

# The Calligraphers' Guild

Serving Southern Oregon  
www.roguepens.org  
Winter 2023

## President's Message:

I can't believe another year is coming to a close. Our "Share 'N Share" has been inspirational and has encouraged members to explore (and use) a variety of tools. Definitely a learning experience.

Earlier in the year, we had several demonstrations. Steve Ostrander shared his class of Tamer Ghoneim's Blackletter on Steroids Circles. JoAnn Evans showed how to do blind embossing in layers. Eleanor Lippman shared her techniques for decoupage leaves. In May Linda Schneider presented a Zoom workshop "Calligraphy that Creates Smiles".

In addition, in July we finished our card exchange. Our June meeting was a casual get-together at Grizzly Peak Winery. November saw our annual exhibit, "Inspired By the Elements" at Art Presence in Jacksonville. It was well received and our members were again challenged to use their skills and talents. Cynthia Griffin organized the exhibit and coordinated the hanging which was a lot of work.

We ended the year with a casual Christmas social at Scrappy Craft in their newly renovated classroom. The guild is most appreciative of the support from De Barnett and ScrappyCraft. JoAnn Evans shared a wreath-making technique for a Christmas card learned, at a Texas Arts Council Zoom Workshop. De provided a kit for making a "dial card."

This is a quick overview of the past year, and I may have omitted something inadvertently. The coming year holds opportunities to use additional tools and techniques for our chosen subjects.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year,  
Michael

## "Inspired by the Elements"



From November 4-27 the Rogue Calligraphy Guild held their annual art show at Art Presence Art Center in Jacksonville, Oregon. As always the show was a great success and attendance was steady with guests admiring and purchasing many of the pieces. Photos of the submitted pieces appear starting on page 3 of this newsletter. We hope you enjoy seeing them and the candid photos of the event.

## Theme for Guild Meetings: The Creative Journal 2023

The project for this year allowed members to choose a subject they are interested in and at meeting show how they developed their subject using the assigned techniques or tool for the month. Some ideas: flowers, birds, cats, faces, dragons, fish, horses, shapes. Select something that interests you and have fun expanding on it. The techniques for the entire year are listed in the panning meeting notes. Techniques for the following three months are:

January: ? *look for email reminders in 2023*

February: ?

March: ?

## Resources

<https://artistatticsales.com>

<https://www.centralartssupply.com>

<https://www.strathmoreartiststudio.com/> (many free lessons)

[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.portlandsocietyforcalligraphy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/online-classesAUG-2020.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/RoguePens>

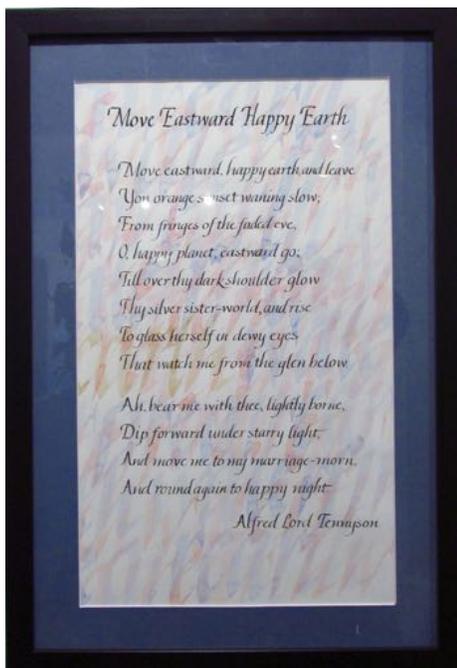
## Inspired by the Elements: A Photo tour

On this and the following 4 pages you will see all the beautiful artwork that was on display at the annual show presented at Art Presence in Jacksonville, OR. This year's theme was "Inspired by the Elements" and the work was outstanding. Although I unfortunately was unable to see it in person, I am inspired by the artistic skills of all our members who participated and attended.

Enjoy the show and if you want to see more, Steve Ostrander, our webmaster has them grouped by artist. He also has wonderful images of the works over the years as well as newsletters and other goodies. Find us at [www.roguepens.com](http://www.roguepens.com) (or typing The Calligraphers Guild Ashland) Also be sure to see what our Facebook master, Diana Brown has by going to Facebook and searching Rogue Pens. There are some lovely photos of the event, the members and guests present, as well as inspiring calligraphy and art ideas.



Goly Ostovar - "Long Live the Ocean"  
Watercolor - Gouache



Steve Ostrander - "Happy Earth"  
Gouache



Cynthia Griffin, *Prayer Flags*, Gouache



Goly Ostovar - "Seedpod Opening"



Virginia Silbowitz - "Secret Ocean"  
Watercolor



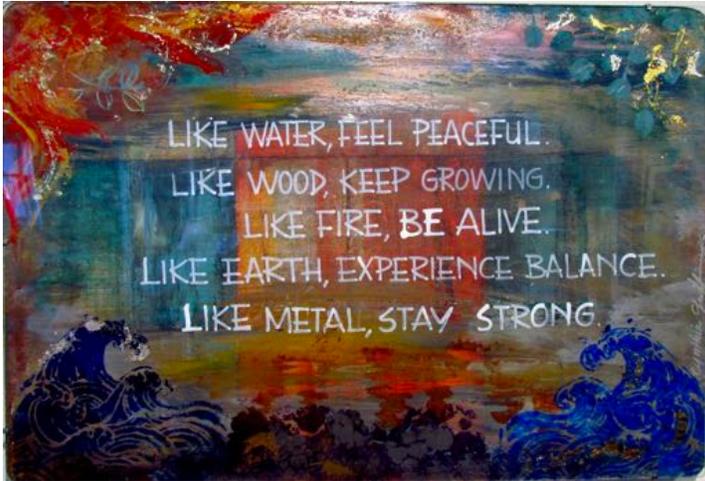
Steve Ostrander - "Trees" -Gouache



Goly Ostovar - "Dear Earth, thank you!"  
Mixed Media on rice paper



Goly Ostovar - "Hidden life on Earth"  
White ink on black paper



Cynthia Griffin -The Elements -Acrylic



Anne Brooke, Some Day-Watercolor



Michael Rowbottom, The Elementals, wood



Goly Ostovar, Glimpse of Monarch, Gouache



Anne Brooke, How Monotonous, Watercolor



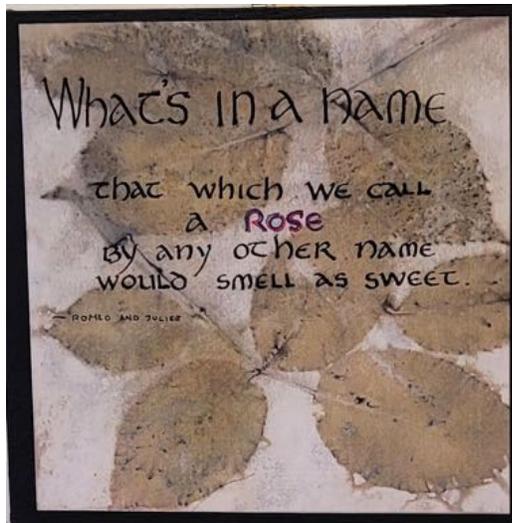
Carol Jones, *Turn Over a New Leaf*



Goly Ostovar - "All Water is Holy Water"  
Watercolor on Arches, white ink



Goly Ostovar, *Four Elements Icons*  
Gouache on Arches paper



Carol Jones, *Pinnate*  
Eco-printed Rose Leaves



Steve Ostrander - "Earth Mother"  
Gouache



Goly Ostovar, *Autumn Flame*,  
Gouache on black



Goly Ostovar - "I'm in the Garden"  
Gouache on black paper



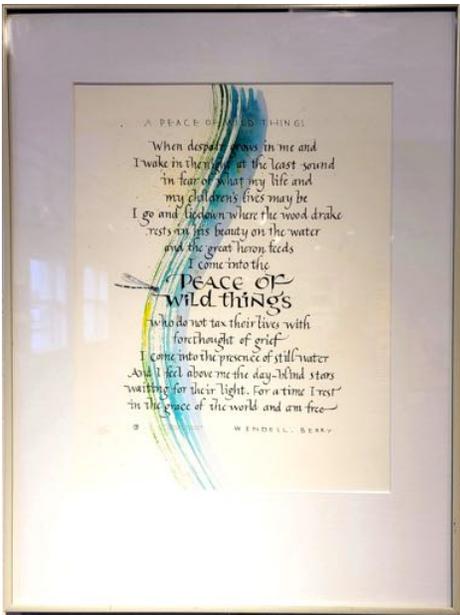
Michael Holstein  
*Making Some Headway*,  
Photo on Balsa Wood



Michael Holstein, *Watchtower Tree*  
Photo, Balsa Wood



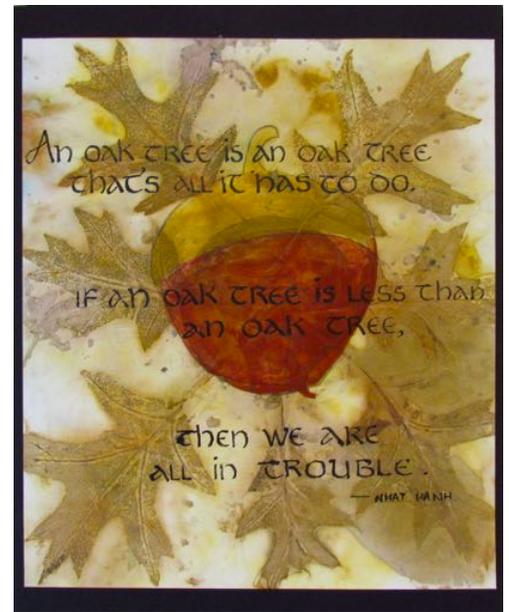
Michael Holstein  
*An Ent*  
Photo on Balsa Wood



Goly Ostovar - "The Peace of Wild Things"  
Nikko G nib, Sumi Ink



Goly Ostovar, *If Stars should appear*  
Gouache on Arches Paper



Carol Jones  
*Strength and Prosperity*



JoAnn Evans - Air Dragon,  
Mixed Media



JoAnn Evans - Fire Dragon,  
Mixed Media



JoAnn Evans - Water Dragon  
Mixed Media



JoAnn Evans - Earth Dragon  
Mixed Media

**Candid Photos of Member Artists, Guests and close up images taken by member.  
With many thanks to all who participated, helped and attended this amazing  
show.**



# Hints and Ideas

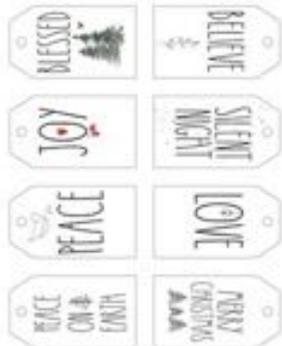
*Guild members found a unique way to reuse an old product that has outlived its time. It is a wonderful hint which makes me wonder what other old office supplies can be repurposed. If you have any thoughts, please submit them here.*

Chris and Vicci Ewen found two Rolodex stands in Goodwill from years past. Today everyone keeps their business, calligraphy membership and family contact information in their cell phones/computers. Chris decided to repurpose the Rolodex and use it to display her small art pieces. The cards that came with the Rolodex, are a good enough quality and works well with watercolor. Whenever she watercolors a piece, she makes two, one for herself and one to mail to Vicci. Maybe if you ask she will make one for you!!



Here's a link to an interesting and informative article about *Pilot Pens* that Steve Ostrander suggested for those who use them in their lettering. I enjoyed it and hope you do too.  
<https://jakerainis.com/blog/pilot-parallel-hacking-the-unofficial-parallel-owners-guide/>

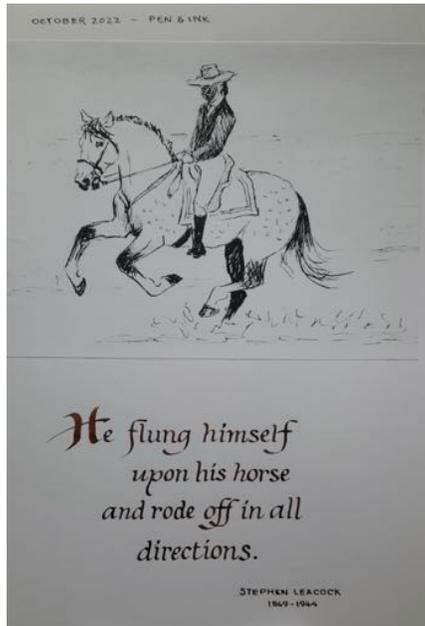
## Some fun ways to wrap and label your Christmas, holiday, and Valentine Day



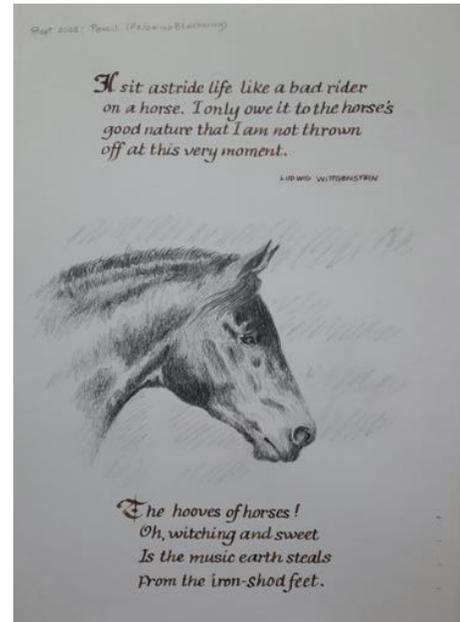
Our Calligraphers at work all year long.



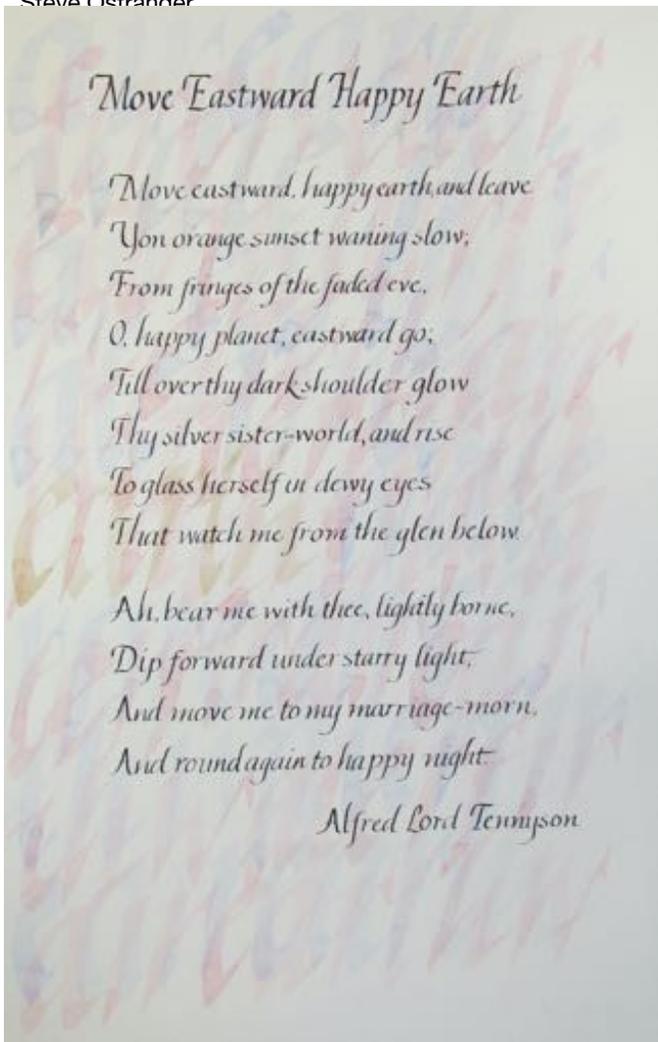
Steve Ostrander



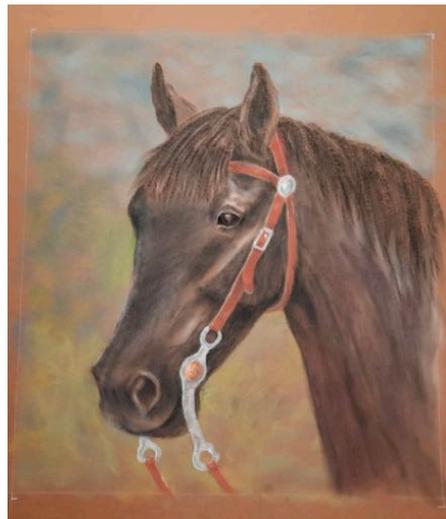
JoAnn Evans, pencil



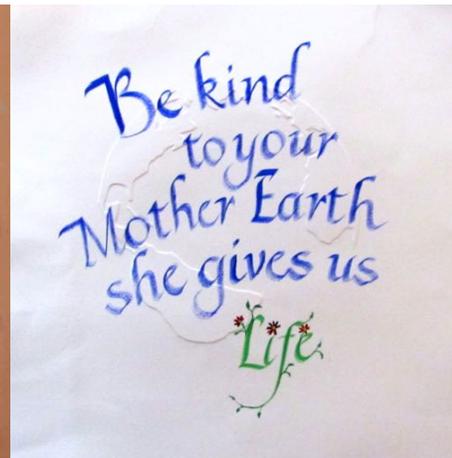
JoAnn Evans, pencil



Steve Ostrander, Happy Earth gouache almost ready for show



JoAnn Evans, pastel



Steve Ostrander, Gouache



JoAnn Evans, pastel

The Annual Guild Christmas Party was held on Dec 3, 2022. JoAnn Evans presented a mini workshop making a pointed pen wreath with white ink which she learned at the Texas Lettering Council's 2022 day event "Lettering for Holiday Projects 2022" (<https://learn.txlac.org>). The Frosted Wreath was delightfully made and her skill and willingness to share is commendable.

De Barnett hosted the party at Scrappy Craft which was decorated for the holidays. Carol Jones won the Gift Pen Set raffle. All who attended had a lovely time, grateful for being able to celebrate the party in person and not on Zoom as we have had to do for the last 2 years. Merry Christmas to all.



More calligraphy work from 2022

Sketches from Michael Rowbottom's Journal. It is nice to see members' work that are usually not seen. Thank you, Michael for sharing them.



Valentine letters to try out on your cards. How about creating your own? Hearts are fun to work with and can be used in so many 'loving' ways.

Happy Valentine's Day



## National Handwriting Day January 23, 2021 (from [www.holidayscalendar.com](http://www.holidayscalendar.com))

We all know that calligraphy is not handwriting but we do have to accept that using a tool to communicate, make images and letters has been around for a long time. Enjoy reading a bit and refreshing your knowledge of how calligraphy began.

### History of Handwriting

The ancient Romans were the first to develop a written script for correspondence based on aspects they borrowed from the Etruscan alphabet. In its early form, it was a simple method of recording transactions and communicating with other people but by the fifth century, it had started to evolve into a form that flowed quite a bit like modern cursive writing does. However, the development and discipline of handwriting would eventually come to rest with various monasteries after the Roman Empire fell. This was especially true in Christian monasteries, who continued to crank out classical texts all over Europe.

However, even as handwriting continued to develop, there still wasn't much consistency to it. Styles varied immensely from region to region up until the 8th century. This is when Charlemagne decided to put an English monk in charge of standardizing a handwriting script. This script, *Carolingian minuscule*, was one that featured lowercase letters and punctuation and was designed to be easily read by candlelight. And it was a script that was highly used up until the 15th century.

During the 15th century, a denser style of writing script began to emerge for use on printed parchments and in books. This *Gothic script* was used extensively by Johannes Gutenberg on his printing press. However, not everyone was a fan of the Gothic script style. Italian humanists decided to go back to a Carolingian script and they even invented a cursive form of it that would eventually become known as *Italic*. From this period on, penmanship would be seen as a symbol of status and schools began educating young scholars in its use during the 18th century.

During the mid-19th century in the United States, Platt Rogers Spencer developed a cursive writing system that would become known as the Spencerian Method. It was widely taught and many schools quickly adopted its use. However, this system didn't last long and was eventually replaced by the Palmer Method, invented by Austin Norman Palmer, during the turn of the century. The Palmer Method would eventually be replaced by the D'Nealian script, invented by Donald Thurber, and it was introduced into American schools during the late 1970s.

Unfortunately, handwriting took a major hit during the 1980s when the wide availability of typewriters and word processors were used for writing instead of a pen and paper. Schools began to eliminate handwriting courses, replacing them with typewriting and eventually computer classes. Since then, the art of handwriting has continued to decline and is now in serious danger of disappearing altogether.

### The History of National Handwriting Day

In 1977, as educators began to feel that the art of handwriting was beginning to disappear as a requisite skill, the Writing Instrument Manufacturer's Association (WIMA) decided to do something about it. They decided that a National Handwriting Day was needed so they invented it. They chose January 23rd because that is the date when John Hancock was born in 1737. While John Hancock was a prominent merchant, a patriot of the American Revolution, statesman and even the third Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he is best known for being the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence.

According to WIMA's website, writing allows all of us to be individuals and artists during a time when electronic devices such as tablets, phones, and computers are the devices used as the primary form of communication. After all, handwritten letters have sparked love affairs, declared revolutions, started wars, ended wars and created whole movements. It's also an art form that is deeply embedded in our history.

### Celebrating National Handwriting Day

If you're looking for a way to celebrate National Handwriting Day, then you're in luck because there are several options available to you. You can check out copies of famous handwritten historical documents such as The Book of Kells, The Declaration of Independence or the U.S. Constitution. Or you can learn more about Graphology – the science of analyzing people's handwriting. If that doesn't suit your fancy, then you can teach someone to write, refine your cursive skills or maybe write a love letter to your significant other. And while you're at it, use the hashtag #NationalHandwritingDay on all your tweets and social media postings.

## Bits and Pieces:

Our secretary, Eleanor Lippman has begun to use an email blast which she calls “**Calligraphy Pop-Up Notification**”. By doing this when something comes up that members need to know about, we get an email alert and know what is going on between meetings and newsletters. Thank you Eleanor for keeping us so well informed.

**Coming events:** First 2023 meeting, Jan. 21

**Zoom or not??** Since Covid has been less contagious lately, we will discuss whether to continue on Zoom or meet in person at Jan meeting.

**Minutes:** Check with Eleanor if you do not receive your minutes. Cell (909) 228-7424 [elippman@aol.com](mailto:elippman@aol.com)

**Scrappy Craft Classes:** For information on classes please call (541) 512-0040

**Happy Valentine’s Day :** Feb 14th is Valentine’s Day. What will you create???

### Newsletter Submissions:

Please remember that the editor will accept calligraphy, other art, suggestions, articles, news and information on members for the next issue. When submitting, please be sure to put ‘calligraphy for newsletter’ in the subject line so it will be easy to find when putting the newsletter together in February for March publication. Thank you.

## Happy Birthday to our Members



December: 15 Steve Ostrander  
 January: 15 Carol Jones  
 29 Anne Brooke Hawkins  
 February: 10 Maria-Cristina Page  
 13 Hope Tilton  
 15 Maurice Logue  
 17 Mary Pat Naumes  
 20 De Lila Barnett



Happy  
New Year

### From the Editor

My thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter and to those who helped edit my errors for me. Without your support, I would not be able to get it out to you. Congratulations to those who participated in the art show which, looking at the photos, was extraordinary. We close 2022 with optimism that Covid is ending and life returning to a more normal cycle. May 2023 bring us all wonder, joy, creativity and love. The next issue of this newsletter will be available early in March and I hope that many of you will continue to submit your work so that we can all appreciate the artistic skills of each other. I miss my friends in the Rogue Valley and hope to see everyone once again in the Spring. Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Mary J. Danca

**Who we are:** Our Guild is a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1975 to provide a forum for the study and critical practice of calligraphy through classes, workshops, lectures and the interchange of ideas and techniques.

We welcome all levels of skill. The Calligrapher’s Guild currently holds monthly meetings and sponsors workshops, lectures, exhibits and related activities. Meetings are held on the fourth Saturday of the month, 10:00AM to Noon at Scrappy Craft in Phoenix, Oregon. No regular meetings are held in June, July or December (June is our Summer picnic, July is vacation and December is our Christmas Party).

The August meeting is a planning meeting for the coming year’s calendar. If you have questions or need further information you can contact anyone listed on this page or find us at [RoguePens.org](http://RoguePens.org). or on Facebook at Rogue Pens.