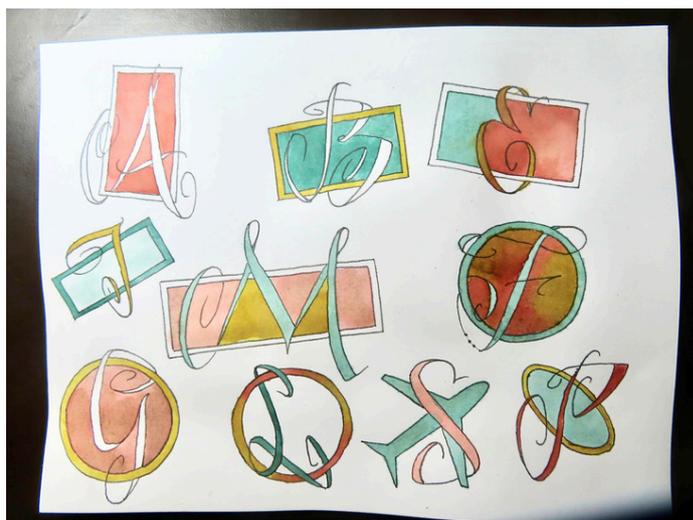
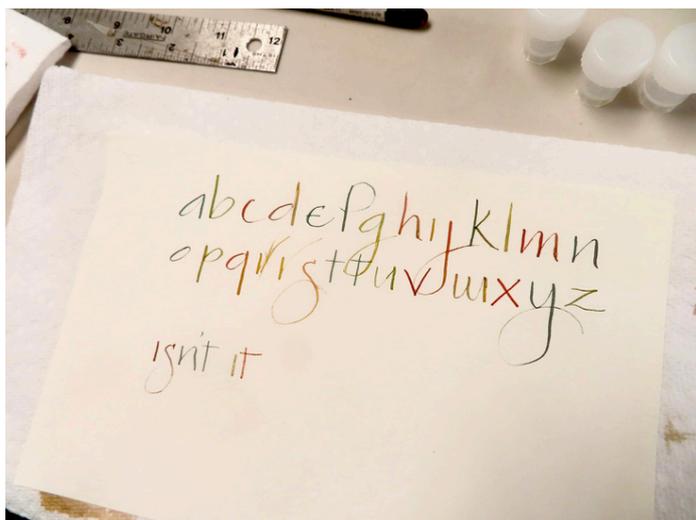
On the main floor and the center of everything, the Paper & Ink Arts store set up tables that were generously filled with all varieties of implements for us to try out all week: inks, brushes, watercolors, pens, sparkly markers, fountain pens, papers and more.

Next year's location is Utah, and then the year after that will be Milwaukee, WI. Every evening there were demonstrations of supplies and techniques, like engraving on glass or sgraffito with imitation gold leaf. Previously my calligraphy experience was mostly using broad edge nibs. And so this is the year for expansion, for attending a conference and learning Spencerian, for trying more creativity with the pointed pen.



# Bister Inks with Gail and Annette

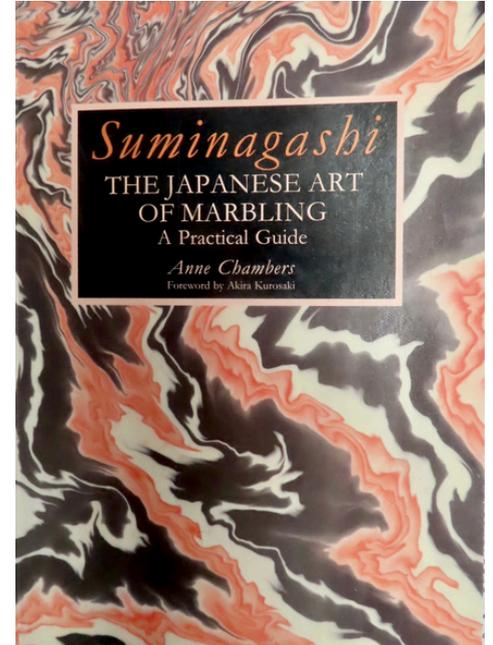
We explored a unique water soluble ink - Bister Ink. Sold in powder form, it mixes easily with water, much like walnut ink, and flows smoothly in most pen nibs. Colors tend to be muted with the red, blue and yellow making the biggest splash.



# Suminagashi with Terry



Terry began with a brief introduction of Suminagashi. It is a Japanese water marbling technique that creates patterns that can stand alone or be used as backgrounds for lettering and poetry. Terry featured a variety of papers to marble on, noting that “Gasen” paper was her favorite. “Hanshi” paper is another good brand. Check out the Yasutomo website for more Japanese papers. She also brought a variety of books and kits for us to look at. One of her books is featured on this page. We used sumi ink - the traditional ink for Suminagashi - but Terry experimented with other inks and paints. It is always exciting to see what works and the surprises from what doesn't work! And this method is much easier to manage - water and ink!



Terry and one of many books she brought to share!



Evie Talbot - new member!



Two different kits with supplies to begin



Evie also recommended a great You Tube video for those who missed out! “How to Make Suminagashi Prints” by Karen Elaine.



# *Nomination List for 2025-2026*

Officers and Executive Board Mysticaligraphers 2025-2026

Co-Presidents: Pam Lambot and Stu Sharack

Vice President: Gail Turgeon

Treasurer: Terry Philbrick

Recording Secretary: Kimberly Curtin-Marino

Membership: Terry Philbrick

Member-at-Large: Ellen Koh

Programs: Fran Baldwin and Gail Turgeon

Librarian: Fran Baldwin

Newsletter Layout Designer: Annette Chittenden

Facebook: Pam Lambot

Historian: Muffy German

Publicity: Melissa Stratton

**Workshops: Unfilled**

Website Liaison: Melissa Stratton

Exhibits: Milly Carlson

Sunshine/Social Director: Sean Kane

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Heuer and Vin Trapani

## *Food for Thought*

Writing in my book is a distinctively different experience than writing on a scrap of paper — and instead of any pen, I chose something lush to write with. This brings me pleasure. Today it matters what tool I choose. It matters that I love the tool, or at least am curious about what kind of mark it will make. Joy is embedded in the discovery, the drip, the imperfect ink on paper.

Lauri Doctor



## BOW VALLEY CALLIGRAPHY GUILD

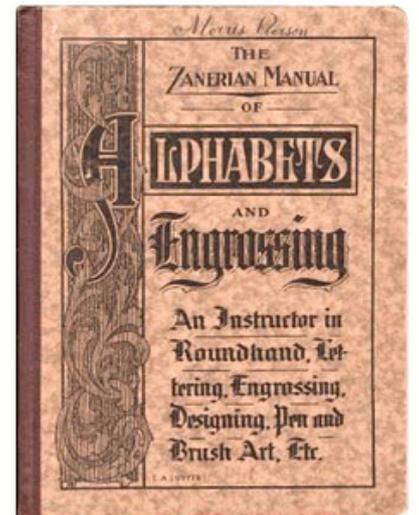


Looking for calligraphy classes during Covid, I think it was Stu who came across this guild. Based in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, they offered many virtual classes on a variety of letter related topics. Currently they offer both virtual and in person workshops and classes.

In their most recent newsletter, which I encourage you to sign up for - [bvccg.ca](http://bvccg.ca), they mention a website that promotes the art, history and techniques of penmanship - [zanerian.com](http://zanerian.com). Check them out to expand your knowledge about lettering with the pointed pen!

### ABOUT:

We are an enthusiastic group devoted to lettering art. From formal historical writing to modern informal creativity, we love to make letters and to mess about with art. Your friends in BVCG welcome you whether you are a beginner or an old hand.



ON THE ZANERIAN.COM WEBSITE



BY LYNN SLEVINSKY - BVCG EXHIBIT



# 2025 Upcoming Programs

August 13: Cards for Sean - Annette and Laurie

August 27: Binding Our Books - Fran And Ellen

September 10: Gold Inks - Stu

October 8: Page Exchange Prep - Gail

November 12: Page Exchange - The Pointed Pen

December 10: Holiday Party

## Blast from the Past



Our Groton Library 40<sup>th</sup>Year Exhibit 2022