

# *The Calligraphers' Guild*

February 2021

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February... the month of love and connectivity. It is a time when lovers, family and friends share the joy of being together, although this year we are still confined. Scientists and medical professionals are working diligently to get us back to normal and some reports seem to think that by Fall, we may be safe. Blessings to all medical personnel and to those in the restaurant and service industries who are helping to keep us fed and safe.

Cynthia's January presentation was a special learning treat and also the largest group we have had at a Zoom meeting. Thank you for your inspiration and commitment to teaching us new things.

Meetings on zoom are getting better and although my recording did not work again this time, I did take some screen shots showing who was present and was having fun.

The monthly card exchange has been a big hit and everyone seems to love receiving and sending their creative works of art. I think getting a personal card is a truly special way to say hello. If you have not surprised someone with a card, this month is a good one to share your love.

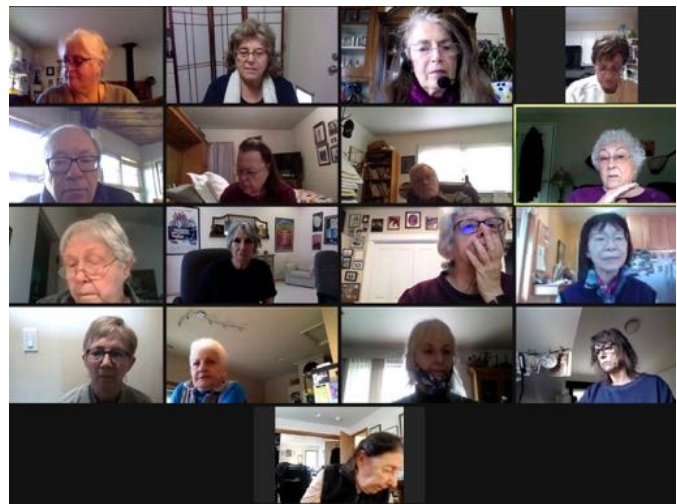
Again my thanks to all of you for submitting wonderful things this month. It is inspiring to have such great participation. Keep them coming! The newsletter continues to improve with all your help and support.



[www.johnnealbooks.com](http://www.johnnealbooks.com)  
[www.skillshare.com/browse/calligraphy](http://www.skillshare.com/browse/calligraphy)  
[www.portlandsocietyforcalligraphy.org](http://www.portlandsocietyforcalligraphy.org)  
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The smiling early birds



January Meeting Attendees: Our largest Zoom group to date



More smiles!!



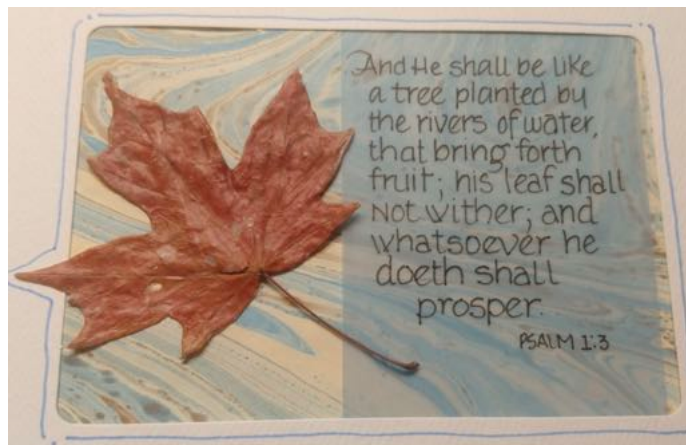
## Members' Art Page 1



Michelle Clary



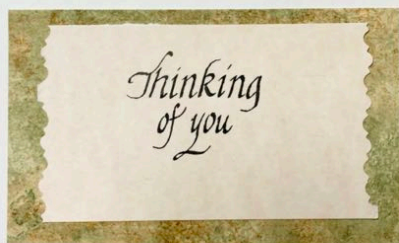
Steve Ostrander to Eleanor Lippman



Cynthia Griffin



Lynda Stevenson to Mary Danca



Michelle Clary



Eleanor Lippmann to Steve Ostrander



Lynda Stevenson



Cynthia Griffin..what a great envelope to Bennii



Chris Blank (Ewen)

# Elements of Design-"Beasts of the Sea" and movable shapes

## Shapes: part 2

Written by Goly Ostovar

This month I would like to dedicate my article to Henri Matisse (1869 – 1954) an influential French artist. He is known for using bold colors, flattened shapes, and paper cut-outs.

We will examine his process and techniques and apply them to create a design of our own.

Matisse created works of art in painting, sculpture and printmaking for sixty years. His subject matter was traditional subjects, like figures in landscapes, portraits, and still-life. His style was revolutionary. He used bright colors and changed three dimensional forms into flat shapes and stretched and exaggerated them to create joyful and calm paintings. He became one of the most respected and influential artists of the 20th century.

After his illness he used paper cut-outs as his only medium to create expressive works until his death in 1954. Matisse believed that an artist must remain flexible. He said, "An artist should never be a prisoner of himself, prisoner of style, prisoner of reputation, prisoner of success, etc."

I want to also mention that Chinese calligraphy influenced the artists of this period. The characteristic brush strokes, ink blots, and dry brush marks are present and later we can find traces of this calligraphic influence in Matisse's collage work.

Let's look at Matisse's work "Beasts of the Sea" There are geometric shapes in the background and on top of them the playful organic shapes stitch his composition together.

We can see fish swimming, sea shells spinning, blades of grass swaying in the liquid background. Matisse creates contrast by placing curved shapes of plants next to spiny shaped creatures next to each other. He creates a sense of unity by repeating some of the elements in his composition.

Matisse was masterful in the use of lines, shapes, and colors. He traveled frequently and found inspiration for his art.

He continued to emphasize emotional expression by using bright colors and combined them with sinuous lines reminiscent of Chinese calligraphy.

He combined geometric and organic shapes to create tension and balance. He flattened the shapes and used bright colors to connect his ideas and content. The style of these artists was called Fauvism, and they were called "fauves" or "wild beasts".

Matisse created "Beasts of the Sea" in 1950 after he returned from one of these travels. This work is currently in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. Hopefully we will be able to travel again and see his works in person when the pandemic is under control.

He used gouache on paper, and then he cut out his shapes and pasted them on white paper, and then were all mounted on canvas. When I was teaching at the high school I used this painting as an inspiration for an art lesson to study shapes and colors. The works students produced were exciting and delightful. Each student created a personally meaningful collage reflecting on memories from a trip or an idea that was important to them.

Here are the steps Matisse took to create this work:

First he painted bright colors on pieces of paper cut into rectangular shapes. Then he designed shapes representing fish, sea shells and plants, water, and other sea creatures. Then he cut them into simple shapes in bright colors. He was able to bring us closer to

nature, and share his experience, and what he saw and felt.

When I made my Matisse inspired work, I felt that our country needed to heal after the January 6th attack on our Capitol. I used the word SEW. to show my desire for our fragmented society to be stitched back together. I used a needle and thread, as symbols.

I would like to end with a few quotes by Matisse: "I would like to recapture that freshness of vision which is characteristic of extreme youth....", "I do not literally paint that table, but the emotion it produces upon me.", "Creativity takes courage."

Henri Matisse



**On the following page, I invite you to do this project with me. It is easy and fun. I promise you will end up with something beautiful.**



**Goly's Activity challenge.** Please consider showing your work either in the newsletter or at the next guild meeting!

1. Choose a memory from a trip and give it a title, ( my trip to the coast ), or choose an activity like ,(camping in the woods) or (my fishing trip on the river.)
2. Then on a large piece of paper draw to columns and cut several rectangular shapes using colorful construction paper. and arrange them the way you like.
3. Draw fun and playful organic shapes of objects that are related to your trip and memory.  
I encourage you to include a word and make your letters irregular, stretched out and playful.
4. Use a glue stick and tack the rectangular shapes as your background. Then cut out your organic shapes and letters, move them around until you are pleased with your placement and glue them down. Bravo you are finished!

I hope you have enjoyed learning how Matisse created his large collage works and found inspiration to combine shapes and colors making something of your own in that style of Matisse. if you do this project please share picture of your work.

Goly submitted these 3 pieces from her theme 'SEW'



Goly Ostovar



## Hints and Ideas

While looking for original ideas for hints and ideas section, I came across what many of you already know....you can do calligraphy on ANY surface! Here are some great Pinterest photos and a list of surfaces to try. Be sure to buy permanent markers or ink or they will fade. There are many on the market, chisel tip and regular tip so explore your new passion: choices are aplenty. I am sure you will find something wonderful to write on. Paper, cardboard, plastic, metal, shells, whiteboards, styrofoam, fabric, glass, porcelain, ceramics, wood, stone, leathers, CDs, DVDs, Blu-rays, coated surfaces overhead transparencies.....just about anything!

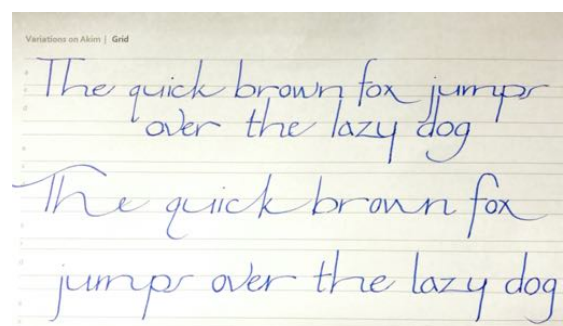
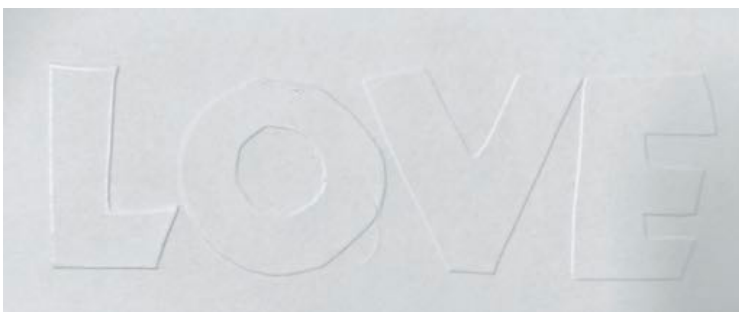
Mary Danca



## Member News

I have missed taking live classes and decided to try an online class. The first one I took was an embossing class with Carol DuBosch. I saw some incredible calligraphy that she had done at the beginning of covid and when I saw that she was teaching, decided to try embossing. The class was interesting and much simpler than I had imagined. The difficult part for me was making templates. Later I read about an Akim class from Julie Wildman and though I missed the live class, was able to purchase the online version which was on YouTube. I found it interesting and was able to do more practice since the videos were done on 3 days and I did not have to watch or be attentive all the time. Her lettering style is based on the work of Hans-Joachim Burgert and she calls it 'Variations on Akim'. It is fun lettering and fluid in its movement. Here are samples of both classes:

Mary Danca

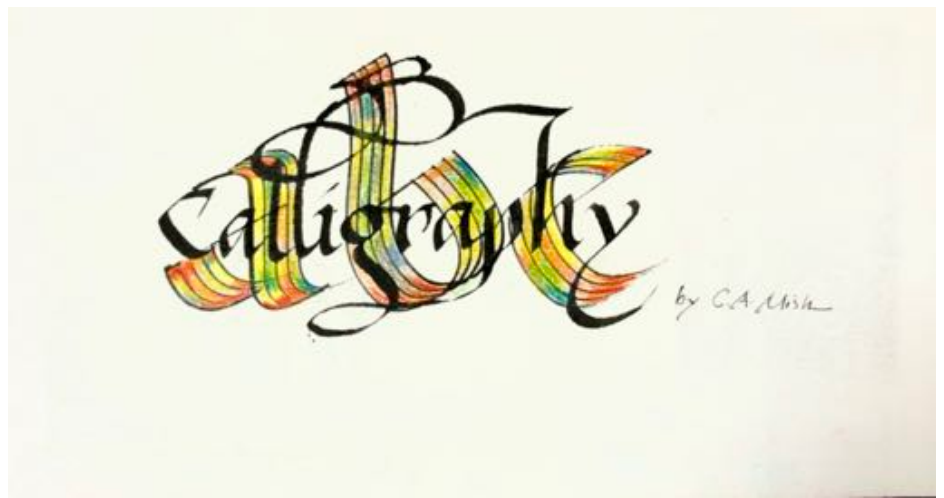




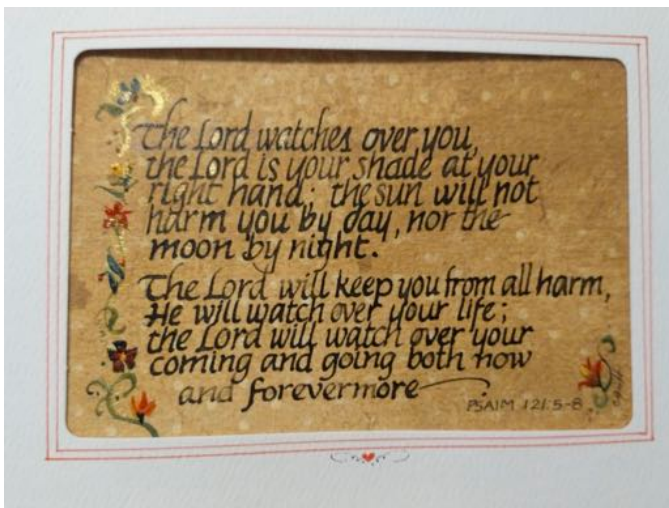
## Members' Art Page 2



Lynda Stevenson



Cynthia Mish



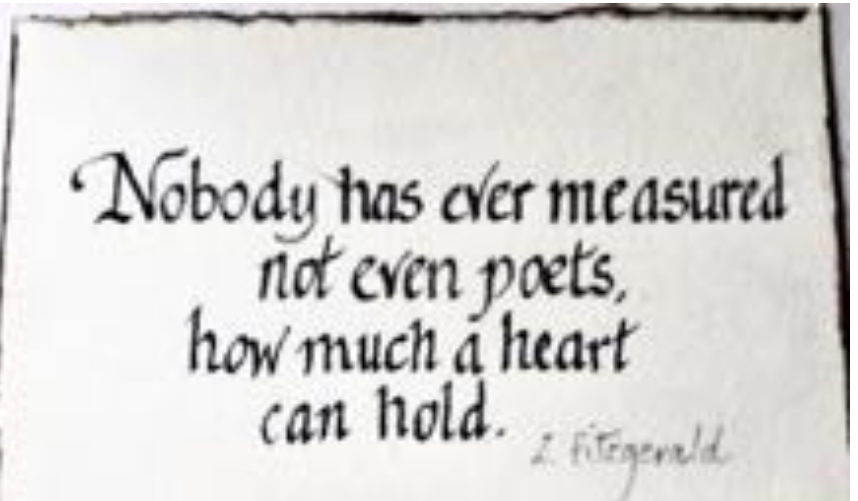
Cynthia Griffin



Joann Cleckner: Zentangle workshop at the Guild meeting in May



Lynda Stevenson

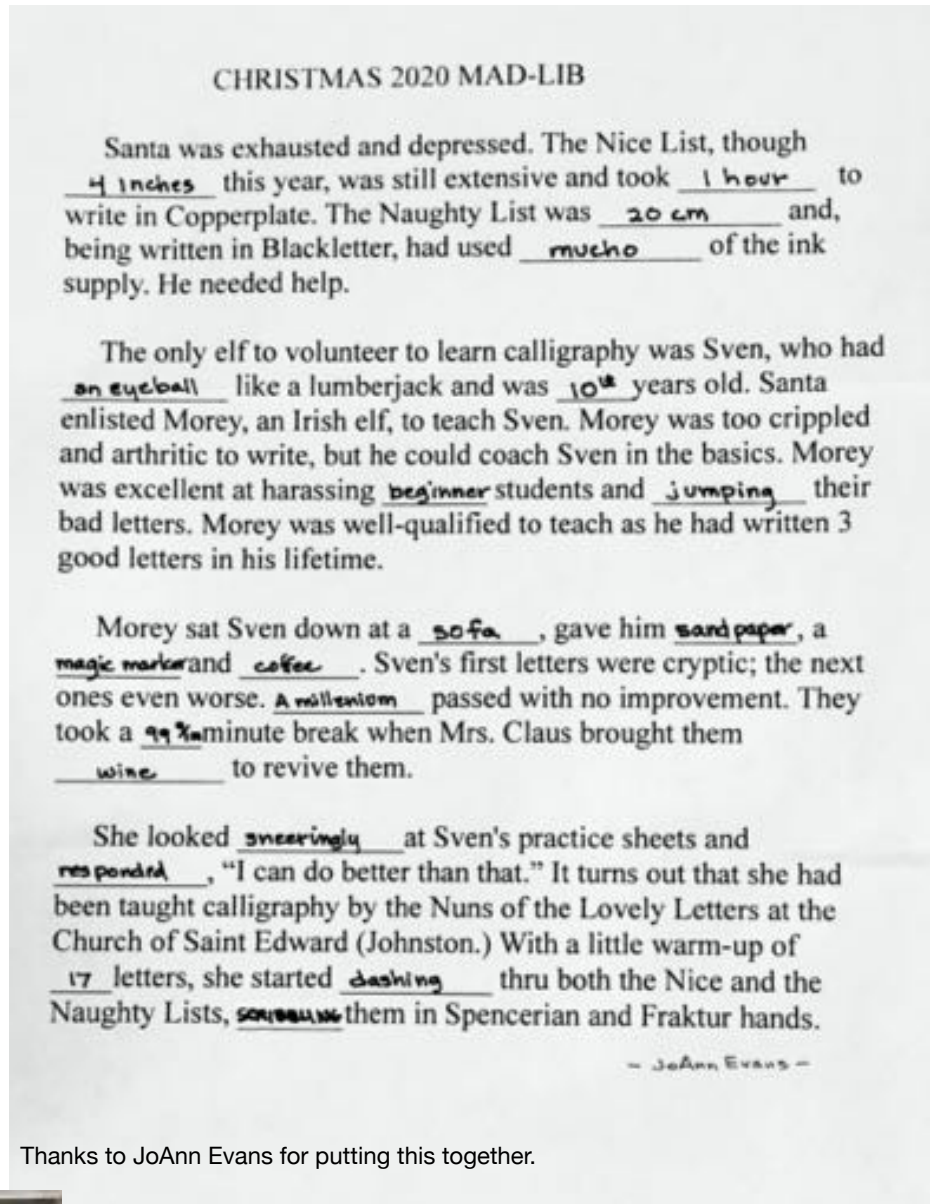


Just say no to bugs and viruses



Ralph Steadman, 2002 in his zoology series.  
Chosen as best of 2020 for its theme by Luc Devroye,  
McGill University, School of Computer Science  
Montreal, CA

Christmas Mad Libs..leftover from last month..what fun we had!



Thanks to JoAnn Evans for putting this together.



Eleanor Lippman



Linda Mallecoat bought a new bulletin type board through Pottery Barn Teen.."it's perfect and a nice addition to the room where I do my calligraphy. I love the pockets it has on it for storing my pens etc."

## Another great idea from Eleanor:

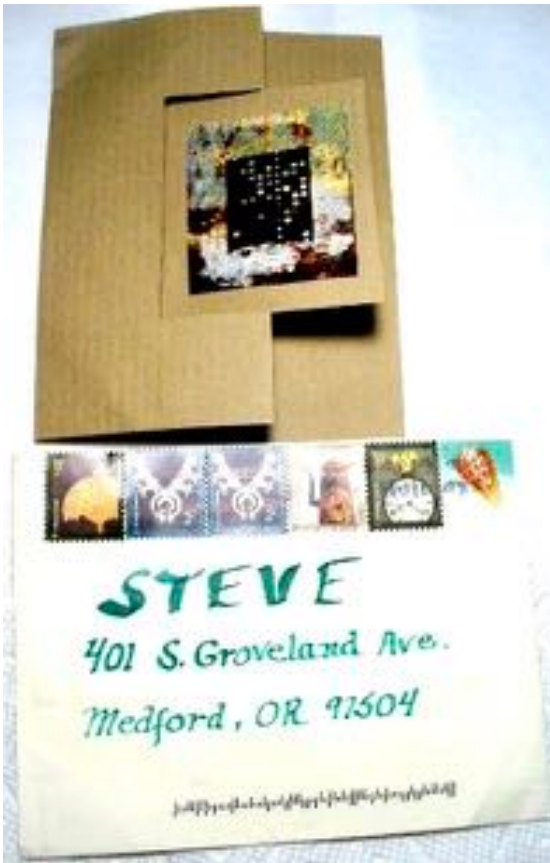
Eleanor Lippman shared a hint at the guild meeting last week that when she needed some red paper for Valentine's Day cards, she realized that paint color chips at the hardware store might work. Collecting color chips is a great idea when you need just a small amount of just about any color!



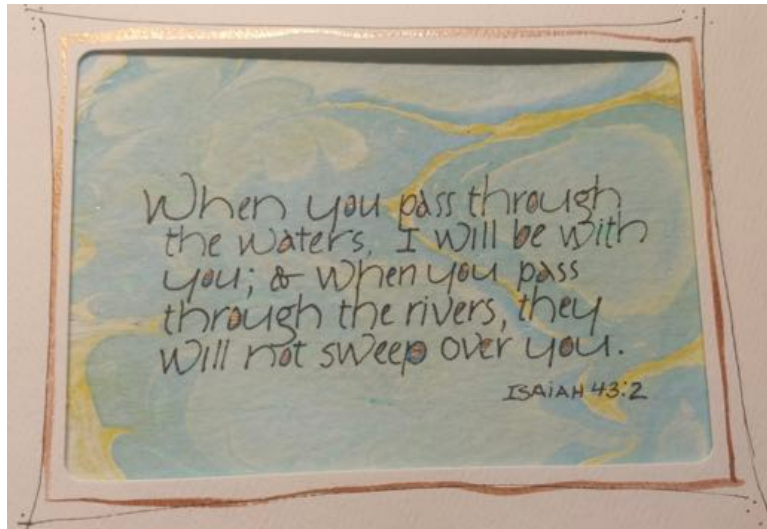
Eleanor Lippman



## Members' Art Page 3



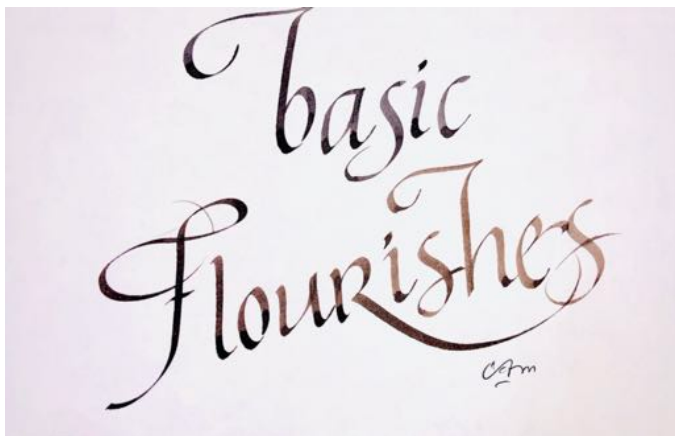
Anna Hinkle to Steve Ostrander



Cynthia Griffin



Goly Ostovar



Cynthia Mish



Joann Cleckner: Zentangle



Micheal Holstein: Here's a four-way, rotated image I've found in our Museum of the Parking Garage. I'm looking for others with multiple interpretative possibilities. I see four distinct images here, and if anyone wants to know/share how they can be interpreted, please email me.

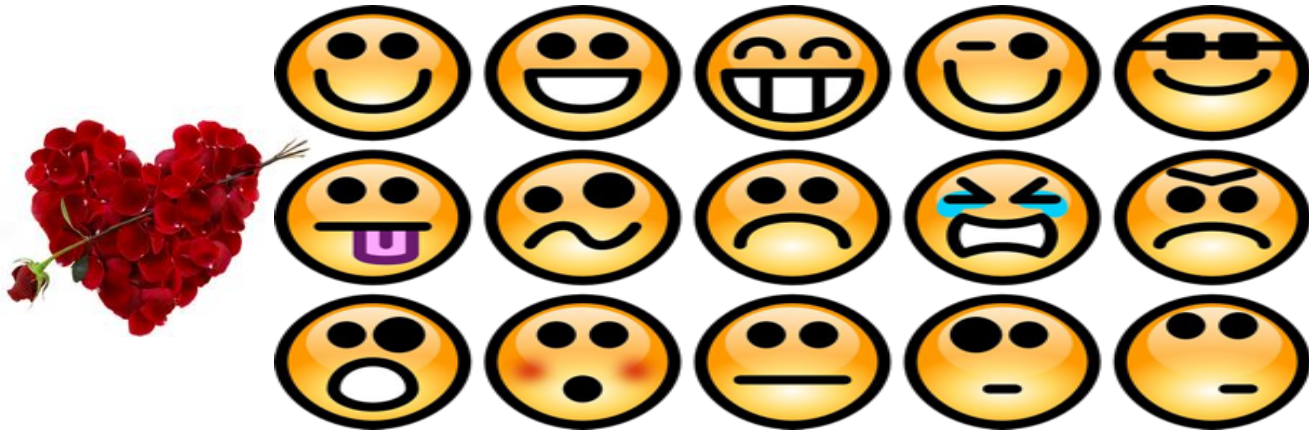


Art Show in July: Cynthia will be confirming the date soon

## “MIXED EMOTIONS”

Calligraphers' Guild Mixed-Media Exhibit July 2021

Art Presence Art Center/ 206 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St./ Jacksonville, OR



Dear Members ... Art Presence has invited our Guild as guest artists for the month of July 2021 in their gallery in Jacksonville.

The theme for July exhibit will be “Mixed Emotions”

With the many situations involving virus, protests, political unrest, fires, finances, education & isolation that have affected our world/city, as well as the awakening within us of new personal discoveries... our priorities, strengths & reinventing how we work & communicate socially, I feel this would be a great way to express the many emotional feelings within our souls during this time through art.

Emotions such as good, bad, sad, hopeful, peaceful, goofy, humorous, serious etc.. The idea would be mixed-media art/calligraphy, to express an emotion(s) through letters, words, objects and/or art with dimension. Does not have to be a quote. Perhaps a word, sound or thing.

Breaking out of the traditional boxes that portray calligraphy would be fresh and interesting. Feel free if you wish to collaborate with someone to create a piece(s)

All art must be securely wire hangable but not confined to a frame.

I hope all of you find a way to show on the gallery walls. I will provide a list of emotions if you need some inspiration.

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Cynthia Griffin [cgriffin.629@gmail.com](mailto:cgriffin.629@gmail.com) 541-261-0236 (phone or text)

# Remembering past member Margaret Gelatt

with thanks to JoAnn Evans and Cynthia Mish for info and pictures

## MEMBER PROFILE:

## MARGARET GELATT

**BEGINNINGS / INTEREST:** My interest started one lucky day in University Art in Palo Alto, probably in the mid-70's. I stumbled upon an exhibit of Friends of Calligraphy and was deeply impressed—stunned even. It changed my life.

**PRACTICE SCHEDULE:** Oh, I wish you hadn't asked about my practice schedule. Alas, it happens in fits and starts, even though I make many resolutions about it. I will be more consistent when I get my studio organized.

**LETTERING CONFIDENCE:** I don't really feel confident yet. However, I do make a nearly perfect letter once in a while.

**PROFESSIONAL CALLIGRAPHERS I ADMIRE:** They include Alan Blackman, Phil Gagnon, Donald Jackson, Sue Taylor (does Italic), David Lance Goines, Inga Dubay and Estelle Getty, and so many others.

**MOST DIFFICULT PART OF LEARNING:** The most difficult part is to concentrate on one task or alphabet and not run off in all directions.

**FAVORITE ALPHABET:** Currently, my favorite alphabet is the one Alan Blackman used in "The Artful Letter," the 1996 calligraphy calendar (see below). It's a monoline variation of uncial; I think, whimsically designed from straight lines and curves—so elegant. Perhaps it was the grandfather of his typeface, Galahad.



**ADVICE TO NEWCOMERS:** To a newcomer: "So, you want to become a calligrapher?" Can you muster up practicing space, time and patience in this chaotic world? If so, even for a little while, you will have stepped into the wonderful universe of the art and appreciation of those miraculous inventions—letters. Don't feel sad if you cycle on to something else, something EASIER."

**BASIC NEEDS:** A writing place, paper, an edged pen, ink and an elegant exemplar—almost everything else is frosting on the cake, but oh so seductive. Calligraphy can be an inexpensive hobby, but often is not.

**CURRENT PROJECTS:** I am working on the beguiling projects Maurice assigns to us—envelopes, bookmarks, etc. Also in the back of my mind is my midwinter solstice greeting.

**NEW BOOKS:** The developing saga to watch right now is the production of the St. John's Bible by Donald Jackson, et al. There seems to be much spin-off. Also, I think quite a bit of this impressive effort can be seen on the web.

*Margaret Gelatt*

Thank you to Judith Farrell, our reporter, for this profile.



Friday, January 15, 2021



**Margaret Gelatt**

March 6, 1929 - January 6, 2021

Margaret Martha (Copley) Gelatt died January 6, 2021 in Boulder, Colorado at the age of 91. Margaret was born in Santa Barbara, California in 1929 and grew up in San Jose. In 1985 she earned a BA degree in Liberal Studies from San Jose State University. Subsequently she was on the support staff at Stanford University for about 20 years, retiring in 1992 to Ashland, Oregon.

She enjoyed her time in Ashland with a network of friends and engaging in the vibrant community. She was active in the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship and OLLI among other organizations. In order to be closer to her sons, she moved to Boulder Colorado in 2014.

Margaret was known for collecting and sharing good jokes and humor. When entering hospice and was told a chaplain would visit, she replied in jest, "Ok but tell him I'm a witch." She especially loved to pull April Fool pranks. Her deep interests included nature, calligraphy, reading, art history, and art with good graphics and bright colors. She was driven to learn as much as she could about human nature, "what makes people tick," and the evolution of language.

Margaret and her former husband HB Gelatt have two sons, both of whom live in Colorado - Paul (Natalie) of Boulder and Lee (Patty) of Grand Junction. She enjoyed time with her grandchildren Kai, Carly, Riley, and Amy. She was preceded in death by her parents Lenora Copley (1891-1989) and John Thomas W Copley (1885-1945).

There will be a private family memorial service and her ashes scattered in a Rocky Mountain aspen grove - no other service is planned.

Remembrances could be a donation to your local library or planting a tree. Contributions to groups such as Planned Parenthood or Freedom From Religion Foundation would also be appropriate.



## The Last Page

### THE CALLIGRAPHER'S GUILD

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### Happy February Birthdays



Hope Tilton	13th
Maurice Logue	15th
Maria-Cristina Page	15th
Mary Pat Naumes	17th
Delila Barnett	20th
Vicci Ewen	28th

### Happy Valentine's Day



### Our Website and Facebook Page..

Contact Steve or Diana for submission or questions.

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Still looking to credit the artists for these wonderful works.



Lynda Stevenson