

# *The Calligraphers' Guild*

September 1, 2020

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editor: Mary J. Danca

Hello September,

2020 feels like the longest year ever and we still have 3 months to go.

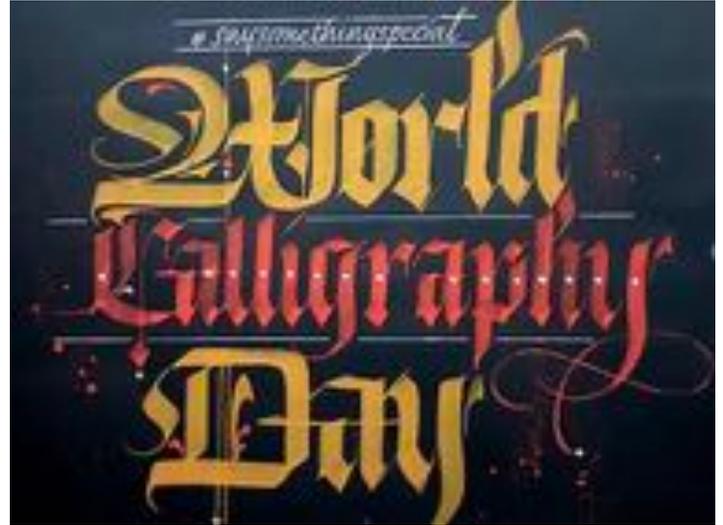
Covid-19 has certainly changed the way we do things in life and how we react to things. Many of us have chosen to remain close to home while others venture out into the world. Each of us has to decide for ourselves how we navigate this process. For now, our guild meetings have gone to Zoom, workshops seem to be at a standstill and online classes abound.

If you have taken an online class and would like to share your experiences please write something for this newsletter.

This issue features two articles, one from Eleanor Lippman and one from Goly Ostovar.

Eleanor writes about her experiences with, and passion for ink and pens. Goly takes us on a journey through art history in part 1 of her 2 part article. Part 2 will appear in the October issue.

Thank you to those who submitted your work and to those who help edit and support the newsletter. I hope you enjoy this issue and remember articles and photos are always appreciated.



## **World Calligraphy Day**

Founded by Manuscript Pen Company in 2017, World Calligraphy Day brings together experts and novices across the world to come together and discuss, practice, learn and celebrate the art of calligraphy and creative lettering.

This year it was held August 12. Manuscript launched a campaign to encourage people across the UK to learn a new skill, adopt traditional practices and to send handwritten notes and letters to be shared with care homes residents, who have suffered loneliness in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Online resources for classes:**

<https://www.strathmoreartiststudio.com/>

[https://www.johnnealbooks.com/prod\\_detail\\_list/online-classes](https://www.johnnealbooks.com/prod_detail_list/online-classes)

<https://www.skillshare.com/browse/calligraphy>

<https://www.facebook.com/centralartssupply/videos/316379383125000>

<https://www.portlandsocietyforcalligraphy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/online-classesAUG-2020.pdf>

## Hints and Ideas

**Let's see how many new ideas we can find in this newly created section of the newsletter. Any and all ideas are welcome.**

**On Addressing Envelopes:** Glenn Marcus  
<http://www.marcuslink.com/pens/views/2013-04.html>

For a while, even though I wrote a letter with one of my fountain pens, I would always use a ball point pen to address my envelopes. Living in Vancouver, I was always concerned about the rain washing away the address. But a number of years ago I received a good tip: use a piece of standard paraffin wax to wipe across the address. It nicely seals the ink from any moisture.

Do wait to ensure the ink is dry but other than that, once it is, there is no smearing.

Just another way to fully use your beautiful fountain pens and inks.

It worked, and what was best, here was a new writing accessory that is readily available and inexpensive - just get a box of standard canning wax available at more food stores.

A small piece of canning wax is part of my desk accessories. I keep it a small box on my desk, and now I give all my envelopes a couple of strokes and the address is sealed and safe!

*submitted by Eleanor Lippman*

## Calligraphy, cards and saving the post office

### A Calligraphers' Guild Project

Starting in October, 2020 we will begin a monthly card exchange program where each member who signs up will be on a list with other members. Each month you will send a card to someone and you will receive a card from someone else.

This is similar to other programs that have been done in other guilds and it seems to work well, is fun, and keeps people in touch with one another.

It is IMPORTANT and MANDATORY if you want to be part of the exchange that you email Joann Cleckner at [jzccpa@sonic.net](mailto:jzccpa@sonic.net) by September 20, 2020, and she will add you to the list. By next month you will receive a chart /grid showing who to send a card to each month and who you will receive one from. We will also post the grid in the October newsletter for you.

If you don't understand the grid or anything about the exchange, please speak up! We can help you understand if you have a problem.

You can make your cards seasonal, or if appropriate send a birthday card, or thinking of you card. Anything goes as long as you send a card! Individual ideas and your own creativity will make this fun and interesting.

We assume that if you sign up you are committed to participating for the year. If something comes up, "real life" intervenes and you cannot complete the year, please let the Lynda Stevenson or Joann Cleckner know as soon as possible.

In future meetings we may want to do a show and tell of sorts, especially if we are still zooming!

*Contact: Joann Cleckner at [jzccpa@sonic.net](mailto:jzccpa@sonic.net)*

# Ink and I

*by Eleanor Lippman*

For a very long time, much before I became interested in calligraphy as an art, I had a collection of new and antique fountain pens and I loved writing with different colored inks, inks to reflect my mood as I wrote.

Innocent as a lamb, I purchased inks in a variety of colors: pink, hot orange, lilacs and purples, and inks with alluring names like “black cherry” or “la couleur royale” or “apache sunset”. Did I mention “innocent as a lamb”? It took a while, years in fact, to realize that some fountain pen inks are very fugitive and slowly fade and disappear on the page. I won’t go into the chemistry, but it involves in addition to the ink itself, the marriage of ink and paper, probably whether the paper was made with acids. That’s beyond my area of expertise. At least I was aware of the fickleness of ink.

When I became interested in the art of calligraphy, the use of archival ink became paramount and I realized that ink manufacturers and ink merchants don’t list “archival” or “fugitive” in their descriptions. We are lucky if they tell us whether the ink is waterproof. Fortunately for me, my home has a west-facing window where the sun beats down unmercifully each day. So I started testing each ink on little slips of paper taped to the window. It didn’t take long to clearly distinguish good from bad and now my ink bottles are clearly labeled “fades” if I can’t rely on them. There is no pattern; I have one bottle of bright purple ink (no longer manufactured) that is quite lightfast; other purples disappear quickly. Who knew?

My other quest involved my reluctance to dip my pen nib directly into the big bottle of ink. Nibs can carry lint and other contaminations. Ideally, I wanted to transfer a small amount of ink to a very small container, enough ink, perhaps for a single project or two. I tried small plastic containers designed for crafters, but they are not designed to store liquids and evaporation is a problem. Even the tiny plastic “DinkyDinks” sold by John Neal were unsatisfactory in that the plastic lids often split in half when tightened down.

Well, John Neal came to the rescue. I noticed in their recent catalogue, small glass containers with lids that have a plastic liner to prevent evaporation. They are sold in a wooden stand to prevent spills.

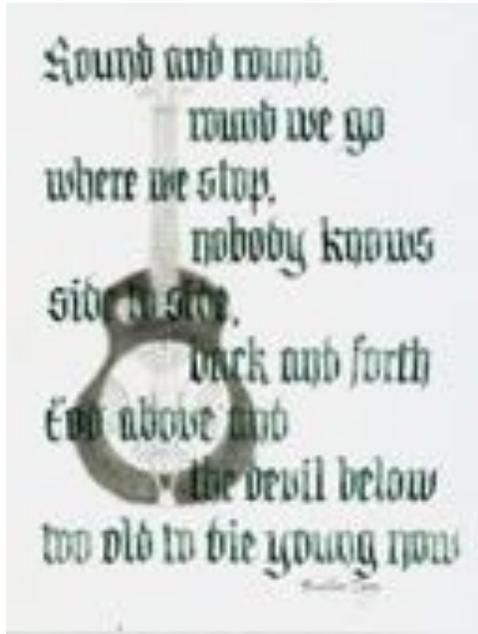
It has taken a while, but now I know which colorful inks in my ink drawer are suitable for calligraphy projects and I have a means of transferring a small amount of ink to a glass container in order to avoid contaminating my original stock.



# Member Art Page



Goly Ostovar  
"Life's roller coaster" : Blue parallel pen



Steve Ostrander:  
Round and Round we go.....



Goly Ostovar  
"Mamas call for justice"  
2.4mm Pilot Pen and calligraphy, cold  
press watercolor paper.



"Art is never finished" Goly Ostovar  
An idea sketch using a double headed calligraphy marker  
on unlined textured medium weigh paper.



Marble Painted Rocks with Calligraphy  
Cynthia Griffin

# A hummingbird, Art history, and understanding aesthetics!

## Part 1 of 2

*Goly Ostovar*

I was sitting on my porch swing in the early morning and watching a hummingbird dart in and out of the zinnia flowers and sip nectar. I felt mesmerized by this flying jewel in the sky as the shimmering fuchsia feathers of its throat melted into the iridescent green body. The iridescent colors of bird's feathers were a perfect complement against the golden petals of the zinnia flowers.

I said to my self "There is nothing more beautiful than this image in the whole world!". Sometimes we experience beauty so deep in the middle of our chest that we feel overwhelmed with joy and wonder. I believe these moments are a sublime and transcendent experience because they have touched our spirit and the core of our personal aesthetic response.

So, what exactly is aesthetics? Aesthetics is often described as set of principles that define the nature of beauty in art. It is also a branch of philosophy that deals with the theory of beauty and art appreciation.

Art historians and scholars have tried to quantify beauty by categorizing and organizing each art movement by defining elements that distinguish them. Also political and social influences have had a major impact on each art movement.

And an art movement is a style in art with a shared philosophy by a group of artists during a specific time period.

So let's take a walk through art history to gain a greater understanding of the salient features of each art movement and our personal response to them. I think we can use this information to improve our personal sense of design and composition in our personal art work.

The foundation of art history goes back to thousands of years. Old civilizations used material they had on hand and techniques that they developed to document important events and subject matter. and that is how distinct styles developed. x cave paintings. When we think of Ancient art of Mesopotamia we might think of religious imagery, utilitarian objects that were highly decorative, relief sculptures, and stone plaques.

Medieval art period (A.D. 500–A.D. 1400) is an era that is of particular interest to us mostly because of the Illuminated manuscripts that were created during this era. Medieval art is associated with biblical subjects and classical mythology. It lasted over 1000 years including the Early Christian art and Gothic art.

The Renaissance of course was a huge departure from previous periods because it broke away from the church. The renaissance is characterized by symmetrical balance, linear perspective, and precise human anatomy. The key elements to remember about The Renaissance focused on secularism and individualism.

*In next month's issue Goly will continue her discussion starting with Romanticism (1780-1850) and follow along through Realism, Impressionism and others leading to Contemporary Art period from the 1970's to the present.*



### Calligraphy Featured on FaceBook

Central Arts has a live video on Facebook every Friday at 1pm. On August 12th, the video was all about celebrating World Calligraphy Day. Ann and Adam talked much about our Guild and encouraged people to get involved/join.

Their Videos are always informative, and they have give aways too! Make sure next time you are in Central Arts, thank them...and if you are on facebook you can still view the videos.

### Local Class, Local Teacher

Maurice Logue will be teaching two 8 week classes on Black Letter starting September 3. Thursdays 1:00-3:00 beginners welcome Saturdays 10:00-12:00 experienced only please Limited spaces available. For information contact Scrappy Craft at 541.512.0040 or Maurice at 541.897.0410.

**Here and on the next page are some exemplars of hands that we will explore at the September Guild meeting. If you would like a copy of each hand please let us know and we will email you one before the September meeting.**



Akim, with Capitals and Willow



Lynda Stevenson : Fish, lettered in Akim



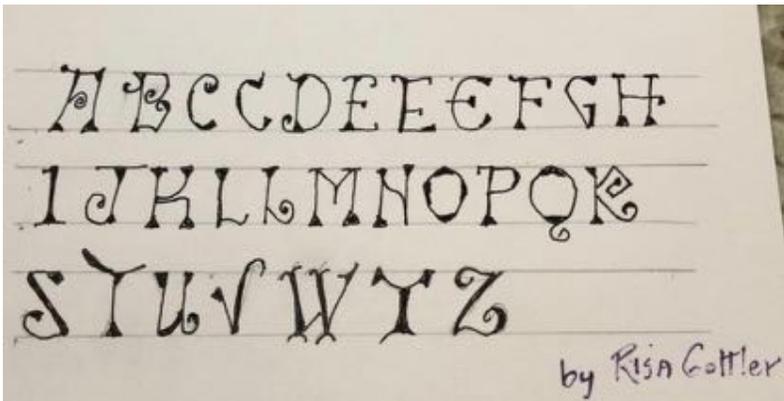
JoAnne Evan, Pointed pen lettering and drawing



Maya's alphabet



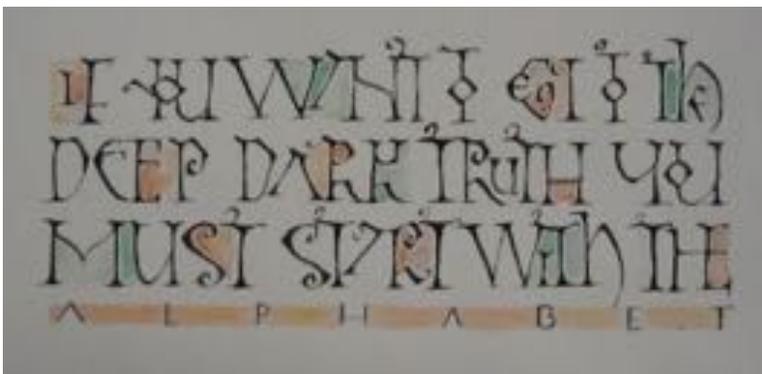
Steve Ostrander used Maya's hand for a card to JoAnne....(old address)



Risa Gettler's letters



Lynda Stevenson used for Rita Gettler's hand for 'Brenda'



Risa Gettler



Charles MacKintosh

Stay tuned for information about the Art Presence Art Show in January and Peter Thornton Workshop rescheduled for May, 2021. Covid still has things on hold and we await finalization on everything.

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Please note: the meetings from September 2020 through the January 2021 meeting will be held via ZOOM. We are taking COVID-19 very seriously and do not want to put any of our members in peril. Watch your email for the September Zoom invitation.

**Happy Birthday to our Members!**

**August:**

Cynthia Griffin August 26  
 Terry DeFrisco August 23



**September:**

Lola Daughterty Sep 1  
 Eleanor Lippman Sept 6  
 Goly Ostovar Sept 12  
 Diane Brown Sept 16  
 JoAnn Evans Sept 30

**Calligrapher's Guild – Summary – Planning Meeting**

**Date Subject**

~ **Sept. 26 Hands**

Examples of different hands – not RUBI with discussion/explanations from Steve Ostrander and Lynda Stevenson.

~ **Oct. 24 Cards**

Eleanor Lippman will show some of her cards with an explanation of how they were made. Please have an example of a card (or cards) you have made to share with the group.

~ **Nov. 21 Happy Thanksgiving**

If you have made Christmas cards, please bring to share and discuss your process. – You might just inspire someone who had not attempted a Christmas card.

~ **Dec. 19 Holiday Cheer**

In addition to sharing some Holiday cheer, we can have a discussion of the January show.

~ **Jan. 23 What's Next**

At this meeting we will be able to re-evaluate the possibility of meetings in person – or not. Depending on how the virus is affecting Jackson County we will be able to plan for the remainder of our year – February through May.

✳ Please be prepared to discuss and (also contact Lynda) beforehand the following:

- ◆ Ideas you would like to see as a subject.
- ◆ Would you be willing to be a presenter?
- ◆ If so, what would your subject be
  - ◆ Joann Cleckner, Secretary