

SUMMER/AUGUST 2026

Mysticalligraphers

www.calligraphyconnecticut.org

THE CALLIGRAPHY GUILD OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT



Stu Sharack

Co-President's Message:

Can you believe it... summer is about half over already!? While you are enjoying those summertime excursions and festivals, remember there is always time to make art... calligraphic art of course.

Our guild has been staying busy in July with 2 hands on sessions learning about the Carolingian style of writing common through the 9th to 11th centuries spreading literature through Western Europe. It is the antecedent of our writing today. In August we can look forward to learning Celtic knots with Ellen and an Uncial hand with Terry. If you've been taking any other calligraphy workshops this summer I hope you will share your new learnings. Remember, we are planning an exhibit this November.

Thanks to Tiffany's hard work, we have a very exciting 2 day workshop planned in October. Former White House calligrapher, Pat Blair, will present in person, "Romance of the Line." You won't want to miss this opportunity.

It is with sadness to report that we have lost our long time member, Sean Kane. Co-President, Pam L., was right when she said we will miss his kind letters, thoughtful gifts, and his love of art and people. He was an active volunteer and the perfect social director. It was thoughtful of Milly and Gail to present his family a lovely sunflower bouquet.

Oh yes, remember to send your dues to Terry. It's only \$30 per year!

Stu Sharack, Co-President

Announcements

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE:

*WINTER - FEBRUARY 1st ~ SPRING - MAY 1st
SUMMER - AUGUST 1st ~ FALL - NOVEMBER 1st
*APPROXIMATE

LOCATION CHANGE FOR AUGUST 12TH WORKSHOP!!!

VFW Post 1265
160 So. Broad St.
Pawcatuck, CT

Dues Increase

Dear Calligraphers,

As many of you know, we have held our dues steady at \$25 for many years. Looking at our account and surveying what other small guilds charge for dues, our board has decided that we will increase dues for the 2026-2027 year to \$30.

Please pay your \$30 dues on September 9th at our Annual Meeting. Make your check out to *Mysticalligraphers*. You may also mail your check to Terry Philbrick, 7 Wyngate Circle, Mystic CT 06355. Thank you so much.
Terry Philbrick, Treasurer



Art Exhibit - November & December 2026

LA GRUA CENTER - 32 Water St.
Stonington, CT 06378

The mission of La Grua Center is to engage the community through arts and culture.

They host a reception on Friday of the first week of our exhibit .

They provide wine - we provide food if we choose to.



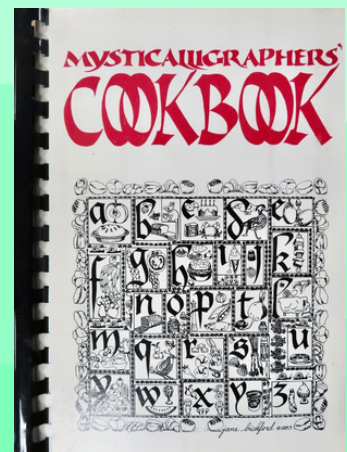
Welcome New Members!

Please add these new members
to your member directory.

Loren A. Webber
65 Cliffmore Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06107
860-985-0120
lorenwebber@gmail.com

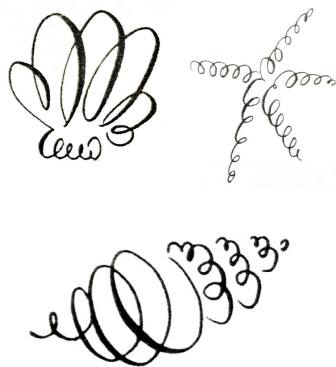
Mary Ann McNulty.
8 Yankee Hill Rd.
Ridgefield, CT 06877
203-300-9097
Mamcn8@gmail.com

Mysticalligraphers Cookbook is still available! See Terry Philbrick - \$6.50.. This treasure was reprinted 3 times in 1984.



Flourishing Capitals and Pointed Pen Doodles with Fran Baldwin

May 13th

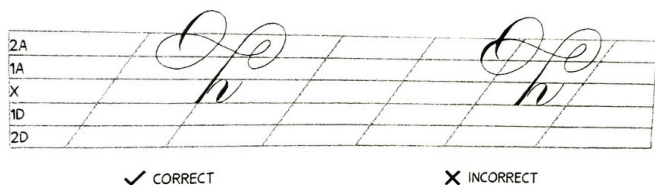


Fran began her flourishing program with some lovely and helpful handouts, from an IAMPETH workshop by Suzanne Cunningham.

Below are excerpts from the handouts about flourishing rules.

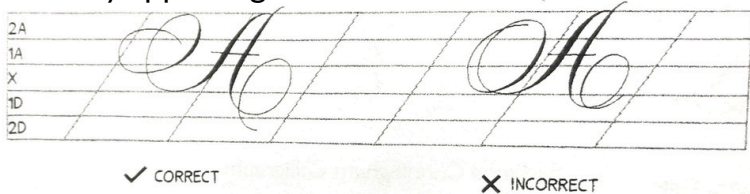
1. LINE WIDTH AT INTERSECTIONS:

Hairlines may cross, a hairline and a shade may cross, but two shades should never cross.



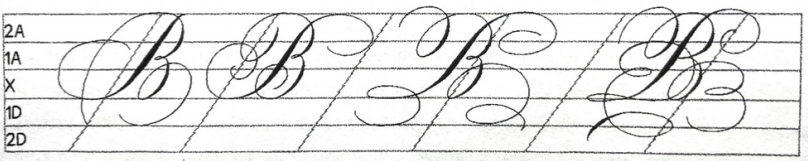
2. INTERSECTIONS:

Lines should intersect at or about 90 degrees. It is more visually appealing.



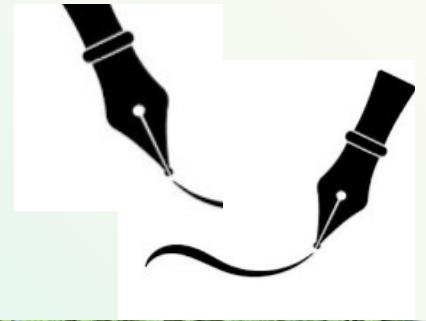
5. MAJUSCULES:

Capital letters are a perfect place to flourish.
below is an example from simple to elaborate:



The above ornament is from the "TPK Holiday Calligraphy worksheet 2025 Edition" - check out The Postman's Knock website for amazing tutorials and worksheets - especially for the holidays!

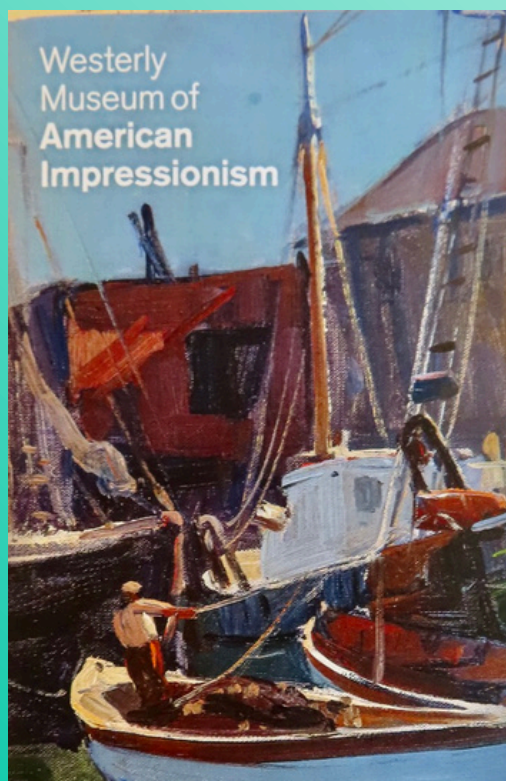
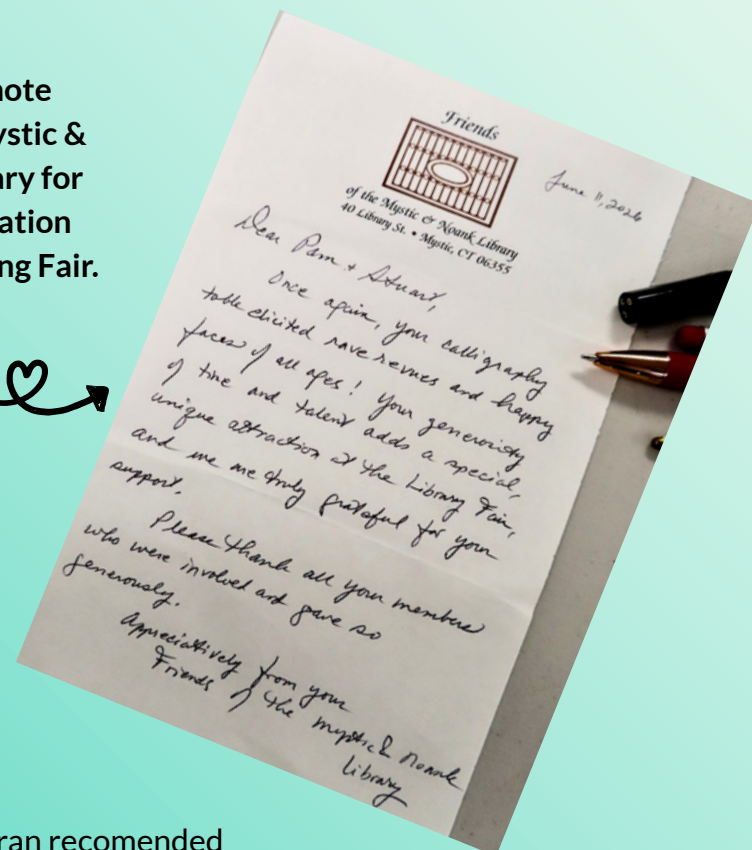
Spring Festival at the Mystic/Noank Library



Pam organized our Bookmark Lettering event at the Spring Festival. Young people and adults alike walked away with smiles on their faces!



Thank you note from the Mystic & Noank Library for our participation in their Spring Fair.



Laurie and Fran recommended the Westerly Museum of American Impressionism! Open Thursday - Sunday, 10am - 4pm.

Collage for Cards - Vinnie Trapani

June 10th



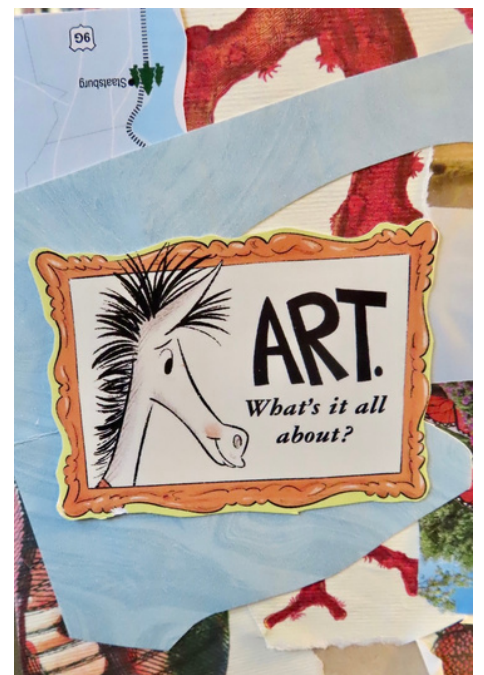
Vin provided a demonstration of collage making techniques and then encouraged us to begin. We started with a heavy weight cardstock and measured out on the back for four cards, 4" x 6". Our mission was to turn the card stock over and create a random collage design using various scraps of paper - colorful maps, sheet music, scraps from past projects, etc. When finished, cardstock was cut into 4 cards. This technique helped us to not get bogged down in design. The results surprised us! Lettering and small focal points could be added later. Vinnie suggested we donate one of our cards to Sean for the Sunshine Committee.



Haley Dyer



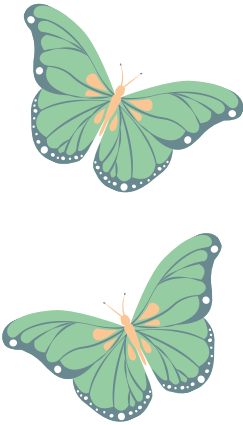
Maureen Gleason



Haley Dyer



Ellen Koh



Fran's Corner - Books & Recommendations

Featured books from our library for collaged cards activity.

You are welcome to peruse our library for inspiration! Give Fran a call and set up a visit!

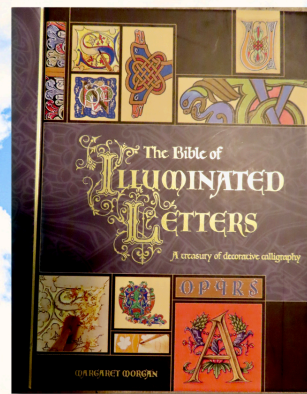


A Reminder About Making WEATHERGRAMS

Go step outdoors, pause, breathe, and quietly observe nature. Release any concerns; simply look and listen. Let the words come to you, just ten or twelve words, to enjoy writing the weathergram message. This is a fun easy project for young calligraphers too.

Here are some descriptive excerpts found in "Weathergrams", by Lloyd J. Reynolds, 1983.

"The weathergram is hung on a bough or branch in the garden, at a campsite, or along a mountain trail. The subject matter is usually seasonal... during its months of weathering it starts going back to nature; this makes it a true weathergram. The strip is two and a half inches by ten inches, before the top is folded over. The origins of the weathergram go back to 1926-27 when I first found translations of Far Eastern poetry. I was taken by their brevity, objectivity, imagery from nature, dry humor, and associations with calligraphy. The colloquial phrase is preferred. They are not written to convey some preconceived idea; I can never compose one by wanting to. They just come of themselves, or not at all. When you come to write your own, forget everything you ever read (for the moment) and just open up..something that is happening at the present moment. Cursive Italic is the letter form, not formal calligraphy.



Stu's latest find! A spiral bound book for flat opening. Packed with exemplars and diagrams.



Debby Reelitz

DEBBY PRESENTS WORKSHOPS ON THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

"I never imagined I would present any calligraphy program so many times and it has been such a joy to talk about lesser known details about our country's founding and the creation of the Declaration of Independence. It's been so fun to get the feedback that the historical portion of the program has been greatly appreciated as well as the hands-on calligraphy portion of the program. I do love the history!"



Visit her website:
letteringdesign.com
See her schedule of
Declaration of Independence
workshops!

Carolingian Letters

Part 1

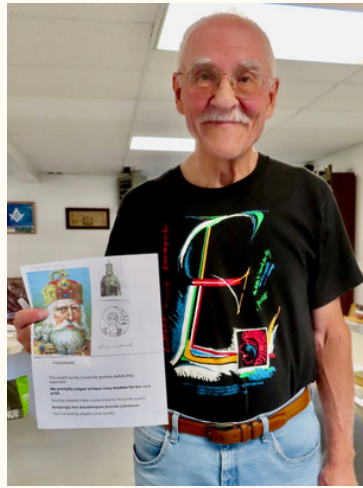
with Stu Sharack

July 8th

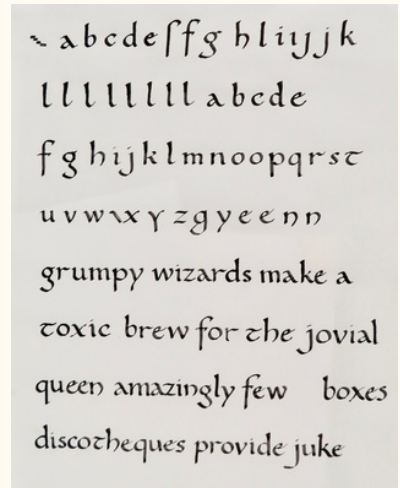
Stu began with a brief history of the Carolingian hand. By order of Charlemagne, King of the Holy Roman Empire, his principal monk Alcuin, was tasked with creating a more readable script for a better educated populace. Before Carolingian letters, monks were doing their own variations of lettering, often hard to read. The word Carolingian derives from the latin name of King Charlemagne - Carolus Magnus. ✨

Edward Johnston, author of "Writing & Illuminating & Lettering", is credited with bringing Carolingian to modern times. ✨

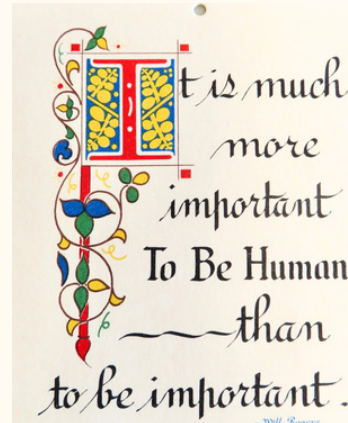
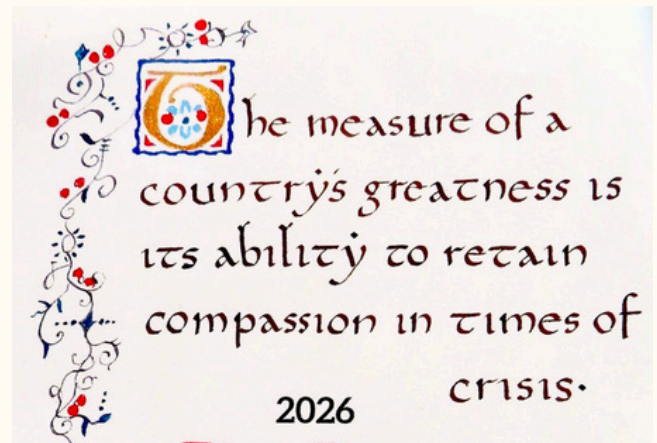
Stu had been inspired at a previous IAMPETH conference by a collection of "freebies" on a table with Carolingian quotes together with a calendar. So after practicing the alphabet from his handouts, we chose a quote and began to plan our piece - which included an illuminated letter, quote and embellishment. Stu provided calendar blanks for us to design with. Did we get to the final piece? Of course not! But the challenge of practicing Carolingian (with it's "chubby clubbies" as Amy referred to it), choosing a worthy quote (Stu suggesting something patriotic to go along with our 250th Anniversary) and designing an interesting versal, kept us focused!



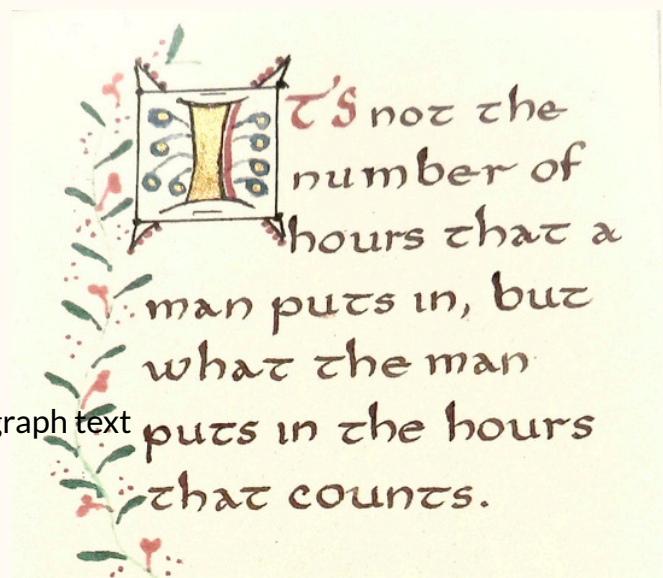
Stu and his pal Charlemagne



Ellen Koh
practice sheet



Sample from
Stu's attendance
at an IAMPETH
Conference.



Your paragraph text

Carolingian Letters - Part 2 - with Stu Sharack

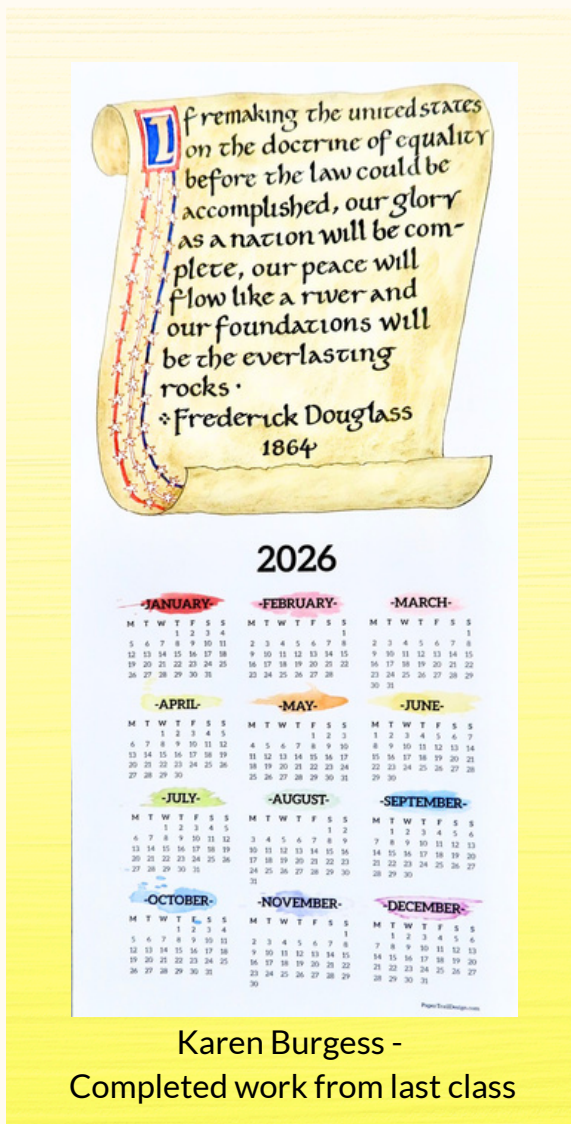
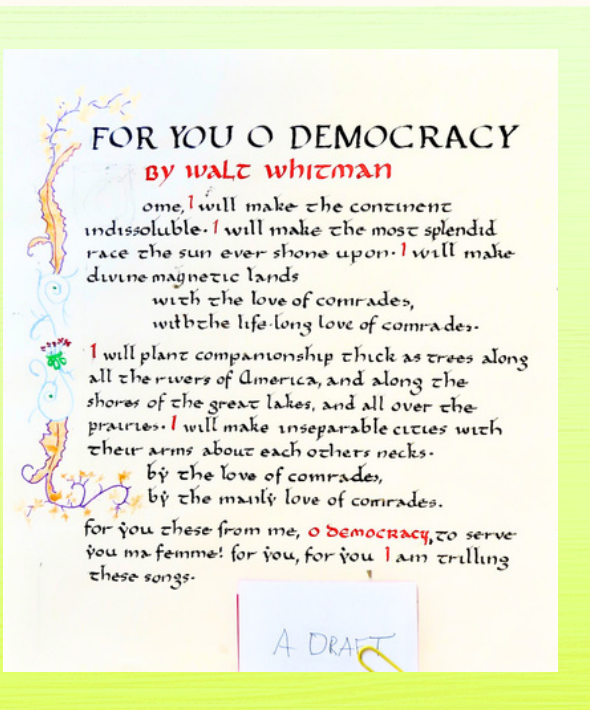
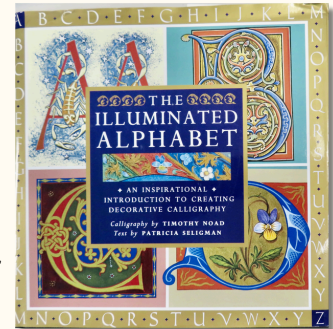
July 22nd

We continued our work on Carolingian with new handouts and focused on a longer quote. We learned about the “hierarchy of scripts”, where scribes used different grades of script in descending order of prestige. The most formal styles (upper case Romans or Rustic) were used for titles and major headings, while more fluid, faster-to-write scripts (Carolingian minuscule) were used for the main body text.

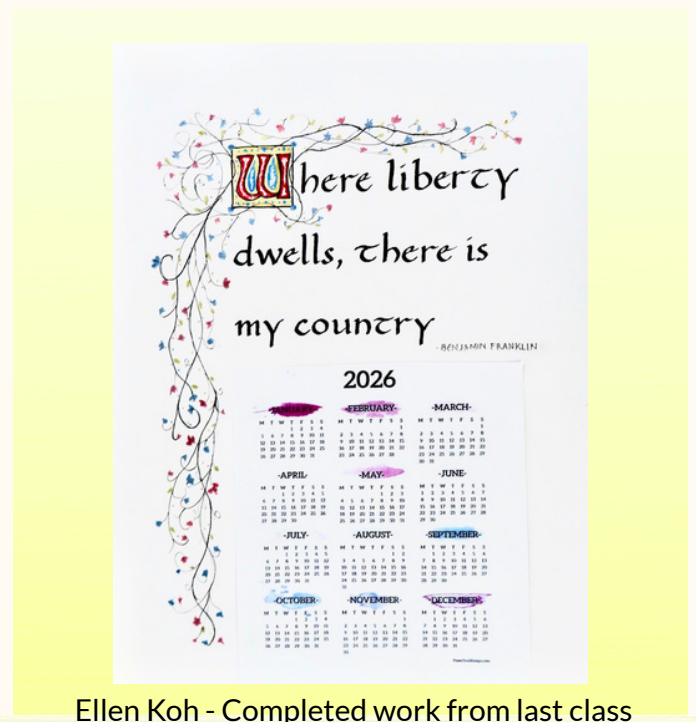
Stu's exemplar.



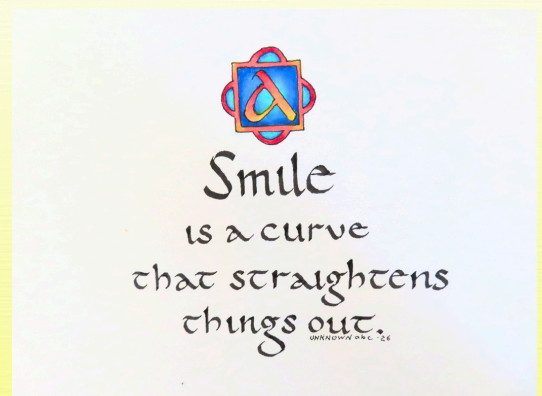
Stu shared
this book for
inspiration



Karen Burgess -
Completed work from last class



Ellen Koh - Completed work from last class



Annette Chittenden -
Completed work from last class

Fall Workshop Update



Join us for Romance of the Line with...

Pat Blair

October 3-4, 2026
9am-3pm

Coastal Lodge No. 57
637 Pequot Trail
Stonington, CT 06378

Registration fees
\$150, members
\$165, non-members
(checks only)

Payable to Mysticaligraphers
Mail to-
Terry Philbrick
7 Wyngate Circle
Mystic, CT 06355

Pat Blair has made calligraphy her career for over 30 years. She served as the Chief Calligrapher of the White House for 12 1/2 years and in 2005 was awarded the title of Master Penman by IAMPETH.

Romance of the Line
Line.....as flourish
Line.....as border
Line.....as illustration

The pointed pen produces unique, expressive ornamental strokes, and by learning to vary the pressure and curve, beautiful forms are created. In this class, we will take a look at some broader, longer flourish movements. These will become the framework for colorful floral and leaf illustrations that can be used as borders or stand-alone elements.

To inspire us, we will discuss color theory, and see how it contributes to our designs. Taking inspiration from historic ornament, we will create our own versions of these designs, combining our light pointed pen flourishes with cheery botanicals.

This class is good for all levels, since it explores the pressure needed when using a pointed nib, while giving the student experience in a long forward movement of the pen.

Upcoming Programs

August 12 - Celtic Knots - Ellen and others - VFW location ***

August 26 - Mike Kesey Uncials - Terry Philbrick

**September 9 - Greetings for Cards on Collage Paper Strips -
Pamela LaRegina**

October 14 - Circle Writing - To Be Announced

November 11 - Lettering on Rocks - Annette Chittenden

December 9 - Holiday Party - Everyone!



Sean Kane

June 16, 1965 - July 6, 2026

Our Sunshine/Social Director Chair is now shining beyond our sight! He passed away on the evening of July 6, 2026, at the age of 61.

For years, Sean has been the ultimate one-man Sunshine Committee for Mysticaligraphers - always spreading cheer and kind thoughts, mailing cards and thoughtful letters for birthdays and life events, bearing gifts and candies at our gatherings.

His family has posted a lovely obituary in the New London Day, listing Sean's life accomplishments. He was a gentle soul who always worked to make others happy. Serving as ad hoc Sunshine Committee, Milly Carlson and Gail Turgeon personally delivered a bouquet of sunflowers to one of Sean's brothers and his wife this week. They were truly appreciative and shared stories of Sean's signature sunflower greetings, and his love of the arts and people.
Pam Lambot



"Sean lit up every room with his presence. His greeting cards were filled with his caring. He will be missed."

Maureen Gilardi



One of Sean's many heartfelt projects was designing house numbers for friends and family. At left is Cay Barres house with Sean's design. At right is Pam Lambot's house number.

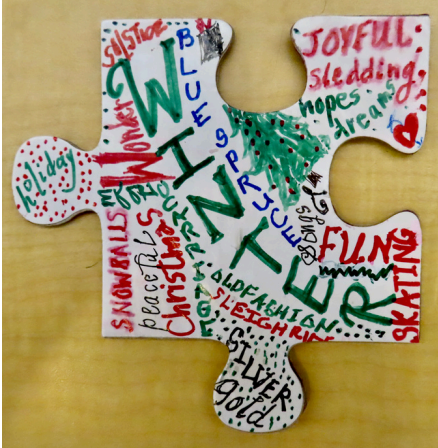


"Sean gave me this sign at a meeting - for no specific reason - just to make me smile! His interpretations of our various projects were always unique - pushing the creative envelope in wild and inventive directions. "

Annette Chittenden



A few more glimpses into our Winter
themed Puzzle Project pieces!



Nominations for Board & Guild Positions

OFFICERS:

Co-Presidents:

Pam Lambot
Melissa Stratton

Vice President:

Gail Turgeon

Treasurer:

Terry Philbrick

Recording Secretary:

Kim Curtin-Morino

Membership:

Terry Philbrick

Member - at - Large:

Ellen Koh

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Programs:

Fran Baldwin
Gail Turgeon

Librarian:

Fran Baldwin

Newsletter Layout

Designer:
Annette Chittenden

Facebook:

Pam Lambot

Historian:

Muffy German

Publicity:

Laurie Murphy

Workshops:

Tiffany Delaney

Website Liaison:

Annette Chittenden

Exhibits:

Milly Carlson

Sunshine Committee:

Karen Burgess*

Bring your handmade
cards from previous
workshops to our
September meeting!
They will be given to our
new Social Committee
chair!

✦ ✦ ✦ *Food For Thought* ✦ ✦ ✦

Artists and Poets are the raw nerve ends of humanity

By themselves they can do little to save humanity.

Without them, there would be little worth saving.

Anonymous inscription on a headstone in Green River Cemetary Springs NY
Where Jackson Pollock, Elaine de Kooning & other artists are buried.