



Rogue Pens

The Calligraphers' Guild of Southern Oregon
www.roguepens.org

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Rogue Pens. It has been a few months since the last one and we will now be doing quarterly newsletters instead of monthly. This will give us all a chance to get our art work ready for publication well in advance of the date.

Autumn has brought some lovely weather mixed with some refreshing rain which we so desperately needed and winter is at our doorstep. The clock change took away some of our daylight, the leaves have fallen, winter arrives soon. The weather and time changes afford us time to work on art, calligraphy, other projects and rest.

It is a great season to get out and walk, enjoy the morning, and stretch those limbs.

Our Guild meetings on Zoom continue and we have had three mini classes presented by JoAnn Evans. She has wonderful techniques to share and I know we all appreciate her lessons. If anyone is interested in doing a presentation after the first of the year, please let me know.

Covid is still not settled, especially in Jackson County where daily numbers are still in the 50-60 or more range. With that concern, we will decide whether or not to begin meeting in person again at the next meeting. The December meeting is not a business meeting, but a chance to gather virtually to celebrate, chat as a group and talk of our plans, both as individuals and as a guild,



Many member participated in the cards for the retirement home project that Virginia Cook initiated, which was a big success. This is one that Goly Ostovar made and submitted for the newsletter.

Last year's first Zoom Christmas Party was great fun. No, it was not as much fun as being together to celebrate although those who attended had a wonderful time. If you are interested in planning ways to make it fun and interesting, please let one of the officers know. The gift exchange was interesting and different and helped us laugh and smile. Also remember that we select new officers in February. Please consider taking on a role to help support the Guild. Without you and the support of all members we would not exist.

Online and local resources:

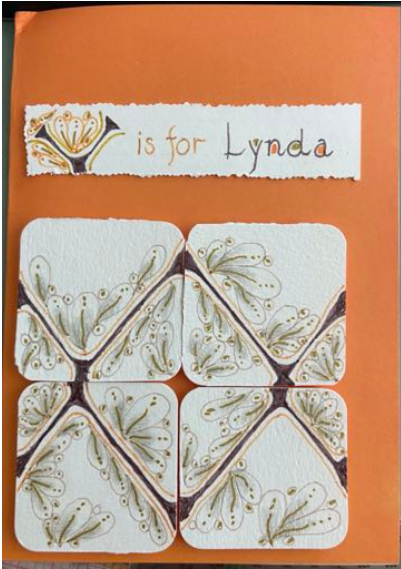
Scrappy Craft: <https://artistatticsales.com/>

Central Art Supply: <https://www.centralartsupply.com/>

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

https://www.johnnealbooks.com/prod_detail_list/online-classes

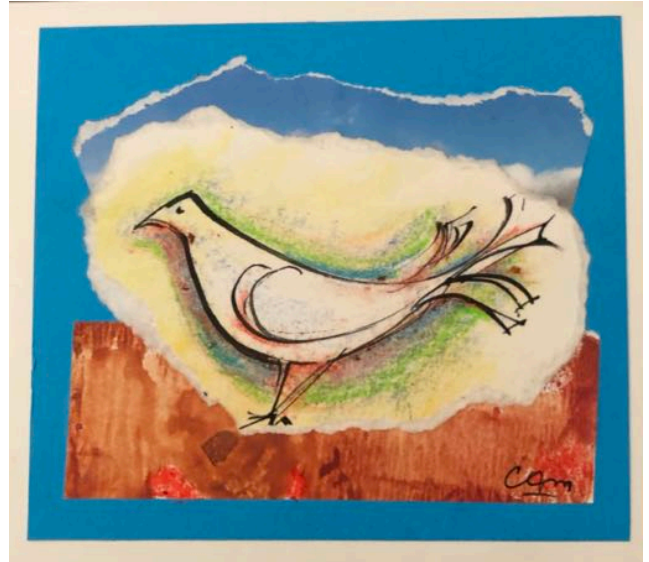
<https://www.skillshare.com/browse/calligraphy>



Joann Cleckner to Lynda Stevenson



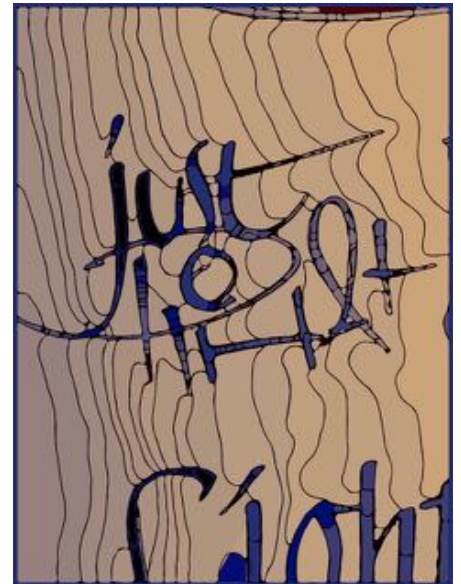
Cynthia Griffin to Lynda Stevenson



Cynthia Mish



Three from Goly Ostovar



Three variations on a theme from Eleanor Lippman:

Creativity in Times of Crisis: Art is Always Relevant

written by Goly Ostovar Part 2

In the last newsletter we talked about how we get inspired and discussed the question of whether our calligraphic art is relevant in today's world. I often ask, how can I concern myself with letter arts and calligraphy when we are still in a global pandemic, we are witnessing environmental devastation, and the political divide seems to be growing? Recently I gleaned some words of wisdom during a Donald Jackson's lecture series. I think the metaphoric blanket of smoke still tends to obscure our vision at times and veil our horizon, but there are answers to this burning question of how art generally and calligraphy are not only relevant but necessary.

Luckily blankets of smoke have cleared, and we have experienced a long and beautiful autumn. Let's take a deep breath and think back to our childhood when we created imaginary friends in our imaginary worlds. As a child, that world felt very safe and real to us. I maintain that we still create our own reality in the ways that we interpret events and consume news.

Every child throughout history has gone through some kind of crisis. People have experienced pandemics, the atomic bomb, wars, earthquakes, floods, and fires. Artists have always found ways to continue their work and share their visions. They have shown us new ways of seeing and have lead us through collective action through writing, music, and visual arts.

At this time in our history we are experiencing and struggling with similar challenges as our ancestors have before us. I believe our role as artists becomes more clear when we find paths to respond to tragic events and continue to grow our creative spirit. A simple work of art can feed our soul and nurture our family members and our community. Often social crisis can be a catalyst for new ideas. I was reading an essay by Ralph Emerson, and this phrase caught my attention which seems to describe our current personal and collective condition. He spoke of "the life within life" and "witnessing the forgotten good". He said "I am to try the magic of sincerity, that luxury permitted only to kings & poets" and I would like to add calligraphers to the list of kings and poets! We are artists and we hold the magic of time, optimism, and authenticity in our hands. No work of art is ever unnecessary or ugly when it comes from the heart.

I believe our task is to create a space where we feel more at peace and less anxious to be able to access the intangible realms of our being. We need to make time to get our hands dirty with ink, and paint, and soil. We are gardeners of the creative spirit and guardians of letters and words. When we put lines on paper, we design an ecosystem that takes a life of its own.

Formal practice of course is necessary and useful, but creativity is far beyond being able to scribe precise letter forms. We are destined to create, we are makers, builders, and doers. Donald Jackson emphasized that we must be versatile and learn many skills and go where our spirits direct us. Eventually all of these experiences will manifest their cumulative effects on our final works of art. Donald Jackson says "Just do that, put a line on the paper everyday!"

The work we do is a manifestation of our inner world. We are the ones, the artists, the shapers, and the influencers of our time. Artists have always been the healers and leaders and in times of crisis our work becomes even more important to our communities. The art may be a simple hand-lettered Weathergram hung in a tree, or a quote sent to a friend. We must believe that our work has power far beyond what we can see. We create that tiny little ripple that eventually will be felt miles away. I believe this is a big reason for us to stay engaged with our artists friends and our community during tough times.

Throughout civilization artists have shared their experiences, ideas have come from the coal mines and the gold mines, from cotton plantations to pear orchards of our own Rogue Valley. Our inspirations come from daily experiences, from conversations with friends, from book clubs and from the markets we buy our vegetables. We need to constantly observe and keep notes. We must keep a sketch book or a journal. I have a sketch book and a calligraphy marker sitting right by my chair and even when we watch a show in the evening I am ready to glean ideas from shows I am watching.

We need to look at works by calligraphy masters, study art posters outside movie theaters, and leaf through old manuscripts. These observations are visual surveys stored in the chambers so of our being. These are our personal gold mines that we can access when ideas pop into our minds. We can feel the flood gates opening and ideas pouring in. This is a time to relax and welcome the flow and not think about what kind of paper or ink or nib we should use. This is when our cumulative experiences are bubbling to the surface to manifest a physical reality.

How do we give life to our ideas, share that inspiration, and tell our story? We will explore these topics in future articles.

"Adopt the pace of nature, Her secret is patience." - Ralph Emerson

"Just do that, Put a line on the paper everyday!" - Donald Jackson says

"Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far reaching effects." - Dalai Lama

Surprise Booklet

This is my favorite format for a quick card or book. Children love it also because it is such a surprise to make something that appears complex but is really simple to make. No sewing or pasting is needed, but ribbon can be added for decoration.

Fold a rectangle of light or medium weight paper into 8 divisions. Fold from the center fold to the next fold, creating a slit down the center of the paper. Fold as shown. Voila!

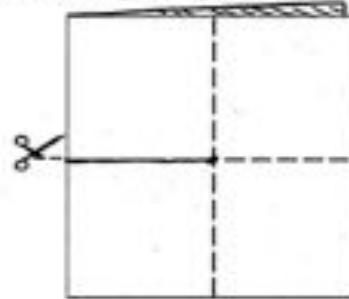
The surprise booklet is popular for printing as all the writing is on the same side of the paper.

IDEAS:

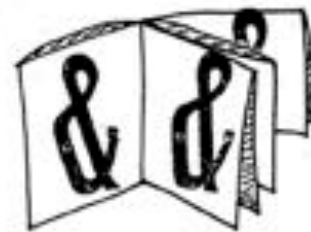
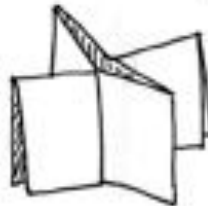
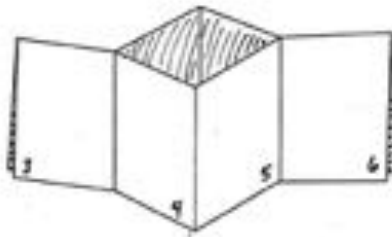
- ☆ Paint on the entire paper an abstract pattern, fold, then design each page to coordinate with the background.
- ☆ Paint a scene beginning on the lower half, then turn the paper upside down and continue around the paper. When it is folded up, the painting is right-side up.
- ☆ Cut windows in the pages for a surprise peek inside. Add a pop-up or other surprise.
- ☆ Send photos to someone in a surprise booklet instead of loose in an envelope. Use the clear corners to hold photos on each page.



Number each page in pencil before you open it up to do your writing. It can be easy to lose your place!



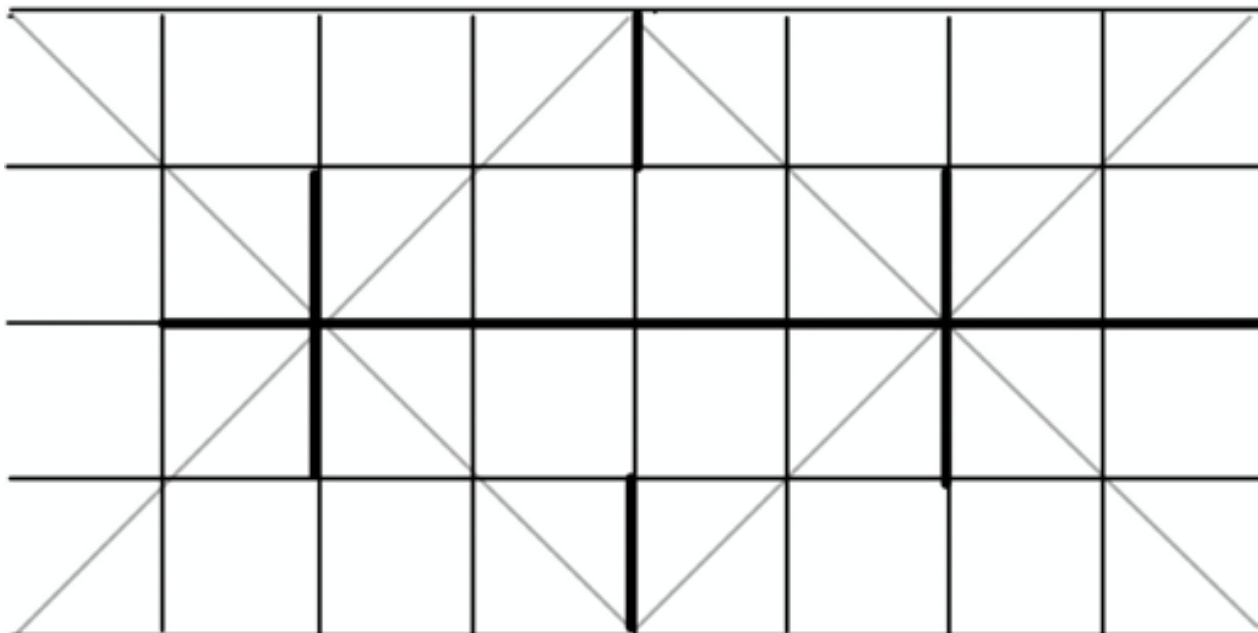
Cut from the center fold to the next folded line, then open up the booklet — surprise!



Carol DuBosch

- Fold as MOUNTAIN FOLDS
- Fold all diagonals as VALLEY FOLDS
- CUT

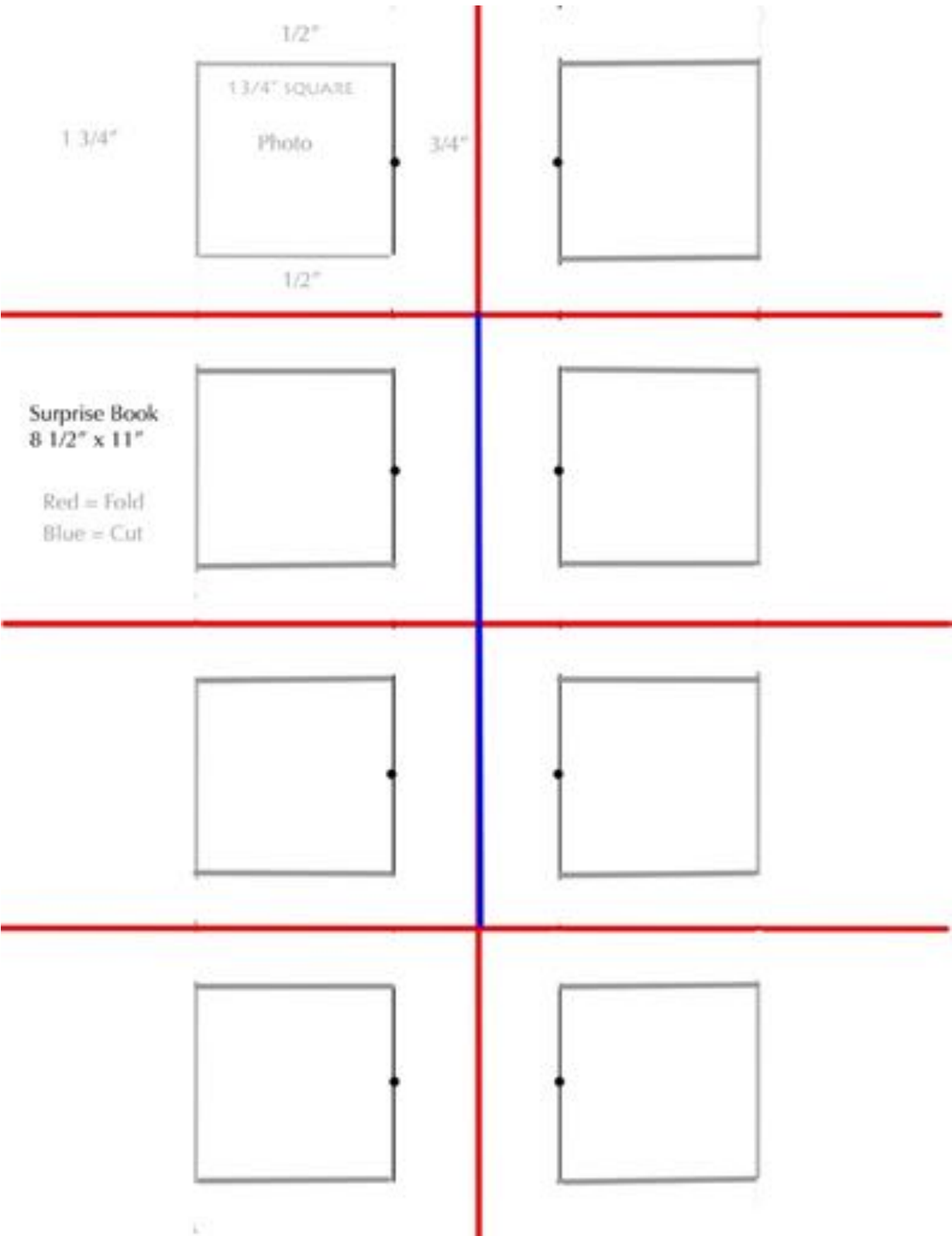
Diamond-Fold Maze Book



This rectangle is 5 1/2" x 11". Any rectangle that is 2:1 will work

Carol DuBosch

To see more of Carol DuBosch’s work, see her website: www.caroldubosch.com where all of her zoom class recordings are also available.





JoAnn Evans



JoAnn Evans



Chris Ewen



Virginia Cook to Mary Danca



Mary Danca: using one color, many layers...the beginning of cards



Calligraphy Classes with Maurice Logue



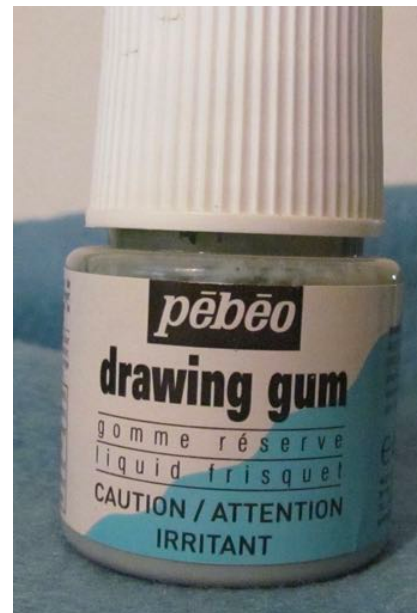
Maurice again began teaching calligraphy at Scrappy Craft starting on Nov. 3 and will continue for 8 weeks. Classes are in the art room at Scrappy Craft and Covid protocols are in place for your and our safety. Join the class on Wednesdays from 2-4 PM. Call Scrappy Craft for information or contact Maurice directly (541) 841-4829 or email: mauricelogue@gmail.com

You can watch Maurice's lettering in action on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzXJWZtiBqE>
Thank you to De Barnett and Scrappy Craft for providing this link.



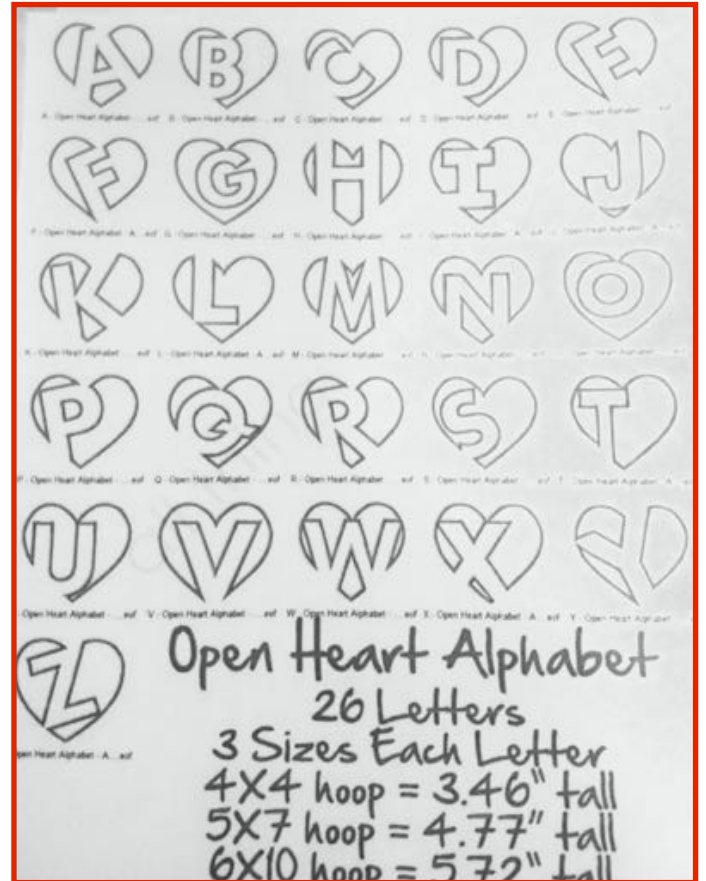
Pangram Practices : A Fun Way to practice words

The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog.
We promptly judged antique ivory buckles for the next prize.
How razorback jumping frogs can level six piqued gymnasts.
Sixty zippers were quickly picked from the woven jute bag.
Crazy Fredrick bought many very exquisite opal jewels.
Jump by vow of quick, lazy strength in Oxford.
Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs.
How quickly daft jumping zebras vex.
Sphinx of black quartz: judge my vow.
Quick zephyrs blow, vexing daft Jim.
Waltz, nymph, for quick jigs vex bud.
We promptly judged antique ivory buckles for the next prize.
How razorback jumping frogs can level six piqued gymnasts.
Sixty zippers were quickly picked from the woven jute bag.



Recommended by Steve Ostrander

Two Fun Valentine Fonts submitted by Eleanor Lippman



And two Valentine ideas from last year from Cynthia Griffin



Guild Members at October meeting....



Endangered Alphabets

Last month as I was poking around the internet, I came across some information about endangered alphabets and after reading about it, decided to contact the founder, Tim Brookes, from Vermont. We had an interesting conversation as I told him about our guild and lettering. Tom discussed some of his history with endangered alphabets and how it developed as he began carving endangered alphabets in 2010. The websites are interesting, comprehensive and informative and if you love alphabets and history, you will be captivated by how much there is to know. He has published numerous books and the endangered word search listed here is just one of the ways he introduces Western readers to the non Latin letters of the world. In each section of the word search book, he describes the culture and their Alphabets. The one below is Abenaki, who are the ancestral peoples of what is now Northern New England and Southern Canada. To learn more about this project, check out the websites....they are really amazing! Mary Danca

Abenaki Puzzle

W	I	G	W	8	M	O	W	I
8	8	O	E	K	8	N	I	M
K	I	Z	O	S	L	E	G	O
W	Z	N	P	I	S	B	M	Z
S	8	N	L	W	E	E	P	K
E	I	A	G	8	M	S	E	E
S	G	M	T	P	A	T	Z	S
8	O	A	M	Z	G	8	O	W
W	M	S	T	M	A	K	W	A

www.endangeredalphabets.com
www.endangeredalphabets.net
contact:

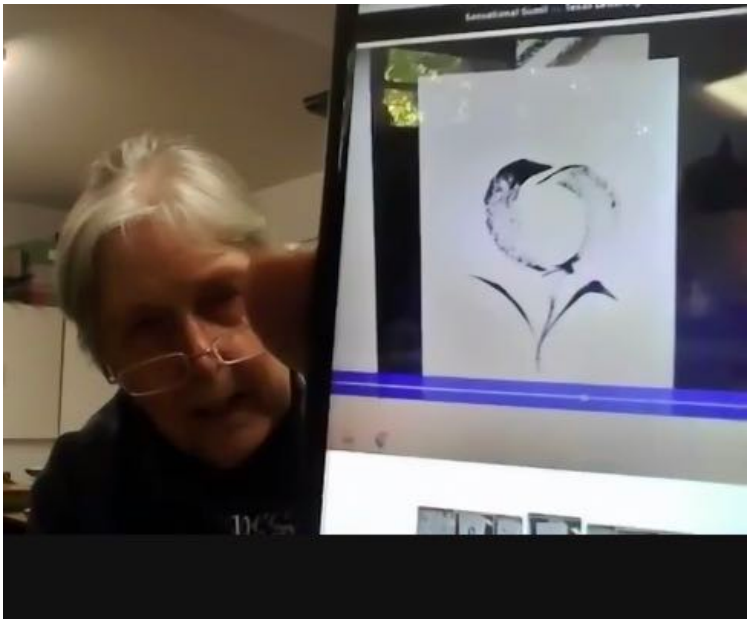
info@endangeredalphabets.com

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KIZOS	Sun
NEBES	Lake
NAMAS	Fish
PEZO	Bobcat
WIGWBM	House

TMAKWA	Beaver
W8KWSES	Fox
MBLSEM	Wolf
MOZ	Moose

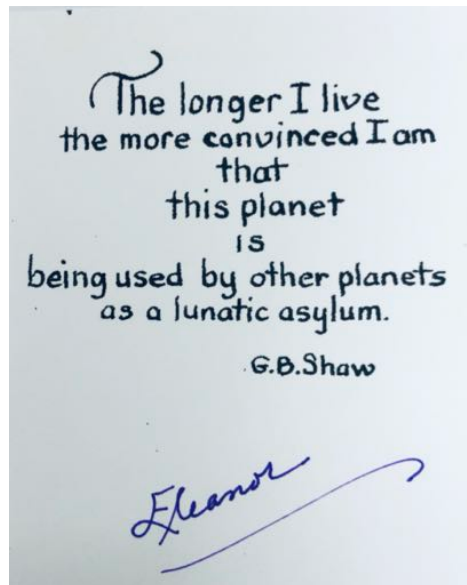
Images from JoAnn Evans' 3- part workshop



Member Art Page 3



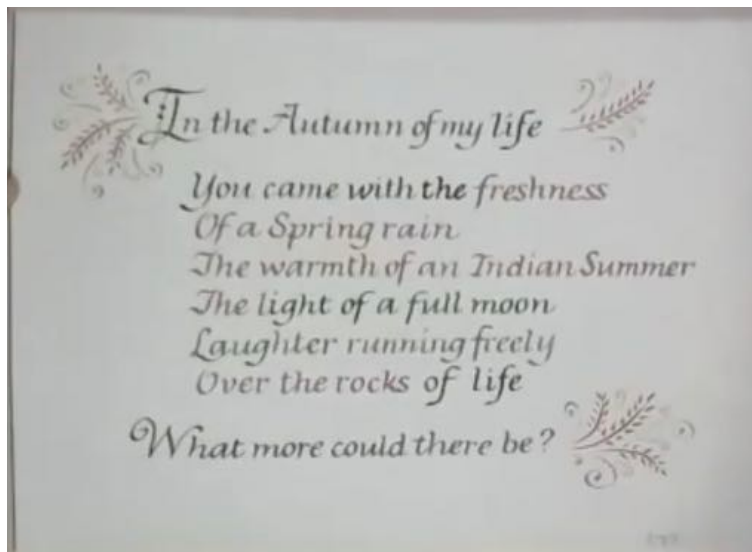
Eleanor Lippman



Mary Danca



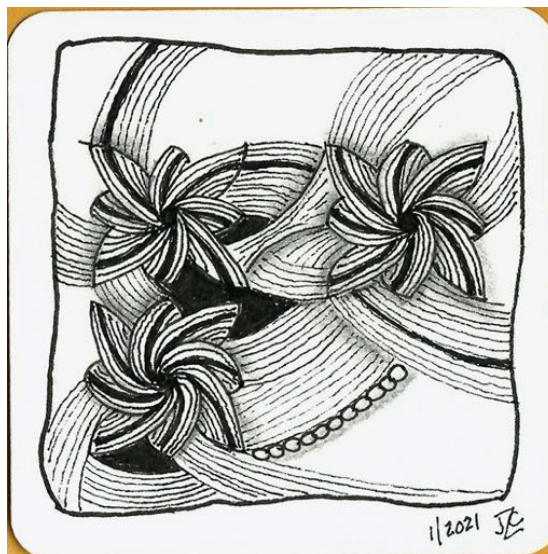
Steve Ostrander



JoAnn Evans: commission piece



Goly Ostovar: Etegami of a persimmon
Etegami is the art of picture letter which is a Japanese tradition of making handmade new year's cards.



Joann Cleckner

Flyer created by Goly Ostovar for display in store windows or bulletin boards. Thank you to those who have helped distribute them. If you need some printed, let me know and I will get them to you.

Calligraphy

The Art of Beautiful Writing

**Enjoy a FREE visit to
our guild meeting**

Currently meetings are on Zoom.
Later in-person meetings will be
held every 4th Saturday of the
month at ScrappyCraft

Annual membership fee: \$25
**People interested in letter arts,
calligraphy, and graphic design
are encouraged to participate.**

Please contact us:

<http://www.roguepens.org>
[https://www.facebook.com/
RoguePens](https://www.facebook.com/RoguePens)



Lynda Stevenson to Steve Ostrander



Cynthia Griffin..playful felting



Chris Blank



Cynthia Griffin



Eleanor Lippman

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President

Mary J. Danca 541.292.0471
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Position will be supported by members as needed for the meetings until February

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Exhibitions Chair

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Librarian: open

Membership Chair: open

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Program Chair: open

Publicity Chair: open

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2021 Meeting Schedule Dates: 10 am-12 noon

JoAnn Evans has volunteered to present at the first 3 meetings

Sept 25 zoom	Asemic lettering (no meaning lettering)
Oct 23 zoom	Tanzaku (similar to Weathergram)
Nov 20 zoom	Postcards (using lettering from above)
Dec. 17	Zoom Christmas Party
Jan 22	Members' Ideas for Valentine's art projects
Feb 26	Eleanor Lippman. Mod-podging nature
Mar 26	TBD
Apr 23	TBD
May 28	TBD
June 25 picnic	



October: 6th Lynda Stevenson

November: 10th Virginia Silbowitz
 11th Mary Danca
 21st Pam Evans

December 8th Jim Fety
 15th Steve Ostrander

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 Rogue Pens.org. or on Facebook at Rogue Pens.