



St. Louis Calligraphy Guild

minuscule aug. 2024

President's letter

Warm summer breezes on my deck this morning felt lovely before the heat of the day settles in. At this time I am still reflecting on all that I learned, the people I met and reconnected with & the joy of being with souls who share my passion of all things lettered.

I am referring to 'Roman Holiday', the International Calligraphy Conference held in Davenport Iowa at St. Ambrose University. Here we studied all things Father Catich, from his Roman Letters to his watercolor, printing and stone carving. I would encourage you to attend an event like this. You are at once overwhelmed, awed and inspired. This year many seemed to gather in clusters at first as we had not been together since 2019. Many old friends were reconnecting but after the first day we merged into a moving conglomerate of new and old friends, instructors and students; classmates, tablemates and golf cart adventures. (Some of the interns gave you a speedy ride). We bonded in the lowest level hallway during a tornado and were awed by the sky as we emerged to find a rainbow in a yellow gray sky. And yes a tornado did touch down about three miles from us a little daunting for our travelers from other parts of the world.

I also attended the Guild Rep Meeting where we learned all the organizations are struggling with some of the same issues as we are, primarily workshop space and instructors retiring. On the upside though there was a wonderful exchange of ideas for growth. Things we can do to bring calligraphy and the Guild to the public. We plan to add some of the ideas this coming year and hope you will come and bring a friend.

We had a good representation this year Leslie Barnes, who coordinated the volunteers, my husband Dave was one of our go to cart drivers; Carol Savage travelled with a friend from the Nashville Guild, and Joan Merrell came from Jefferson City.

Well the breeze has stopped and it's becoming too hot, time to wrap this up. Look over our calendar of events we are planning on getting out there more, arranging study groups and just having Calligraphy everywhere. Most of all come to our membership potluck in September. We will have show and share from the conference as well as door prizes.

Cheers Karen

2024 board

President: Karen Pfeifer

618-978-7327

karen.pfeifer@charter.net

Vice President: Denise Gerstung

Secretary: John Hammons

Treasurer: Barb Reed

Leslie Barnes

Jim Borchers

Carol Savage

Susan Zenner (leaving this fall)

*The board needs 2 more members
for the 2024-2025 year. If you would
like to serve please contact Karen
Pfeifer (info above)*

*Check us out on
Facebook and Instagram!*

Workshop review

BY JOHN HAMMONS

Member's Exhibit

*A Display of Art Books and
Design Bindings by Joanne Kluba,
on display through August at the*

*Peter Raven Library
The Bayer Building at the
Missouri Botanical Garden.
4500 Shaw Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63110*

*8:30 to 5:00 pm
Monday through Friday
(closed Saturday and Sunday)*

*A Display of Art Books and
Design Bindings by Joanne Kluba,
on display through August at the*

*Peter Raven Library
The Bayer Building at the
Missouri Botanical Garden.
4500 Shaw Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63110*

*8:30 to 5:00 pm
Monday through Friday
(closed Saturday and Sunday)*



Our spring workshop was a study of Foundational Hand taught by Reggie Ezell on April 13th and 14th, 2024. The workshop was presented online with an option to meet in-person and view the presentation as a group at Co-Radius.

Foundational hand is an upright hand characterized by straight straights, round curves and deliberate transitions and intersections of the two. Foundational was developed in the early 1900's by Edward Johnston as a basic style to teach students the foundations of using a broad edge pen, thus foundational. Many of the forms Johnston borrowed and modified from Carolingian of the Ramsey Psalter. Carolingian developed in France in the 8th century as a hand to quickly copy books. As such it needed to be quick to write and clear to read. The exemplar we studied was a further evolution of the form developed by our instructor, Reggie Ezell.

After learning proper nib preparation with a gum arabic rub-down we began practicing the letterforms. The characteristics of the foundational hand we studied include vertical straight strokes, an x-height of three nib widths (different from the traditional 4.5 nib widths), ascenders and descenders of two nib widths and a pen angle of 30 degrees. Straight letters sit on a curved base and have a curved serif. Curved letters are round and rotund. Pen angle changes to 45 degrees for diagonal strokes. The stroke sequence was demonstrated for each letter with time to practice during the demonstration. Next we began writing words and incorporated proper spacing aiming for a rhythmic, rolling feel. We continued practicing the letterforms using three different nib sizes and then finished the first day by learning an upper-case alphabet based loosely on Romancaps to accompany the lowercase forms.

The second day of the workshop was a progression of foundational variations. We saw how adding pressurized forms, built-up serifs, altering x-height, adding slant and compressing or widening the forms all change the feel of the text. In using these variations, the calligrapher can match the feel of the writing to the content of the text being written. During lunch each day, Reggie presented a slideshow of calligraphic works incorporating the foundational hand and the many possibilities for its use in our own projects.

meeting

MARCH 2024

Submitted by DENISE GERSTUNG

On 3/21, Guild member, Cheryl Tefft led us in a tutorial of an embellished Versal capital. We were provided with a pre-printed Versal and with help of light boxes traced our chosen Versal on good paper as our beginning. We drew with a micron around our letter and then drew a box touching the edges of the letter, containing it in that box. We then drew another box around that box 1/8" out creating a moat. Any little extras at the corners were added on then as well. We then began the embellishment by painting the areas around the letter within the box with our gold paint. Our next step was painting the letter itself. Cheryl gave us a bit of a lesson in shading the letter so that there was a lighter center and deeper as it went to the edge. Once the letter was completely dry. We went back in and created a little pattern and used an embossing tool to add circles which gives the letter a beautiful finish. Cheryl included a very detailed description in handouts of the whole process & included some variations to give a try. This meeting was very well attended and it was great to go home with a finished piece. Cheryl is a seasoned teacher and her attention to detail shows in her instructions. It's a very successful meeting. Thanks, Cheryl.



W for "Will", grandson of Kathy Orf; below, Cheryl Tefft & Cheryl Batchelor



Workshop

NOVEMBER 2024

Neuland and Embossing Workshop with Sue Greenseth

Saturday November 2nd- Sunday November 3rd 9-5

\$150 members \$180 non-members

This course will explore chunky and versatile hand of Neuland. By varying the x-height, customizing crossbars, using pen manipulations, adding outlines and embossing, an artist can easily personalize this hand to make it applicable for almost any purpose.

A traditional alphabet, a more contemporary variation, as well as ways to modify this hand will be covered. Part of this course will be spent covering how to emboss, and students will have a chance to emboss their own Neuland letters.



Neuland Supply List

6mm Pilot Parallel pen, inked and ready to go

Paper: your favorite bond paper for calligraphy

Pencil, eraser

Fine tipped marker, such as a Micron 01

Coffee stir-stick or balsa wood stick (optional)

Automatic pens in a variety of sizes (optional)

Embossing Supplies

Pencil, eraser

Tracing paper

Piece of manila file folder

Vinyl cutting mat or something to cut on

X-acto knife with a new #11 blade

Tape (any kind)

Light pad or light box. In a pinch, you can hold your work up to a window or use Saral transfer paper

Glue - this can be white glue and a little brush for application, or a glue stick

Embossing styluses - these usually come as a set of three to five of varying sizes

A small piece of good paper to emboss.

Suggested Papers:

Arches 90 lb. hot press

Rives BFK (my favorite)

Canson Mi Teintes



Examples by Sue Greenseth

Membership

Please pay your \$30 annual membership each September... by check made out to STL Calligraphy Guild either at the Sept meeting or by mail to:
Barb Reed, Treasurer
5733 Lindenwood
STL 63109

Or via PayPal on our website at stlcalligraphyguild.org

June STL Pen Show

Making bookmarks at the pen show each year is so much fun! We are always so busy the time flies by. We can be creative & spontaneous without laboring over layout and design. People are so interested and appreciative. Watching us write, they are fascinated and ask lots of questions. Of course, the bonus is having time to wander the exhibit floor to check out the pens, inks and all the related materials. I can never resist buying something cool! I would encourage all guild members- even beginners- to volunteer next year.

submitted by Barb Winnerman

calendar

fall 2024 thru spring 2025

August 31st to September 2nd Labor Day Weekend Fun activity...not a guild meeting

Paint Louis. Graffiti artists from around the globe paint the flood wall. It's a long walk but very interesting. Recommend bringing a bike and riding along the route.

September 29th Yearly Membership Meeting, 3pm

Carol Savage's home 12820 Weatherfield Dr., St Louis 63146.

This is a meet and visit potluck of the membership. We get to know each other better have some food and there will be door prizes. Maybe a little show and share... what you have been working on? I'll be bringing what I learned at the Conference. Membership is due at this time please bring a \$30 check for the treasurer or pay on line with pay pal.

October 17th at 7pm... study meeting at Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church on the corner of Sappington and Eddie & Park Rd. 7 pm to 9pm
"A word in three scripts"

Our monthly meetings are free and open to the public, bring a friend.

November 2 & 3 Workshop Neuland & Embossing Workshop/Sue Greenseth

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church 45 W Lockwood Webster Groves. from 9 - 5
See more details on page 3.

December 7th, Holiday Party... 6pm to 9pm (looking for a volunteer to host)

Bring a dish to share and a calligraphic gift to exchange

January 16th Meeting... at Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church on the corner of Sappington and Eddie & Park Rd. 7 pm to 9pm project to be announced

February 20th Meeting... at Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church on the corner of Sappington and Eddie & Park Rd. 7 pm to 9pm project to be announced

March 29th to 30th Workshop Paste Paper with John Hammons & Denise Gerstung.

Have you ever seen John's paste paper at a retreat? How about Denise's? John and Denise will lead us through some of the things they have learned and some of the more interesting ways to process paste paper. Location TBD

April 17th Meeting Using some of our paste paper...at Providence Reformed Presbyterian Church on the corner of Sappington and Eddie & Park Rd. 7 pm to 9pm

May meeting TBA possible field trip.

June STL Pen Show, date TBA

July 7 -12 IAMPETH in Norfolk, VA

No International Conference in 2025

submitted by Karen Pfeifer

THE INTERNATIONAL CALLIGRAPHY

Conference

IN DAVENPORT, IOWA

St Louis Calligraphy Guild Members,

What an amazing event!

In June, I attended the International Calligraphy Conference in Davenport, Iowa, with my wife Karen. No, I am still not a Calligrapher. But I was surrounded by 300 amazing people who are.

I attended as a Plus 1 volunteer. Mostly I drove the golf cart to get participants back and forth from Dorms, Classrooms, Dining and Special Events. After that, the volunteers ran around to help keep things running smoothly.

With the legacy of Fr Catich and his incredible lifetime accomplishments as a backdrop, St Ambrose University was the perfect venue for a Calligraphy Conference. And you couldn't have asked for a more gracious host. We literally had the run of the campus. In addition to the incredible Calligraphy work of the Students and Instructors, I got to see Slate Carving in action, (I even tried my hand at carving letters), visit the extensive Letterpress facility, watch Vellum being created and visit the Fr Catich Museum and Archives. The evening Presentations and Speakers were all exceptional. I think I learned as much as Karen! And the "Show and Share" at the end of week showcased how talented your group is. The calligraphy and artwork was truly amazing. My biggest surprise, was just how much work goes into planning and executing this event. It is a huge undertaking. And the Chicago Calligraphy Collective and their army of volunteers did an incredible job making sure this conference was a First Class event. I met and worked with so many wonderful people. It was wonderful to see your St Louis Calligraphy Guild banner among the banners from around the world. The conference also displays all International Calligraphy Conference banners from previous years. And your banners from the 1997 and 2004 Confluence Conferences were proudly displayed in the hall. After seeing how much work is involved, the St Louis Calligraphy Guild should be very proud of having hosted this Conference not once, but twice. It was truly a remarkable event. Thank you for letting me participate.

Sincerely,
Dave

Calligraphy Study Group

submitted by Carol Savage

Let's play together

What happens when a small group of friends gather in one place to practice their evolving lettering skills, to learn alphabets, to ask questions and try new ways, to experiment with each other's pens and inks and papers? The best answer is to come experience a study group and see for yourself!

Guild members, their friends and guests will be gathering on various days and in several places around town to learn together.

Keep abreast of our evolving schedule posted on our calendar on the Events page of our guild website <https://stlcalligraphyguild.org/>, or send an inquiry through the "Connect with us" message feature on our website. Plus we will email updates and reminders via our "Interested" email list. If we know you and have your contact info, you'll be invited! Come with a friend who found an old fountain pen, or has an unopened calligraphy set, and we'll get you both started on a fun journey exploring the possibilities of writing.

What do you bring? Whatever tools (pens, inks, paper, instructions, etc.) that you have. Bring your questions, and challenges, your eagerness to learn and experience success. Bring your fresh energy and excitement to be with like-minded lettering lovers, perhaps a book or item that displays beautiful letters, a drink, possibly a snack to share. Don't be shy! Just show up and try!

As recounted by Dave Pfeifer, volunteer extraordinaire & our President's husband.



Above: Dave driving the cart;
below: Karen Pfeifer, Patricia Dresler,
Leslie Barnes, & Carol Savage;
Fr. Catich art;
Leslie & helpers hanging the banners.

