

The Nibbler

THE BIRMINGHAM CALLIGRAPHY GUILD'S NEWSLETTER
www.birminghamcalligraphy.org

Birmingham Calligraphy Workday set for Saturday, February 12th with Angela Welch

If there were ever a good reason to be a member of the Birmingham Calligraphy Guild- THIS WOULD BE IT!

On Saturday, February 12th, from 9 AM to 3 PM, Angela Welch, one of our founding members is coming to show us her fabulous flourishing, layout design and answer any and all questions about calligraphy. This workday is free for current members of the Guild. There will not be a cutoff number for the workday but Marsha Lassiter needs to know if you are planning on attending so there will be enough supplies. You can send her an email at mml4205@charter.net and let her know that you want to be included. So make plans today to attend.



Angela Welch
Saturday, Feb. 12th
9:00 til 3:00
Mountain Brook
Board of Education
32 Vine Street
(a light lunch will be served)

www.birminghamcalligraphy.org

We are sprucing up our website. We have made a few changes, but more are on the way! Check it out for the latest workshops and events. You will be glad you did!

Roann
Mathias
March 5

Miss our last meeting?
 Read about it
 on the back page!



Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Events:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12

ANGELA WELCH MBBE 9 - 3
Flourishing instruction, layout discussion, Q & A, FREE.....unlimited attendance but for members only , lunch provided. If you are planning to be there, please email Marsha Lassiter at mml4205@charter.net
Supplies include:

Penholder and nibs
Ink
Paper for practicing flourishes
Notebook

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

ROANN MATHIAS MBBE 9-5
Teaching the Neuland alphabet using the versatile Parallel Pen. Many helpful tips and twists included. To secure your spot, please send a \$25.00 deposit to Ann Steves
5637 Hampton Road Irondale, AL 35210

MONDAY, MARCH 14

Birmingham Calligraphy Guild Meeting
Emmet O'Neal Library 6:30-8:30

SATURDAY, MARCH 26-27,28

Memphis Calligraphy Guild presents
Rosie Kelly "Recycling Your Stash"
For questions, call Ann at 901-757-2403 or annsrab@bellsouth.net

Monday, June 20

Birmingham Calligraphy Guild Meeting
Emmet O'Neal Library 6:30

Saturday, July 9th

BCG Workday 9-12 Emmet O'Neal Library

Saturday, August 20th

Orientation Fair
Emmet O'Neal Library



Happy 2011.. from the Memphis Calligraphy Guild

Welcome New Members

Jordan Bishop	Birmingham
Ann Cobb	Hendersonville, TN
Marie Lewis	Birmingham
Karen Messersmith	Cullman
Faith Penrod	Birmingham
Sharon Reynolds	Greenville, SC
Sandi Silvius	Chattanooga, TN
Carol Tillman	Madison, AL
Emma Wang	Birmingham
Beth Franklin	Birmingham
Beth Story	Auburn, AL

The Pointed Pen Extended Study class invites you to a brush-up session on Spencerian with Sharron Adams, one of the Birmingham Calligraphy Guild's founding members and experienced teachers.

Where: Homewood Public Library
Date: Sunday, Feb. 6
Time: 2:00 - 5:45 p.m.
Room 101

RSVP: Please respond as the space in the room limits the number of participants.
sharronscribe55@yahoo.com
Cost: Depends on number of participants:
\$5 to \$10.

Nibbler Bits

Guasacaca (Wah-sah-kaka) a Venezuelan dip Salsa (one of Elsa's favorite recipes)

1 medium tomato
1 medium onion
2 avocados, peeled and seeded
1/4 cup minced bell pepper (optional)
3/4 cilantro leaves, chopped
2 teaspoons lime juice
2 teaspoons hot sauce
salt and pepper to taste

Chop all ingredients and mix, add liquids, salt and pepper to taste. Serve chilled, as a dip for nacho chips, or as a side salsa, I love it for Barbecues!

What is Neuland you ask?

In Upcoming Events, we announced that Roann Mathias is coming to present a workshop on the Neuland alphabet. What is Neuland? It is a fun alphabet made with a broad pen. It is easy and decorative. It is used on envelopes and journaling. (wherever you need a punch!) Roann will be using a Parallel Pen to make Neuland. The parallel pen is a must in your toolbox. It is a cartridge based pen with alot of versatility. Come to the workshop and find out what it is all about. Parallel Pens can be purchased at Forstall and Alabama Art Supply.



Who Do I Contact?

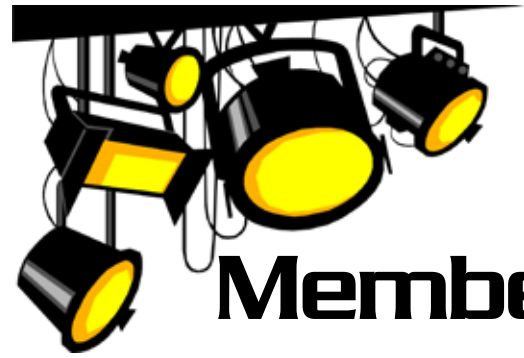
For workshop details? Barbara Mitchell
256-739-2842

barbjmitchell@yahoo.com

Meeting Information? Bettie Perkins, 256-881-6198
bettiejoyce2002@yahoo.com

Workday Information? Marsha Lassiter, 967-0969
mml4205@charter.net

Join or pay dues to BCG? Ann Steves, 956-5493
p47ams@yahoo.com



Member Spotlight



Elsa pictured above left with
Bettie Perkins, Guild President

Meet Elsa Penso-Allen

Elsa was born in Venezuela and is now living in Moody, Alabama with Ron, her husband and Boa, the dragon cat. Her degree is in Public Affairs and she has a career background in marketing. She and her husband came to the Birmingham area 9 years ago. Elsa enjoys reading, cooking and most of all- going to guild meetings. She has always enjoyed the written word mostly as a reader but decided to follow her interests and pursue calligraphy. She enjoys uncial, foundational, and italic (any hand using a broad nib). Her favorite book is Sheila Waters' Foundations of Calligraphy. Elsa has not only joined the guild as a member but has stepped up to the plate in charge of hospitality. We certainly appreciated you coming on board Elsa!

2nd Annual Christmas Brunch is Wonderful



Saturday, December 11th, about 25 Guild members met at the ever gracious Marsha Lassiter's beautiful home for our annual holiday brunch. Marsha's home in Mountain Brook was decorated so exquisitely for the holiday season in every room and it was a delight to discover that even her kitchen clock was a Christmas clock which chimed out various carols! The dining room centerpiece was made of a large assortment of glass and crystal trees, both colored and clear, all resting on a long mirror and interspersed with many small colorful votive candles and two ornate silver candlestick holders. Gorgeous!

Marsha made all the goodies for the brunch herself! We had cheese grits, ham biscuits, cinnamon rolls, sweet rolls, coffee, percolator punch (yummy!) and a sausage casserole. Wow! I will have to go to the gym TWICE to keep that from settling on my hips this season! It was all superb and quite a treat for us all.

After the meal, we all went down to their cozy basement den and exchanged cards that had been made by the members who signed up for the Christmas card exchange. The wonderful creativity with which we were treated was truly amazing to behold. One member who hadn't signed up for the exchange was heard to say, "That will teach me not to participate!", since those of us who didn't did not receive many cards to treasure. We did receive a few from those members who had so thoughtfully made extras. Thanks you! Several newer members apologized for their cards in advance since they felt they hadn't had the experience that others had had to perfect their art, but those cards were some of the most precious! Not a single card was made that wasn't special to us all!

Next year, don't miss out on this wonderful event full of fellowship and art! We hope to see you there!



Welcome to the World!
Alexander Heinz Dueffer was born Jan. 2, 2011, at 18.5 inches long and weighing 6 lb. 3 oz.

Leah, his mother is our Communications Expert! Congratulations Leah.



If you are participating in the 2011 Envelope Exchange and have received your January envelope, no doubt you found it as a little happy treasure in your mailbox. I surely did! February will be easy with Valentine's Day around the corner!

Fun and Free

Karen Messersmith participates in an online journaling workshop at <http://www.strathmoreartist.com/vjworkshop2011.html> She is learning new techniques and how to revise and reuse your materials. Sounds like fun doesn't it? It would be easy to incorporate calligraphy into journaling projects.

Graceful Envelope Contest

2011 CALL FOR ENTRIES: Calligraphers and artists from around the world are invited to participate in the 17th annual Graceful Envelope Contest, conducted by the Washington (DC) Calligraphers Guild under the sponsorship of the National Association of Letter Carriers. The contest is open to all ages, with two separate categories for children. There is no entry fee.

This year's theme: Time Flies

This year's theme was inspired by the 35th anniversary of the Washington Calligraphers Guild. But time is more than the passing of hours, days and years. So design an envelope that explores good times, quality time, the times of our lives, time travel, or any other idea you have time to develop. And enjoy yourself--since "Time Flies" when you're having fun! Address the envelope artistically to:

The Graceful Envelope Contest
Washington Calligraphers Guild
P.O. Box 3688
Merrifield, VA 22116

Envelopes must be postmarked by Saturday, April 30, 2011.

Founding Member and artist Winnie Cooper has some Art News Items of interest !

Birmingham Branch of Pen Women
Annual Art Exhibit

Hoover Library -----Southern Voices Artist's Reception
Honoring Debra Riffe
Friends Gallery -- Theatre Level
Thursday, February 17 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Mountain Brook Art Association Annual Spring Show
Crestline Elem. School Ball Park
All Media Fine Art
Saturday, April 9 from 9 to 5

BIRTHDAY WISHES UPCOMING GUILD BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY	JUNE
2 Betty Bland	4 Winnie Cooper
	4 Ann Phillips
	4 Deb Slocum
	6 Emma Wang
	7 Leah Dueffer
	8 Petrea Tomko
	16 Kay McWhorter
	16 Gloria Nelson
	21 Carol Tillman
	23 Sandi Silvius
	27 Marsha Wood
	28 Saidee Gardner
	29 Sharron Adams
MARCH	
2 Karen Messersmith	
17 Ann Erickson	
19 Marie Lewis	
20 Karen Blatter	
APRIL (NONE)	
MAY	
2 Deb Warnat	
16 Mary Ann Morrow	
20 Dana Jacobson	

MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY
SEND A BIRTHDAY CARD!

Karen's Colossal Card Class Jan. 17th

Colossal isn't really "over the top" to describe the tremendous collection of handmade cards Karen Blatter displayed and shared from her own collection and in the album of cards she'd received from other avid card-enthusiasts. A double table-top covered in cards represented techniques and skill levels for embellishment and construction greeting cards ranging from beginner to expert level. Many cards were charming and yet simple like the layered shaving cream papers over card stock decorated with easy to use scrap booking materials like punches and peel off words, phrases and letters. Others were intricate confections she'd made with delicate scissor cutting, intricate folded and cut multi-dimensional "pop-outs" and complex patterned parchments. All of the meeting attendees were inspired to use their familiar tools and techniques for making cards, and interest was sparked by the lesser known ones. As she explained how the assortment of cards were made, we agreed a Saturday workshop to try our hand at these would be great. That possibility is being explored and will be announced by president, Bettie Perkins.

Our hands-on project was the making of memo-note gift folders. Karen had detailed instructions and both local and on-line resources to accompany the decorative file folders, ribbons and necessary tools we used to make these delightful items. And she was at every table to lend a helping hand, and sometimes corrective measures, as we worked. Most

us completed two of these, which I see myself taking to shut-ins, tucking into college student dead-week gift baskets, and using as thank-you and hostess gifts. Wow! In addition, she gifted each of us with a similar mini-folder enclosing 3 inch "sticky note" pad, beribboned and personalized with our initials.

Karen – a talented and generous contributor to our guild and to whom we owe a big,

"Thank You!"



Officers of the Birmingham Calligraphy Guild (Les Elumineurs*)

President- Bettie Perkins

Vice President-Marsha Lassiter

Treasurer/Membership- Ann Steves

Recording Secretary- Melinda Sapp

Workshop Chairs-

Barbara Mitchell and George Dorsey

Email Communications: Leah Dueffer

Corresponding Secretary: Shirley Sawyer

Web Site/ Historian: Mary Ann Morrow

Hospitality: Elsa Penso-Allen

Newsletter: Eve London

Exhibits/Publicity: Louise Meredith

The Birmingham Calligraphy Guild welcomes both amateurs and advanced calligraphers. All you need is an interest in hand lettering.

If you would like to join:

Contact Ann Steves
p47ams@yahoo.com

Dues are \$25.00 to Birmingham Calligraphy Guild
(September 1- August 31)

Mail your dues to:
Ann Steves
5637 Hampton Road
Birmingham, AL 35210
205-956-5493

Being a member keeps you up to date with events and workshops! Don't hesitate... Join today!