

The Washington Calligraphers Guild

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2011 BULLETIN

President's Message

Sadly, for the second consecutive Bulletin, I bring news of another passing in our WCG family. Richard Legeckis, husband of our Past President, Marta, lost his battle with ALS on October 21, 2011. Richard was more than a Guild spouse. He was a regular, wonderful part of our Holiday Parties, entertaining us with his magnificent play-by-ear piano offerings and his devastatingly quick wit. He was always willing to help any guild member with a guild task. He was a gracious host when Marta brought us all home with her, often taking us around his garden before letting us in the house. He was an all round remarkable man who became a friend and help to any of us lucky enough to have made his acquaintance. Marta and their daughters, Alina and Vanessa, were with him until the end. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers as we mourn our loss along with them.

Our Facebook page is turning out to be a popular communication vehicle. Postings of our events and news go into the news feed and we're now getting comments and "likes", letting us know our postings are being read. All postings with "further details" needed take our viewers directly to our website, thereby increasing its traffic. On our website, we also have the Facebook logo "F", that can take someone back to our Facebook page.

As we begin the Holiday Season, I wish for all of you a peaceful, joyful time along with perfect letters out of every stroke. Come and share part of your holidays with us at our Holiday Party. Details are included in this Bulletin.

Pam

Holiday Party

Please join us as we celebrate the Holidays on Friday, December 9, 2011, from 6-9 pm in the Party Room at the Madison Park Condominium at 5000 Battery Lane in Bethesda. Many of you may remember that we've partied there a few times over the years. Parking is available on site, on the street, and at the nearby B-CC Rescue Squad.

This year we are having a potluck dinner. Everyone is welcome: come celebrate the holiday season. If you'd like to help out with your best cooking or buying, please let Pam K. know by Wednesday, December 7, by calling her at 301-654-6049 or by email: Pklinednst@aol.com.

See you at our Celebration!

Join the Holiday Card Exchange

For several years, the annual exchange of cards has been a holiday highlight, and an opportunity for personal enjoyment and appreciation of the work of fellow scribes.

To enroll for 2011, send a self-addressed stamped #10 envelope *no later than December 10* to:

Phyllis Ingram
9327 Glenbrook Road
Fairfax, VA 22031

The envelope will be used to send you a list of all participants and their addresses. Each participant will then send their card to all the others so everyone will have a nice collection of cards at the end of the season.

(In extremis, you may phone Phyllis at 703-385-9750)

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Education: Can you help?

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Library: Iris Anderson

iris.anderson@comcast.net |

301-598-0392

Mailings: Phyllis Ingram | 703-385-9750

Membership: Sue Flory

bobandsue@theflorys.net | 703-569-4331

Nominating: Appointed in January

Programs: Can you help?

Publicity: Can you help?

Scholarship: Marta Legeckis

morkaleg@yahoo.com | 301-493-8907

Scripts Liaison: Can you help?

Web Site: Lorraine Swerdloff

swerdloff@gmail.com | 202-723-4635

Workshops: Christine Tischer

chris@calligraphybychris.com |

301-745-4633



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We extend a very warm welcome to our newest members who have recently joined or rejoined. We're so very glad to have you!

Nancy Anderson — Maple Valley, WA

Mike Gold — North Royalton, OH

Ross Henry — Washington, DC

Carolyn J. Milligan — Conway, AR

Phawnda Moore — Rocklin, CA

Alma B. Sanderson — Albuquerque, NM

Jan Solomon — Washington, DC

Esov Velazquez — Sabana Grande, PR

Sharon Zeugin — Austin, TX

Our sincere thanks to the following members who recently renewed or joined as Sustaining, Patron or Supporting Members. We truly appreciate your generosity!

SUSTAINING

Maria E. Weyraugh — Alexandria, VA

PATRON

Carlos Zarabozo — Washington, DC

SUPPORTING

Marilyn Aquilina — Bowie, MD

Hana Barker — Chelmsford, MA

Stephanie Chao — Laguna Niguel, CA

Jordenne Ferrington — Boonsboro, MD

Sallie S. Halley — Virginia Beach, VA

Louise Harris — Columbia, MD

Meredith Jane Klein — Albany, CA

Charlotte V. Knoll — Baltimore, MD

Janet Marano — Reston, VA

Carolyn J. Milligan — Conway, AR

Christine P. Tischer — Hagerstown, MD

Sharon A. Zeller — Ashburn, VA

Addition to WCG Chronology

The WCG Chronology that was printed in the current issue of *Scriptsit* (Vol. 33, No.1) should have noted on page 38 that in 1976 the initial meeting of what became the Guild was held at an art supply shop called Calligraphics Ink in Alexandria, VA, owned by Anne and Robert Lane. Among those attending were calligraphy students of Sheila Waters, Anne Lane and her father, Torrence R. Thomas. Noted calligrapher Dick Jackson nominated Sheila Waters as president to guide the formation of the Washington Calligraphers Guild. The Lanes donated books from their shop to form the nucleus of the guild's library.

Anne Lane

The *Bulletin* of the Washington Calligraphers Guild is published monthly from September to May, with a combined issue in December/January. Printed by Insty Prints, Alexandria, VA.

The deadline for submissions for the January issue is December 12, 2011. We welcome your contributions. Please send digital files for text, photos and artwork (reflecting all levels, from beginner to advanced) to pklinednst@aol.com. Your submission will be interpreted as permission to use in the *Bulletin*, unless otherwise specified. We will use your submissions on a space-available basis and may reduce your artwork to accommodate available space. Mention in the *Bulletin* does not constitute endorsement by the Washington Calligraphers Guild.

The Washington Calligraphers Guild, Inc., is a Virginia non-profit corporation, with an IRS tax designation of 501(c)(3). The Guild's mailing address is P.O. Box 3688, Merrifield, VA 22116-3688. Visit our website at www.calligraphersguild.org

Nan Jay Barchowsky's Handwriting Mini-Workshop

Gretchen Elson

Twenty-four people gathered on a Saturday morning to learn Italic Handwriting from renowned expert and WCG member, Nan Jay Barchowsky, in hopes of improving their own handwriting. One of her latest projects is an iPad app for young children, *Letters Make Words*. Nan began the mini-workshop by having the participants write a paragraph she provided in their regular handwriting. She analyzed each one's writing and made suggestions on how to proceed.



We were then given a number of exercises to write specific strokes first with eyes open and then with eyes closed. We then practiced words which incorporated the exercise strokes. I was amazed that every time I closed my eyes, my strokes progressively got narrower and narrower. Nan, as she did many times during the course of the day, explained that it was due to a lack of rhythm which is essential in lovely and legible handwriting. We also practiced capitals using double pencils and then making the skeleton letters within the double lines to see the relationship between letters made with a chisel pen versus a pencil.

In addition to her strong recommendation to develop a rhythm when writing, she gave several other hints: do not join into a z and do not join out of an x. Spacing is also important—you must leave enough space between letters so that you can make joins.

She told us that she was greatly influenced by all of Alfred Fairbank's books, including the Beacon series. She also highly recommended *Marion Richardson: Her Life and Her Contribution to Handwriting* by Rosemary Sassoon.

However, when asked to critique other handwriting

books she noted the cramped spacing of Fred Eager's models for the broad edged pen. They make it difficult to maintain the open counters within the letters that are needed for legibility. In her opinion, Lloyd Reynolds' letterforms are of fine quality, well suited for calligraphy, but the close letter spacing does not allow for the diagonal joins that we use in most handwriting. Nan encouraged us to use our own eyes to evaluate even the most revered scribes.

As with all workshops, it was a delightful day when we could forget the things on our to-do lists and wallow in our joy of letters and the friendliness of our instructor and fellow students.

Spring Workshops

Your Chance To Study and Improve

Chris Tischer, Workshops Chair

The spring workshops will offer an opportunity to get your hands once and for all under your belt! (I like the image.) We are making sure that everyone has a chance to learn with our very own best, so mark your calendars and save your pennies. The first workshop will be March 10–11 in Vienna with Marta Legeckis, who will make the Foundational Hand your best “go to” hand. Lee Ann Clark will show you how to make the most of each pen stroke with a pointed pen, taught at Columbia March 24–25. Denis Brown will come from Ireland to teach on the weekend and during the week, April 14–20 in Vienna and Yves Leterme will come to Columbia May 12–13 to do Gestural Lettering. Our very own Sheila Waters will teach at her home in rural

Pennsylvania where her studio has all the best to offer in terms of space, library, copy machine and comforts of home. Some very lucky students will come to understand Italic and all of its possibilities May 19–20 with Sheila. So gear up and get ready—we are confident that you will like these workshops and that you will want to be the best you can be. Remember, we all started somewhere and we are so willing to share!

March 10–11	Vienna	Marta Legeckis	Foundational Hand
March 24–25	Columbia	Lee Ann Clark	Pointed Pen
April 14–20	Vienna	Denis Brown	
May 12–13	Columbia	Yves Leterme	Gestural Lettering
May 19–20	Fairfield, PA	Sheila Waters	Italic

HERMANN ZAPF EDUCATION FUND SCHOLARSHIP

REMINDER AND CALL FOR ENTRIES

It's that time of year again when the Washington Calligraphers Guild announces with pleasure that we are accepting applications from Guild members (who have been a member for at least one year) for the Hermann Zapf Education Fund Scholarship. This scholarship is designed to assist promising students of calligraphy and its related arts with ongoing expenses to further their study of the historical hands. The grants can be used for workshops, classes, books, conference fees, private studies, etc.

The awarded amount of money does not exceed \$1,000 per session. More than one recipient may be selected each time. A panel of three judges reviews applications (blind entries) and selects the successful candidates for a main award and possibly smaller awards. An applicant whose proposal has not been funded may re-apply after one year. An applicant who has been awarded funds may re-apply after two years.

WCG offers the scholarships in the spring and the fall of each year through the encouragement and generosity of Professor Hermann Zapf and his wife Gudrun Zapf von Hesse. The Washington Calligraphers Guild is deeply grateful to Professor Zapf and his wife for their ongoing generosity and friendship.

The deadline for applications for the Fall/Winter Scholarship is December 15. A form is included with the *Bulletin*. Additional information about eligibility and areas of study may be obtained from Marta Legeckis at morkaleg@yahoo.com or 301-493-8907. The application form is also available on the Guild's website at <http://www.calligraphersguild.org/zapf.html>. Be sure to check out this page, which also contains a more detailed description of the scholarship and information about previous winners.

Don't be shy about applying for this award! If applicants had to be calligraphic experts in order to apply, they would not need to benefit from the studies that the Zapfs have so generously endowed.



LIBRARY NEWS

An Extraordinary New Book and Library Inventory

Iris Anderson, WCG Librarian

The Guild is grateful to member and master calligrapher Vello Paluoja for sending us a copy of a retrospective of his work, published in 2010. The title of the hardcover book translates from Estonian into English as *Vello Paluoja: More Than a Calligrapher*. There is a three-page summary that guides non-Estonian readers through the 141-page book. The book depicts Paluoja's life story with childhood and adolescent artworks and follows his growth as a calligrapher, graphic artist and painter in the city of Pärnu, Estonia. The breadth and scope of his work is remarkable. Fans of Estonian calligrapher Villu Toots will see the influence of Toots' instruction in Paluoja's work. Included in the illustrations are works familiar to WCG members such as Paluoja's entries for the Graceful Envelope Contests of 2008, 2009, and 2010, as well as works for recent Guild exhibitions. Interestingly, the book was written by his ex-wife, journalist Silvia Paluoja, who is one of his greatest supporters. It has been added to the Library's collection for browsing. Special thanks go to WCG member, Tiiu Kera, for personally delivering this wonderful gift to us.

Help is needed to do a Library Inventory: The work is to be done at Strathmore Mansion in Rockville, home of the WCG Library. The work includes checking each title on the bookshelves against a printed list, keeping a record of missing or duplicate items and shifting the books as needed. Sometimes shelf copies are replaced with newer ones in better condition. This work can be labor intensive since it is done while standing and it also requires good attention to detail. The fun part is seeing the books. It is estimated that it will take about eight hours to do the inventory, but the plan is to break this up into 2-3 hour chunks. If you can help any time after November 15, please call Iris Anderson at 301-598-0392.

The Washington Calligraphers Guild

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Washington Calligraphers Guild (hereafter the Guild) is by this notice seeking proposals to edit and design a full-color, 8½x 11 36-page self cover publication known as *Scripts*.

The Guild is a body of more than 500 letter lovers. Membership is open to anyone regardless of calligraphic ability. Founded in 1976 by internationally known calligrapher, Sheila Waters, and a group of her associates, the Guild is a non-profit organization which promotes all aspects of the lettering arts and related crafts. Monthly meetings, open to the public, feature visiting well-respected lettering artists or local experts who share information and audio/visual demonstrations on a wide variety of topics. In the spring and fall, the Guild offers workshops taught by outstanding international artists.

To keep members informed of the full spectrum of calligraphic arts, *Scripts* is the Guild's twice yearly, internationally recognized journal containing in-depth articles and visual material of the highest quality from and for members. To see what is expected of *Scripts* editors, consult the Guild's website at www.calligraphersguild.org for summaries of past issues; selected issues can be purchased.

The editor/designer, an independent contractor who earns \$3,000 for producing an issue, is responsible for, among other things, coordinating and working with the Guild's *Scripts* Liaison to determine a time frame for publication, gathering art work, writing text for the issue, designing the issue, providing drafts of the issue to the Guild for proofing by one or more designated members prior to printing as well as negotiating with an appropriate printer to have the issue printed and delivered to the Guild in a timely fashion for distribution to its members.

In addition to the salary of \$3,000 payable upon acceptance of the issue by the Guild, the Guild will reimburse the editor/designer for expenses incurred in the production of the issue up to \$200 upon the presentation of valid expense receipts and will provide up to \$3,500 for the printing and delivery of the issue, payable directly to the printer.

The deadline for the current request for proposal is January 31, 2012. The next issue is scheduled for publication by June 30, 2012. Proposals may be accepted for future issues of *Scripts* as well as for the June issue.

Applicants should complete the form posted on the Guild's website and e-mail to Gretchen Elson at gmelson@cox.net. All hard copy samples of supporting documentation, including a writing sample in English, should be mailed to Washington Calligraphers Guild, PO Box 3688, Merrifield, VA 22116, USA; electronic proposals should be e-mailed to Gretchen Elson. A panel of members appointed by the Board of the Guild will review all proposals and notify all applicants of their decision by February 29, 2012. Any questions concerning this RFP may be addressed to Gretchen Elson.

The Washington Calligraphers Guild

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR EDITOR/DESIGNER OF *SCRIPSIT*

Please email this completed form to WCG Vice President Gretchen Elson at gmelson@cox.net no later than January 31, 2012. Thank you for your interest in our publication.

Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Telephone(s): _____

Email Address: _____

1. Please briefly explain your qualifications to serve as editor/designer of an issue of *Scrpsit* and mention your knowledge of and experience in the lettering arts.

2. We encourage you to provide samples of any previous publications that you managed or to which you contributed articles or other work. If these are not available electronically, you may send them by postal mail to Gretchen Elson, 10108 Alice Court, Fairfax, VA 22032-1031, USA. Your submissions will be returned to you at the conclusion of the selection process.

Please list any items that you are sending by postal mail:

3. If you are selected to serve as editor/designer of an issue of *Scrpsit*, what subject would you choose to discuss and how would you research and present the material?

A Calligraphic Footnote to the Writing of the U.S. Constitution

John D Stackpole

Guild Parliamentarian

In his excellent and very readable historical account of the writing of the U. S. Constitution during the summer of '87 (1787, that is), titled "Plain Honest Men", Richard Beeman notes how the completed text was given to one Jacob Shallus to engross it (on parchment) over the weekend of September 15-16. Mr. Shallus did so—the document now resides under much protective glass at the National Archives building in Washington and the first business in order on Monday morning September 17 was a reading of the handwritten document to the assembled delegates, prior to the formal signing by those delegates who agreed with the text. Not all of them did!

Professor Beeman notes that "listening to every word ... may have seemed an unnecessarily time-consuming chore" since the delegates had all but memorized the whole thing as they worked it over for the past three or so months, non-stop. But it is a good thing that they did. Mr. Shallus, as, I would venture every other calligrapher in the world working on a large document on a tight deadline does once in a while, made some errors. He left out a "the" in two places, and "is tried" in another. I am sure these were caught during the reading. The handwritten original Constitution shows the various words inserted appropriately with caret marks indicating where the insertions belong. Interestingly, many later "gen-u-ine parchment" facsimiles of the Constitution—the sort of thing you can buy in the Smithsonian or Archives souvenir shops, printed on heavy "parchment" paper—also show the caret insertions. Curious.

However, the insertions of missing words was the least of Mr. Shallus's problems that Monday morning. As Beeman describes, after all the discussion was over and the text of the Constitution was agreed to, George Washington, who had been presiding all summer and not entering into the discussions at all (as a good impartial presider should), proposed that the representation proportion for congressmen in the House of Representatives be changed from forty thousand to thirty thousand (per congressman). The proposal was immediately adopted! Now what? Was Mr. Shallus supposed to take the whole thing back to his office and rewrite all four pages? Poor guy.

Evidently, that is not what happened—Mr. Shallus, who clearly had learned the "writing on parchment" trade very well in his day job as the assistant clerk of the Pennsylvania legislature, carefully scraped away the "fo" (and part of the "r") of "forty" and wrote "thi" (and replaced the missing part of the "r") in its place. This was no small accomplishment as it involved replacing two letters with three and still making it all fit.

And the evidence of his work remains in the Constitution to this day. If you take yourself, via the Internet, to the Archives website you can see sort of a blotch at the left end of the 11th line down from the "Article I" heading. (You may have to click

on the little "larger view" box to see and count the lines.) That's the "Shallus Blotch" where "forty" became "thirty".

But we are not done yet! Click on the "PDF/PRINT Version" button and download, as a PDF file, the page. Then using your Adobe Reader you can magnify the Shallus Blotch and actually see the ghostly remains of the lower loop of the erased "f", and some of the upper loop as well. Not only that, but the much darker (slanted) verticals of the overwritten "thir" attest to the parchment surface having been roughed-up by the erasure and thus taking in more ink than the surrounding letters. These heavier lines are what cause the blotched look in the changed word when viewed from a distance. (As an aside, it is interesting to note that Mr. Shallus didn't cross his "t"s—was that the lettering convention of the day or just a quirk of his? I don't know.) And as a little bonus, if you count down four lines from the "Article I" heading, you can see, five words in from the left end, one of the inserted "the"s mentioned previously.

Finally, go back to the Archives website and look at the last page of the Constitution. In the lower left quadrant of the page, you'll find this text, written out in what looks to be Mr. Shallus's hand, except for Secretary William Jackson's "Attest" signature:

The Word, "the," being interlined between the seventh and eighth Lines of the first Page, the Word "Thirty" being partly written on an Erasure in the fifteenth Line of the first Page, The Words "is tried" being interlined between the thirty second and thirty third Lines of the first Page and the Word "the" being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines of the second Page.

Attest William Jackson Secretary.

This, obviously, is a statement that the corrections in the original text are all proper and agreed to (implicitly) by the signers, whose names appear to the right of this block of text. Most commercial reproductions of the Constitution do not include this text material even though, as noted, they do show the caret insertions of the missing words. None (that I have seen) show the Shallus Blotch but instead have a cleanly written "thirty" in the proper place. Presumably many of these facsimiles are taken from later re-writings of the text. I suspect that the insertions were not written in place in later fair copies as that would alter the length of some of the lines and make substantial variations in the appearance of the documents.

The Guild webpage at << <http://www.calligraphersguild.org/penmen.html> >> has a bit more information about Jacob Shallus.



Electronic Delivery of *Bulletin*

The WCG Board has voted to begin delivering the *Bulletin* electronically in the near future. This decision was made for both green and financial reasons. The Board is committed to producing it monthly this year. With approximately 550 members of the Guild, you can quickly see how much paper we will be saving. Additionally, as with everything else, the cost of paper, printing and postage have continued to climb but we want to keep dues and fees as reasonable as we can.

The Board recognizes that some people do not have access to computers, so we will continue to send the *Bulletin* to those members via US mail. The November–December issue is being mailed.

If you prefer to continue receiving a hard copy of your *Bulletin*, please notify Gretchen Elson at gmelson@cox.net or by phone at 703-591-5482. Thank you for your cooperation.

DIRECTIONS TO GUILD MEETINGS

at Concord - St. Andrews Church
5910 Goldsboro Road
Bethesda, MD 20817-6034

Concord-St. Andrews Church sits on a hill at the intersection of River Road and Goldsboro Road in Bethesda, Maryland. Take the Beltway to River Road (exit 39 towards Washington). Turn left onto Goldsboro Road. The driveway to the church property is almost immediately to the right. Enter the Social Hall through the first door on the left side of the church. Board Meetings are held in the Parlor in the basement of the church.

Visit www.calligraphersguild.org for meeting dates.

The Washington Calligraphers Guild

P.O. Box 3688, Merrifield, VA 22116 · www.calligraphersguild.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED 11/2011

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Hermann Zapf Education Fund

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Phone (check preferred number) —

Address: _____

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Purpose (be as specific as possible; include names, dates, place, etc.):

Amount requested (limit \$1,000): _____

Describe your training — Briefly list courses taken:

Why do you feel you should be awarded this scholarship? (Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary.)

Please send this application along with 3 to 5 samples of your artwork (non-returnable, black and white photocopies only) to:

WCG Scholarships Chairman

PO Box 3688

Merrifield, VA 22116-3688

NOTE: To preserve the nature of a blind entry, please *do not* label samples with your name or any identifying information.

Open to Washington Calligraphers Guild members only