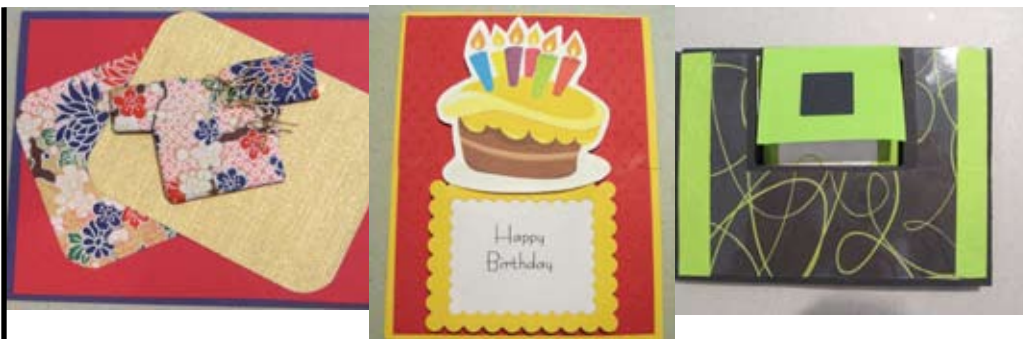


The Nibbler

THE BIRMINGHAM CALLIGRAPHY GUILD'S NEWSLETTER

www.birminghamcalligraphy.org



Karen Blatter

The sound of chatter was not unusual in the Mountain Brook Emmet O'Neal Library, Saturday, June 18th. Nor was it unusual for the assembled guild members to be enjoying their time together. The unusual aspect of the meeting was the sound of snipping, zipping, gluing and folding that accompanied the chatter. For the second time, the multi-talented **Karen Blatter** brought us her remarkable collection of specialty tools, papers and other toys unique to the crafting of handmade greeting cards. For those who are happiest sitting amidst a clutter of pretty papers, glue and glittery bling, it was (to borrow from current "techno-lingo") all of that *and yet another* "Ap" for calligraphic work! More places to further flourish with our Heather Held Victorian roses and hearts with our yummy inks and gel pens! Perhaps to embellish with a Reggie contemporary splash and dash. A folded frame for a Rosemary Buczek illuminated letter or poem. Another reason to buy another pen or pencil set! Maybe even a "Cuddlebug"! ("Scuttlebutt"??) for goodness sake!

The Cuddle-whatever was just one of the new (to most of us) tools coming out of Karen's well stocked boxes and bags. Karen provided written and oral instruction, personal guidance and nearly all of the materials required for at least five different cards and the matching envelopes. She brought examples of each from her own collection to inspire us, and infinite patience to keep every one on task. We all were given assortment of supplies, but just as the various individual's imprint shows up in any handwriting or calligraphic work, the end products were all unique in some way. Karen again helped us take the "basic" to a whole new level. More yummy snail-mail!!

Shari Adams

We are always appreciative of our writers for this newsletter! Thank you Louise, Ann, Shari and Melinda. We could not produce the newsletter without you! XO

Two Upcoming Programs:

Jim Davis on July 30th
and
Orientation Fair on
August 20th!
(see inside for details)

Please take a moment to fill out the Guild Questionnaire by going to:

www.birminghamcalligraphy.org

and going to "links."

It will only take a minute and will help us determine future programs.



Two Great Reasons to be a part of The Birmingham Calligraphy Guild: Angela Welch and Jim Davis

Mark Your Calendars

Upcoming Events:

JULY 30 Old English Workday with Jim Davis

Location: Emmet O'Neal Library

Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cost: A free perk of membership

Supplies: minimal, sent later in a separate e-mail

Jim will be presenting a workshop on Old English and handing out exemplars that founding member Travis Jones used and also the ones that Bill Lilly uses. Jim will incorporate some tips gleaned from Bill about using the pointed pen in conjunction with Old English. Jim has recently returned from his annual visit with Bill. There are 25 spots available so please reserve yours promptly by e-mailing Marsha Lassiter at

mml4205@charter.net.

AUGUST 20 ORIENTATION FAIR

Location: Emmet O'Neal Library

Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

NEW: SALE TABLE

If any of you would be interested in selling any of your work: cards, stationery, prints, etc., we will have a table for you to make them available! Calligraphers always enjoy having examples of other calligraphers' work.

"ENVELOPE EXPLOSION" as one of the members said:

I hope that those who are participating in our first envelope exchange are enjoying it as much as I am! Your creations are delightful! Please bring some of them to display. Also, if any of you in the Pointed Pen Extended Study class have any selections of your work to share, we would enjoy displaying them.

DECEMBER 10 THIRD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH AND CARD EXCHANGE

Eve London's 88 Country Club Blvd 11:00 am

We look forward to seeing you at these events!



Member Spotlight

Deb Warnat

Louise Meredith recently interviewed one of our members and past presidents, Deb Warnat. Here is the interview:

Deb, I understand that you have been invited to teach watercolor at a summer conference. Tell me how you were selected and some things about the conference.

I am somewhat ADHD when it comes to art, I love most ALL art and belong to several Yahoo groups with different emphases. One day a group discussion was on "Art and Soul", of course, I had to check it out and found an organization that hosts amazingly diverse artists in conferences all around the country. I submitted a class description and photos to teach night classes and was accepted for the Portland conference which will be held September 26-October 2. My classes are "4M's-Marvelous Mixed Media Minis" and "Layered Watercolor, A No Frisk Zone" which both include watercolor, one of my artistic loves. While there, I'll be taking some classes too, one on letterpress and another on soldering.

How did you become interested in watercolor?

I guess my first exposure to watercolor was from my mother. She enjoyed doing pen and ink drawings where she would use small amounts of watercolor for accent. She has always said she didn't like watercolor because she wanted control. Well that's exactly what I LIKE about watercolor; the wonderful organic surprises that you can get!

Are you painting commissions?

I have recently been commissioned to paint a mule for the Walker County Art Alliance's 20-Mule Team project that will be exhibited in conjunction with the Smithsonian Museum's "Journey Stories" this summer.

What is your favorite subject matter?

Colors get me more excited than subject matter, so I'll paint whatever has the palette that energizes me.

Have you combined calligraphy and a painting?

I'm hoping to combine a little of both in the upcoming "mule" project.

Continued on next page

Angela Welch

Angela Welch visited our guild back in February- A real perk of membership! Enjoy Ann Cobb's report of this fabulous day!

Delightful, inspiring, enjoyable, interesting, informative, and awesome. These adjectives describe Angela Welch's presentation at the Birmingham Calligraphy Guild's recent Workday. Angela inspired the group of approximately 30 eager participants with her southern charm and wit as well as her beautiful work.

Angela shared her tips and techniques for flourishing, actually making it look relatively easy. She presented information and then gave us time to practice her techniques.

She gave us advice on how to create a centered wedding invitation with variation in script size -- and with flourishing which highlighted the bride and groom's names. Again, her techniques made this process much less intimidating.

For production work, Angela does her lettering on graph paper that she prints on Canson Pro Marker Layout paper cut to 8 1/2" x 11". The graph paper is created using the web site: incompetech.com. The site allows users to create, save, and print all sizes and colors of graph paper for free.

After the layouts were completed, she taught us to use tracing paper to try out various flourishes for the invitation. Again, she made what is a most intimidating process seem manageable!

Participants had the opportunity to view four of Angela's portfolios containing her magnificent invitations. She treated us to a presentation showing many of her beautiful aisle runners, and actually brought one aisle runner for us to see and touch!

The Birmingham Guild provided a delicious lunch for everyone and served as most gracious hostesses for the group. This new member from Tennessee enjoyed the day and the fellowship very much! Thanks to the Birmingham Guild and to Angela Welch for a wonderful day!

Ann Cobb

Hendersonville, Tennessee



(Deb Warnat continued)

You are working in so many areas of calligraphy: teaching, planning commissions and pointed pen envelope work, how do you decide when to work on paintings?

Last year I reduced the number of classes to 4 / year and that has freed up time to do painting and catch up. I love painting so, that I don't speak and forget to eat. Hours go by like seconds so it's important not to start anything unless I have a free day because I'll certainly wake up out of my painting trance and missed an appointment!

The guild is very proud of you! We wish you well in this new endeavor!

Thank you, you are all very special to me!

The Guild Needs Your Help!

Mary Ann and Emma Wang are redesigning our website and would love to have some help by our members writing Calligraphic Headers for the website. It would really "spiff up" our site and plus the pride of being published is awesome!

mamorrow@bellsouth.net

ROANN CALLIGRAPHY



Neuland (pronounced Noy-land) was invented by a man named Rudolf Koch. He was in the German Army in 1907 in WW 1. He was profoundly affected by the war and sought to use calligraphic fonts to shout to other Germans that following God's path will help them find comfort from the trauma of war. This font was created to be a sort of modern black letter with interlocking forms. Because of its heavy black forms, it was quite visible from great distances and easily distinguishable from lighter weight typefaces on a page. This made Neuland suitable to advertising as well.

For our workshop with Roann, we began by using our parallel pens, which can be purchased at either John Neal or Paper and Ink Arts, with the standard ink cartridges that came with them. These inks tended to be very watery and bled on some papers but were great for quickie practice colors. We used the largest size of nib width first. Many of us were not used to these tools but quickly decided that they were very useful for practicing and the ability to refill them with almost any kind of ink was a great tip from Roann.

After going through the basic strokes and the alphabet, we were left to practice while Roann went around and gave us helpful critiques until lunch time.

After lunch, Roann gave us a lesson in cleaning and refilling these wonderful tools with a variety of inks. She also gave a demonstration of how wonderful the style looks on black paper. Then she kindly lent us some of her Twinkling H2O colors to try in our pens and we were also asked to try mixing some color of gouache with a bit of Dr. Martin's white in order to be able to write on some black paper. That was fabulous!

As a final experiment, she had us line some paper so that the lines of lettering would be exactly a pen nib width apart and then using a ruler we were to use the pen nib to fill in this line with the same color we had lettered in, then either to cut out the counterspaces in order to mount it on top of another decorative paper for a wonderful stained glass effect, or color them in with another color(s). Very cool!



**WORKSHOP
REPORT FROM
MARCH
BY MELINDA**

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

* founded 1987

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!