

The Washington Calligraphers Guild

FEB | MARCH 2024 BULLETIN

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*A*mong the arts, calligraphy is unique in expressing meaning in words. We make words beautiful and clothe them in another layer of art. It's like the eloquence and color added to a tree when the leaves come out; like the buds opening up on a plant. Personally, I am grateful we are provided with so many ways to do this.

Our guild is getting ready to flower, too. You will be invited like bees to share the pollen! This year, several positions happen to be opening up, so let us know how you would like to participate. Some of these are positions that have been vacant for a while but would make things run more smoothly, while others have been faithfully filled for years. For example, we would like an Exhibits Chair, a Communications Chair, and will also be looking for new coordinators for Programs and the Graceful Envelope Contest. This is a natural process of renewal that will enliven the Guild and get more members involved.

So don't be shy! Bees go right up to a flower and buzz in. If your talents and interests match one of the positions, the result could be pure honey. Each position will have a backup person, so you will not be solely responsible and can share the enjoyment. In fact, some of these positions could easily have co-chairs. The goal is to have the Guild buzzing like a hive and as many members as possible sharing our love for calligraphy within and outside. We are slowly but surely getting back to where we want to be. I am so glad you are in the hive.

Elissa Krieg

WCG President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

— WCG EVENING PROGRAM —
MARCH 6

MODERNIZING COPPERPLATE
with MIKE KECSEG

&

— SPRING WORKSHOP —
APRIL 6–7 and 13–14

CALLIGRAPHIC RHYTHM
AND A SPARK OF GOLD
with

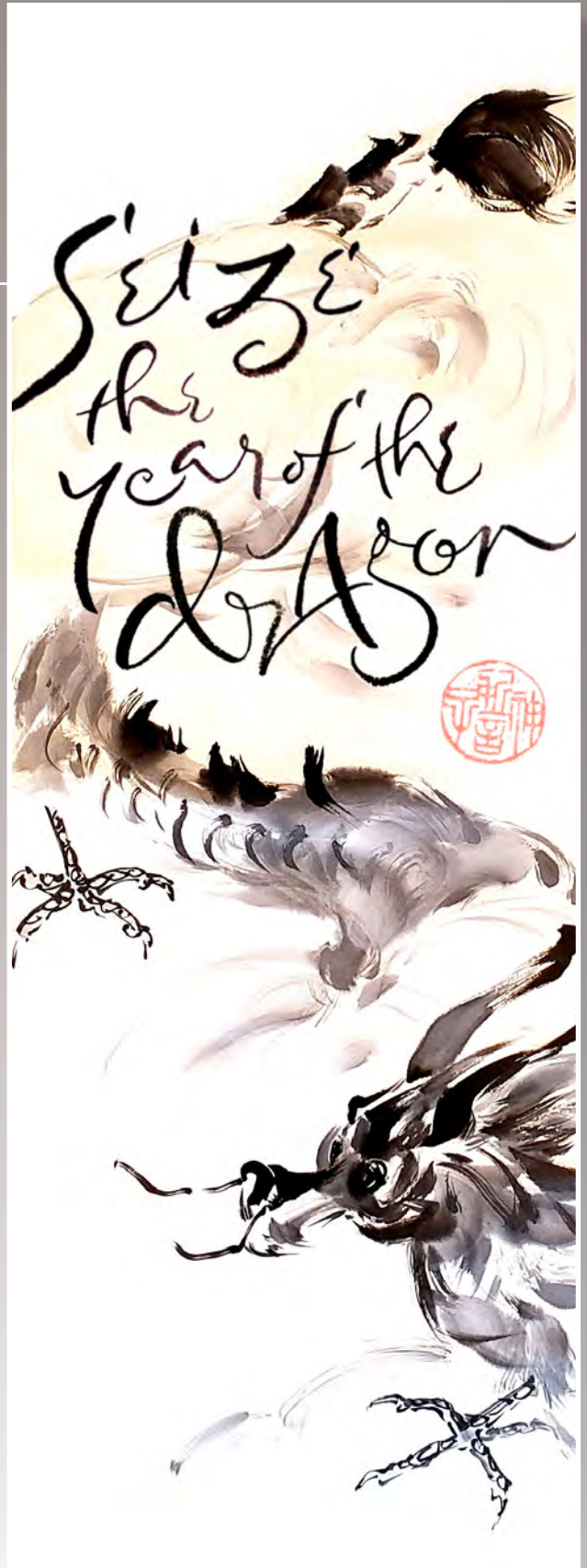
ANDREA WUNDERLICH

*More details on pages 3 & 4 and at
<https://www.calligraphersguild.org/workshops>.*

IN THIS ISSUE

- Membership News
- Upcoming Programs and Workshops
- Presentation Reviews
- Committees Need Your Input
- Apply for Zapf Scholarship
- Gallery Space

Original dragon was painted by Elizabeth McKee 50 years ago in a Chinese painting class in Malaysia. Actual size is 12" x 36". This piece with the text added for the 2024 New Year's greeting is 2.875" x 8".



WASHINGTON CALLIGRAPHERS GUILD
— BOARD OF DIRECTORS —

— OFFICERS —

PRESIDENT: Elissa Krieg
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The Bulletin of the Washington Calligraphers Guild is published four times per year from September–May.

The deadline for submissions for the April/May issue is March 20, 2024. We welcome your contributions. Please send high quality digital files for text, photos and original artwork (reflecting all levels, from beginner to advanced) to pklinednst@aol.com. Your submissions 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, Virginia 22116-3688.

Membership renewals and inquiries can be sent to Barbara Enyeart, WCG Treasurer, PO Box 3688, Merrifield, Virginia 22116 or visit our website at www.calligraphersguild.org.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A very warm welcome to our **newest** and renewing members.

Linda F. Abrams – Great Neck, New York
Rosalee Anderson – Frankfurt, Kentucky
Yukimi Annand – Torrance, California
Diana Anz-Meador – Oak Ridge, Tennessee
Pam Arthur – Hoschton, Georgia
Lorise Baratta – Summit, New York
Elissa Barr – Northampton, Massachusetts
Peggy Barlett – Washington, DC
Heather Barton – Lynden, Washington
Pamela Bennett – Uwchlan, Pennsylvania
Irene Blumenthal – Trumbull, Connecticut
Mari Boyle – Front Royal, Virginia
Paula S Carriere – Opeousas, Louisiana
Stephanie Chao – Laguna Niguel, California
Alison Clement – Ocala, Florida
Deborah Coffin – Sunapee, New Hampshire
Patricia S. Crouch – Silver Spring, Maryland
Anne Deschaine – Portland, Oregon
Atanas Dimitrov – Munich, GERMANY
Evelyn Eldridge – Redwood City, California
Elizabeth Foster – Blacksburg, Virginia
Hilde Friese – Stone Mountain, Georgia
Karen Garvey – Burke, Virginia
Michelle Goulder – Cambridge, ENGLAND
Maryanne Grebenstein
– Marblehead, Massachusetts

Marcia Gustafson – Mankato, Minnesota
John Hand – Washington, DC
Judy Havrilla – Haymarket, Virginia
Sally Heaphy – Baltimore, Maryland
Arlen Herb – Monkton, Maryland
Heidi Hill – Washington, DC
Ann M. Baker Horsey – Dover, Delaware
Austin Keisling – Washington, DC
Jake Keller – Virginia Beach, Virginia
William Kemp – Albuquerque, New Mexico
Paulette Kerr – Mount Ulla, North Carolina
Christopher Kotler – Arnold, Maryland
Patte Leathe – Farmington, Connecticut
Kate Lehman – Woodbridge, Illinois

Alix Carol Levy – Garrett Park, Maryland
Jocelyn Li – Lyon, FRANCE
Doris Major – Kelowna, BC CANADA
Jacqueline Mallouf – Cayucos, California
Manzar Moghbeli – Cockeysville, Maryland
Norma Morrow – Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Judy Mueller – Columbus, Ohio
Maurice Palumbo – Greenbrae, California
Odilia Peña – Tulsa, Oklahoma
Joan E. Pennington – Fairfax Station, Virginia
Harry F. Resnick – Stony Brook, New York
Kristi Ryan – Richland, Michigan
Kerrie Schenkel-Maher – Huntsville, Texas
Catherine Seibert – Frederick, Maryland
Jane M. Shibata – Los Angeles, California
Patti Shields – Bayville, New York
Kera Slavick – Las Vegas, Nevada
Praxi Soni – Maharashtra, INDIA
Susan Super – Arlington, Virginia
Meri Taylor – Portland, Oregon
Victoria Wodarczyk – Washington, DC
Lucinda Fitch Wright – Baltimore, Maryland
Mary Zabrin – Arlington Heights, Illinois

Thank you to those who have renewed/ joined at Supporting and Patron and Sustaining levels. We appreciate your support.

Charlene Cash – Sun City West, Arizona
Victoria Cass – Baltimore, Maryland
Thelma Deutsch – Bethesda, Maryland
Jordenne Ferrington – Boonsboro, Maryland
Tom Landon – Oneonta, New York
Susan Makris – Falls Church, Virginia
Connie L. Stephens – Washington, DC
Anne Trotter – Annandale, Virginia
Lynn A. Zigoris – Willow Street, Pennsylvania

— artwork by Virginia Lockhart



ADDITIONS/ TO THE DIRECTORY

Please make the following additions to your membership directory.

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DON'T MISS THE MARCH PROGRAM...

— MARCH 6 —

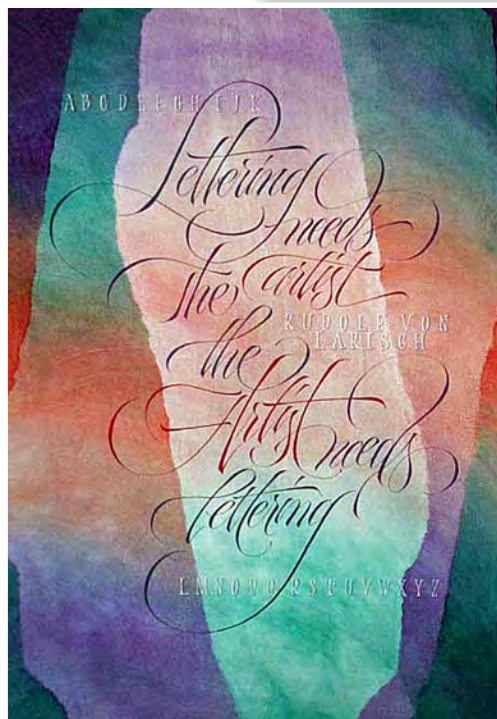
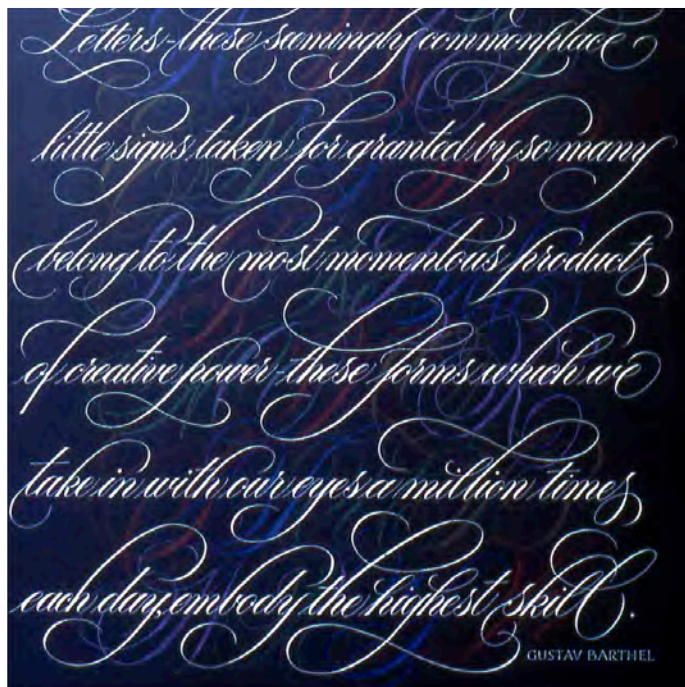
MODERNIZING
COPPERPLATE
with

MIKE KECSEG

7-9PM ON ZOOM

To create a more modern and expressive script, Master Penman Mike Kecseg will show how a strong foundation in copperplate is desirable. He will be demonstrating some of these techniques and sharing some examples of his work.

Free to all members.



Mike Kecseg began doing calligraphy when he worked as an engrosser. Since 1984, he has owned and operated Pen Graphics Studio, Inc. He has been on the faculty of thirteen International Calligraphy Conferences and five IAMPETH conferences. He has taught workshops throughout the country specializing in the pointed pen. His work has been exhibited widely and can be seen in various publications including *Letter Arts Review*, *Lettering Arts*, *The Encyclopedia of Calligraphy Techniques*, *Calligraphy Crush* and *The Speedball Textbook*, including the cover of the 23rd edition. His calligraphy is included in the permanent collection of the Newberry Library. He was inducted as an IAMPETH Master Penman in 2002 and has earned an IAMPETH Certificate of Excellence in Engrosser's Script in 2019.

The Guild's transition to a new membership system (it is integrated into our website) is now complete, but we are still working out glitches. To make sure your renewal is recorded properly, please do the following:

- When you receive your renewal notice, click on the link which will take you to our website's renewal section. Select the type of membership you want.
- When prompted to put in the Start Date, use the expiration date of your membership (supplied on your renewal notice).

Thank you for your help and patience as we settle into our new membership system.

Gretchen Elson
WCG Membership Chair

...OR THE APRIL WORKSHOP

— APRIL —
6-7 & 13-14

10-NOON ET
EACH DAY
ON ZOOM

CALLIGRAPHIC
RHYTHM AND A
SPARK OF GOLD
with
ANDREA
WUNDERLICH

Andrea Wunderlich is a calligrapher and book artist based in Germany whose commissions include sign painting, lettering, logo design and murals. In her artwork she loves to follow the historic paths of alphabets and transform them into expressive contemporary letters.



Over four weekend mornings, Andrea Wunderlich will help us transform Versals and realize their ornamental potential to make artwork sing.

After leading us through the Antiqua alphabet, Andrea will help us play with and transform these versatile Versal letterforms. We will go step-by-step through the creative process, experimenting with layout ideas. Then comes the spark of gold! We will learn about some glittering effects, highlight certain areas in our artwork and try a very easy method of gilding.

All levels
welcome.

More details
and registration
information
can be found
at <https://www.calligraphersguild.org/workshops>.



APPLY FOR A ZAPF SCHOLARSHIP

As mentors to our Guild, Hermann Zapf and Gudrun Zapf von Hesse endowed an annual scholarship for students to study broad-pen calligraphy. The grants, which are not based on income, can be used for workshops, classes, books, supplies, conference fees, private studies, etc. Complete information and application form are at <https://www.calligraphersguild.org/zapf-scholarship>.
Deadline for submission is February 26, 2024.

LIKE WHAT WE OFFER? WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WCG's committee volunteers are the hard-working members who arrange the programs and services we enjoy. But several key volunteers are retiring in a couple months... so we need interested members to step forward now and be mentored. You need not be in the Washington, DC region to help! The openings are:

Workshops Chair(s):

WCG offers two or three multi-day workshops each fall and spring. The Workshops Chair solicits instructors, their teaching topics and availability, and is supported by an experienced committee that handles registration, publicity, payments, tech help if online and logistics if in person. Contact Kacie-Linn Engel at kacielinnengle@gmail.com.

Programs Chair(s):

WCG seeks a new chair (or two co-chairs) to find instructors and topics for 90-minute online presentations monthly in the fall and spring. The chair(s) help disseminate publicity and arrange for honoraria payments, among other duties. Contact Rosalee Anderson at rosaleescribe@gmail.com.

Graceful Envelope Coordinator(s):

WCG was honored when the National Postal Museum selected us to continue the contest in 2001. Now WCG needs one or two volunteers to keep the contest alive. With input from WCG's board, the coordinator(s) decide on the next theme, disseminate a Call for Entries in the fall, arrange for judging of the entries in early summer, notify the winners and post the winning envelopes. Ideally, a volunteer will have graphic skills and software. Contact Erin Cassidy at peonyplumecalligraphy@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee:

We also need volunteers to serve in this capacity. Elections for WCG's officers occur in May, but first we need members to serve on the Nominating Committee. To volunteer for this short-term but crucial committee, contact Elissa Krieg at elissa@squill-studio.com.

GEMS THAT BEDAZZLE

Our online program for November was given by Master Penman Rosemary Buczek. A student of historic illuminated manuscripts and the techniques used by the masters, Rosemary demonstrated the process of painting jewels to achieve a glass-like effect. Painting the rubies and emerald began with grisaille, or faint pencil lines, designating the shaded areas. She then alternated thin white washes of lead white with increasing intensities of red, or green for the emerald, continuing until a glassy image emerged—the white washes reflecting light in each layer. She finished them off with accents of pure white showing reflections on the ruby cabochons and facets of the emerald. These jewels had bezels of gold paint, but Rosemary prefers using gold leaf with tooling to dress them up even more.

Although most of us use tube paint, Rosemary mixes her own paint from powdered pigment, and as a result her colors are more intense. Following this process, and mixing your own paint, is all labor intensive, but for those who want to go beyond the normal painting procedures and delve into more studied techniques, you may want to grasp this skill from a Master Penman.

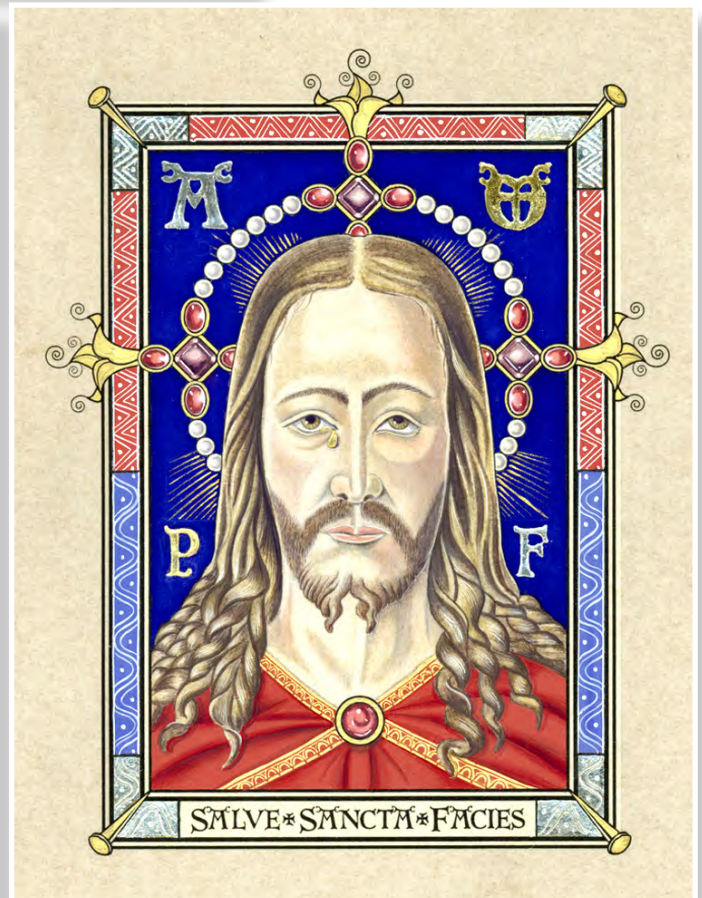
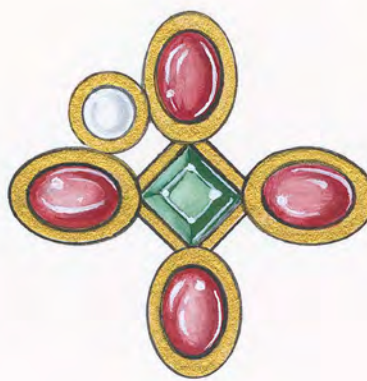
— review by Rosalee Anderson

Clockwise from top left: Rosemary embellished a testimonial with a pearl and copious gold leaf.

During her WCG presentation, Rosemary demonstrated how she paints gemstones as shown in this finished painting.

A halo of rubies and pearls illuminates Jesus above the inscription Salve Sancta Facies (Hail, Holy Face).

Precious gems surround Esther, who rose to Queen for her beauty.



IT'S ALL IN THE ARM

— review by Rosalee Anderson



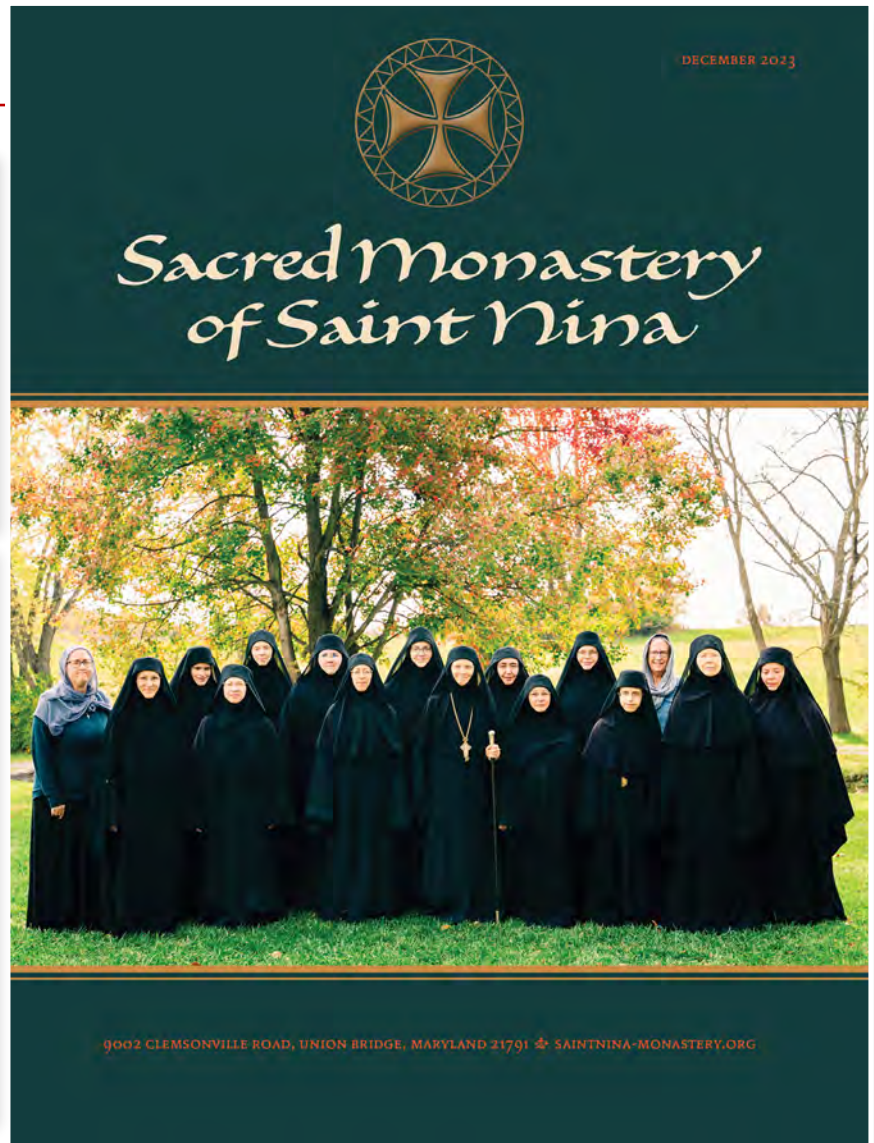
Australian artist and calligrapher Martha Laurens treated us to *Calligraphy Therapy* during WCG's well-attended January 10 program on *Zoom*. To help us understand our body and hand movements when we are writing or creating calligraphic art, Martha had us making large, oval motions with the whole arm, followed by other ovals of declining size. We did the same exercise with vertical lines and other curves.

"Consistent practice loosens and relaxes the arm, making calligraphic strokes more natural and flourishes more graceful," Martha explained. For fun she showed us how to enhance our script with "fly-in" and "fly-out" strokes, another way to enjoy our work while exercising. Thank you, Martha, for sharing your "therapeutic" approach to beautiful penwork!

GALLERY SPACE



Top: "Bonjour" is created with Bister ink versals and loose script with flat brush and pointed brush. "I aimed to express the versatility of the greeting," writes Phawnda Moore. Bottom: folded origami ring and hand-embossed PEACE in the center by Carol DuBosch.



"St. Nina's 2023 Newsletter Cover" by The Sisterhood of the Sacred Monastery of Saint Nina. Original broad-edge calligraphy (steel pen and stick ink on paper) scanned and vectorized.



"Apple Tree Seasons" by Phawnda Moore: "The quadriptych was inspired by observing my own dwarf Gala apple tree. Each hand-torn round was illustrated and lettered with quotes, facts and apple trivia. I used Micron pens, a Zig Writer marker and pastel, then framed each one in rustic wood. The set was accepted in the 2023 California State Fair, and happily, went home with a new owner."

The Washington Calligraphers Guild

