

# *The* *SCRIBES* *& Scribblers* **Inklings**

Vol. 38, No. 8 The Fort Worth Calligraphers Guild

*April 2017*



## COVER ART

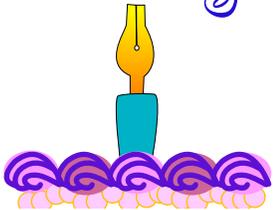
Mary DeChellis

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**Inklings** is published by the Fort Worth Calligraphers Guild monthly, September through May. To submit an article for this publication, please email text to [news@fortworthcalligraphers.com](mailto:news@fortworthcalligraphers.com) - attention Newsletter Editor, by the 26th of the month prior to the publication. Text should be in MS Word document or equivalent. Photos should be submitted in JPEG 300dpi format. Prints and hard copy can be mailed to P.O. Box 101732, Fort Worth, TX 76185. We try our best to give our members accurate and current information.

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Happy  
Birthday!



April

6..... Trudie Simoson  
18..... Veree Brown  
22..... Wendy Carnegie

May

2..... Janice Robbins  
2..... Gina Tanner  
4..... Polly Campbell  
21..... Judy Johannesen  
30..... Sharon Mellby



## From the President's Pen

Heard a great radio interview with Nicole Stott, a female astronaut on the International Space Station, who is now retired and has a career as a mom, painter and motivational speaker. She mentioned that from space you witness and experience a different perspective of planet earth. It's not just the first time you look out the windows but every time you look out that you get a physical, emotional, spiritual experience. Every 45 minutes you get a golden sunrise or sunset. It's surreal. Our beautiful planet is awesome, moving, dynamic and who we are reminds us that we too are significant in the scheme of life. It enforces the awareness of floating above a fragile place. We should be aware of the frailty of our atmosphere and environment as well as the frailty of our physical relationships. Our family and neighbors should give us a sense of equality and respect to take care of each other because the distances between countries and borders are small as seen from space.

She admits that her Christian belief is reinforced from her space travels.

She loves creating and painting and gets a spiritual internal joy from that and hopes others get encouraged to reach your imagination from such. She says art and speaking events get accomplished when family and others encourage you to just do it. [www.theartisticastronaut.com](http://www.theartisticastronaut.com)

And you can check other video interviews of Astronaut Stott on Youtube.

I hope you get encouraged to start and finish projects as Ms. Stott suggests. I hope you get encouraged to keep practicing your calligraphy.

Tom Campos, FWCG President

P.S. Zero gravity pens for astronauts Fisher Space Cartridge pens, circa 1966-68

## Directory Updates

Welcome new members!

Sharon Mellby  
1332 Colmar Drive  
Plano, TX 75023  
[sharon.mellby@gmail.com](mailto:sharon.mellby@gmail.com)

May 30  
214-682-9929 (C)

Theo M. Carracino  
1806 Fairmont Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX 76110  
[Tmcarracino@gmail.com](mailto:Tmcarracino@gmail.com)

Jun 12  
703-402-4179 (C)

# HARVEY'S HELPFUL HINTS



## VINTAGE NIB

April 2017's spotlight is on the newly acquired Heintze & Blanckertz nib, made in Germany. It is bronze, "bird beak" style with 3 air holes and slightly longer than normal so be sure to use an "open ended" nib holder. It is quite flexible and sharp, giving you the desired swell stroke with a super fine upstroke...you will really like using this nib as it will do everything asked of it. Your lettering will definitely have the "professional" look, and your finished piece will reflect the beauty of the lettering done with this nib.

## EMBOSSING TEMPLATES

For the embossing crowd: a good template weight is a manila folder...too heavy and you'll tear the paper, and too lightweight and you won't emboss deep enough. A manilla folder is the Goldielocks weight – just right! Always be careful using the Exacto blade – they are super sharp and will take skin and fingers off in a heartbeat!

## DEFINITIONS

Chirography: Handwriting or penmanship

Cacography: Poor writing or poor penmanship

Calligraphy: Beautiful writing

## STIFF LETTERING

If your lettering looks a bit stiff, Susan Skarsgard uses (and recommends) just a waist (mid) line when lettering. This might help you and your lettering loosen up a bit.

## RECORD THE DETAILS

It's a good idea to make a copy of your finished work, but a photo will suffice. Be sure to include all the pertinent information along with the photo, i.e. ink, nib, paper and size, and any critical measurements so that you will be able to reproduce it by hand when necessary. Brings to mind one of my clients used to come to me for duplication of a project I did for them a couple years before. Without the necessary information I would have been lost. I always kept the information in a client folder with name, date, name of the project, along with the necessary info, etc.

## SHEILA WATERS SUGGESTS

Sheila Waters suggests looking at the inside corner of the broad nib when lettering instead of the letter itself. This should help the look of the letters.

Til next month, for beautiful writing,  
Plano Harvey

for your vintage nib and supplies:  
penstaff@verizon.net.  
972-307-0172, C)817-470-2735

# Calligraphy Around the World

## — Arabic Calligraphy —

Our next stop on FWCG's tour of the History of Calligraphy Around the World is the Arabic Alphabet. Cayetano Olivarez presented "ARABESQUE: An Arabic Alphabet" at our January meeting.

Arabic is both a language and an alphabet. In 1973, the United Nations adopted Arabic as the sixth official language since it is the national language in 22 countries. It is also the spiritual language of one of the three largest world religions (all of which are based on the same Abrahamic teachings) and it is heard from the Middle East, Mauritania, through most of Asia, Africa, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, parts of China...and the United States.

Like many other alphabets, which processed through the Phoenician alphabet development cycle, the Arabic alphabet originated from the Nabatean (general area of present Jordan) and Semitic languages, which include Hebrew and Aramaic. It was greatly influenced by the language and cultures of the Arabs, the Persians (Iran) and the Ottoman Empire (Turkey). The Arabic alphabet has also been incorporated into many languages and writing systems, including Swahili, Spanish, English, Pashto, Hindi, Ethiopian, and others.

The Arabic Alphabet, or Arabic Abjadi, consists of 28 consonants, including three letters that can be used as vowels by use of diacritical marks. It is categorized as an "Abjad" because it is a consonantal, rather than an "alphabet" consisting of distinct vowels and consonants. Adaptations of Arabic scripts are made to serve the needs of the countries where Arabic may not be the national language but is used in the writing system.



Page from "The Calligrapher's Garden" by Hassan Massoudy © 2008.

The script is written from right to left, in cursive form. The numerals, however, are written left to right. The 28 letterforms are grouped in "family" format, so that only 17 basic strokes are needed to form the letterforms. Letters have four forms, which depend on their placement in a word: Initial, Medial, Final and Isolated. Well now...use of the diacritical marks (the fatha, the damma and the kasra) is "a whole 'nother story," and falls into the area of grammar rules....and I am still learning about Alef, Beh and Zay.

In American English, we call our numbering system "Arabic numerals," but the forms are not Arabic. They are of Hindustani origin; and were acquired by Arabs through commerce with India in the 6th century. The numerals were developed through the 10th century in mathematics, science, medicine, literature and cultural diversity. The Arabic alphabet was introduced to the "Western" world (Europe) during the Moorish occupation of the Iberian Peninsula (now Spain and Portugal) beginning in 711 A.D. and through military conquests and religious expansion during The Crusades of the 12th and 13th Centuries....and other world events well into the 20th century.

World events effected little change to the alphabet which is the basis for classical, colloquial and Modern Standard Arabic, which is the international standard for use in trade, law, literature, education, science and other matters. The computer age has resulted in development of Arabic and "Arabic looking" fonts. In 2014, a font called "Zapfino Arabic" resulted from collaboration by font designer Nadine Chahine and Hermann Zapf. It is based on merging of Nasta'liq and Naskhi. "Bustan," another innovative font introduced in 2014, was



"Qalamo" — Spanish for Qalam (reed pen). Colored pencil and ink on rough paper. Art by Cayetano Olivarez

developed by collaboration between Mamoun Sakkal and Jamal Bustan. It is based on merging of Kufic and Sunbuli scripts.

Arabic calligraphy is one of the three classic origins of “beautiful writing,” in conjunction with calligraphy of Western Europe and Oriental calligraphy of China and Japan. Arabic calligraphy is regarded as the highest form of art expression, since it is the pictorial representation of the Quranic sacred word. There are more than 100 styles (pens) of Arabic calligraphy, which were greatly influenced by Arab, Persian and Ottoman cultures. “Six Pens” are accepted as being traditional, although those vary depending on which study reference is used. The historic and popularly recognized styles include: Kufic, Naskhi, Thuluth, Divani, Maghribi and Ru’qah (Ri’qaa). Nasta’liq is another popular current use script.

Many calligraphers consider the Arabic letter forms as exotic, but may be reluctant to study the letter forms for reasons like: “I am afraid of what might be said,” or “I don’t know what it means.” Therefore, they may simply relegate the abjad to “mark-making” exercises. But, it is a worthwhile alphabet to study. I recall a calligraphic design workshop by Xandra Y. Zamora who recommended use of a foreign alphabet to study “The

Elements of Design.” By doing so, one concentrates on the texture, line form, balance and symmetry rather than on the name or meaning of the word or letter in use. That was my reason for exploring the abjadi and Oriental letter forms. One thing about calligraphic artists...we readily cross cultural lines in the quest for lettering arts.

Getting ready for the presentation to FWCG was a magic carpet ride! Along the way, I gained an appreciation for other cultures and religions; gained understanding of historical events that still create turmoil for our modern world, and I gained an appreciation for Arabic Calligraphy. I even recalled times back in the “old Army days” while traveling through Spain’s Moorish regions and Turkey. The magnificently decorated structural wonders and gardens left me amazed at the architecture and art of that part of the world. Remind me to tell you some stories about the timeline beginning in 1492, and how the Arabic alphabet and culture impacted our daily vocabulary... and Texas history... and U.S. history in colonial times... and history of the Great American Southwest...but, I digress.

For your continuing education: In research and preparation, I found that the Richardson Public Library



Page from “Arabic Script, Styles, Variants, & Interpretations” by Gabriel Mandel Khan © 2001.



*The word "Allah" in Foliated Kufic Style — art by Cayetano Olivarez. Colored pencil and ink on rough paper.*

has an exceptional world studies and foreign language section. I recommend websites for: The Metropolitan Museum of New York, the Victoria & Albert Museum of London, and the all-essential Wikipedia. By using search tags: Arabic alphabet, Arabic calligraphy and art, Arabic writing, and Middle East Studies, I found several universities that provide excellent materials including Oxford University, Stanford University and University of



*Word "Huwwa" (God) — Art by Cayetano Olivarez). Cut letter design & collage.*

Chicago.

Well...all-rightey then...Enjoy.

— Cayetano Olivarez

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## *Mark Your Calendar!*

Kaligrafos & FWCG exhibit for ArtReach Visual Arts at Lovers Lane UMC in Dallas — June 29 thru August 17, 2017 — See page 7 for information on submitting art pieces.

Carol DuBosch workshop on Brush Calligraphy — October 27-29, 2017. See flyer in this newsletter for more details.

Texas Lettering Arts Council is hosting Paul Antonio:

See [www.txlac.org](http://www.txlac.org) for additional information.

May 12, Lecture with Chalkink, 2500 Years of the Western Alphabet, \$25

May 13, Masterclass with Chalkink: An Introduction to Calligraphy, \$150

May 19, Lecture, \$25

May 20-21, Workshop on Flourishing – Basic to Advanced, \$250

Capital City Scribbers in Austin is hosting Resa Gettler for a workshop on Visigothic Versals May 13-14, \$150. Contact Gabi Glass ([gabriela.glass@gmail.com](mailto:gabriela.glass@gmail.com)) to register or for more information.

# *ArtReach Summer Exhibit*

*with participation by Kaligrafos and FWCG*

January 2017

Hello, Fort Worth Calligraphy Guild members. The ArtReach committee has completed its art exhibit schedule for 2017. The following is a portion of our exhibit schedule where you can see confirmed dates for hanging and taking the exhibit down; the concert/BBQ dinner/reception date and time. It has been a while since I have been in touch with you, but it has taken us a while to get confirmation from the various church entities.

TITLE of Exhibit: God and Country

DATES: June 29 through Thursday, August 17, 2017

HANG DATE: Thursday, June 28, 2017 from 9 AM until 11 AM

STRIKE DATE: Thursday, August 17, between the hours of 9 and 10:30 AM

The God and Country Concert is scheduled for the early evening of Sunday, July 2 at the church followed by a reception. The church Jazz Band will play and there will be time for some of us artists to speaker to those joining the BBQ dinner and all the trimmings!!!!

Anyone who would like to participate please let me know as soon as possible. I need your name, email address and a phone number, please. The deadline to register your art work is June 1. Please send me a high-resolution photo (.jpeg or .png) of your entry (2 each max, please) by email. I also want the name you want used on the title card for your entry, as well as the size of your piece (width first; then height) in inches (framed or not framed or gallery wrapped), the media in which the art work was created and the sales price of the piece.

An invitation to this art exhibit AND concert, BBQ dinner reception will be posted on Facebook and will be sent each of you to distribute as you see fit and to post on your website and/or other forms of social media.

In the meantime, have fun creating. I am looking forward to working with you again.

Twenty-five percent of sales benefit the ArtReach Visual Arts Foundation at Lovers Lane UMC and 75% goes to the artist whose art was purchased.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Darphin Mall  
214-794-9355  
mdmall7@sbcglobal.net

# Renew Your Membership in FWCG

It's time to renew your dues for FWCG's 2017-18 yea. Dues are \$25.00, payable April 1. Please pay your renewal and send your updated information to Membership Chairman Linda Jones. Use the form below or find it on our website under Membership Form.



## MEMBERSHIP SURVEY FORM

**PLEASE FILL-OUT  
COMPLETELY**

Please complete and send your \$25 tax deductible check payable to fwCG to:

Linda Jones  
Membership Chairman  
3913 Hillwood Way, Bedford, TX 76021-2528

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (Month & Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (s): Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please select any committee you can help our guild with to continue promoting, and preserving the lettering arts!

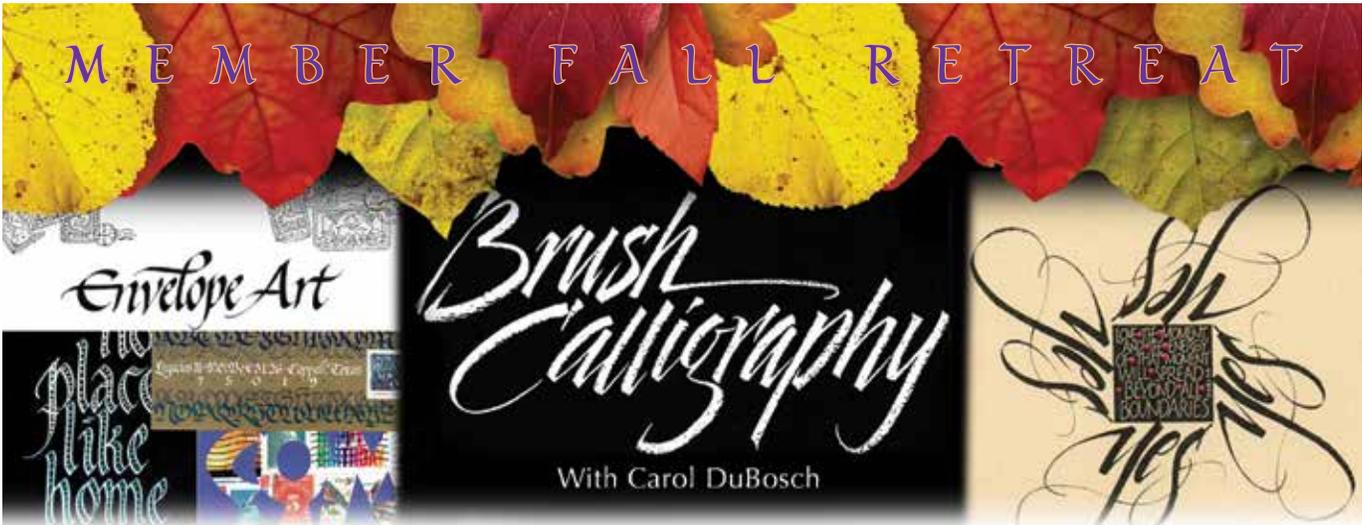
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archives/History | <input type="checkbox"/> Parliamentary Procedures                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibits         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality      | <input type="checkbox"/> Ways & Means                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library          | <input type="checkbox"/> Website                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership       | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter       | <input type="checkbox"/> SWCC - SouthWest Calligraphy Conference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____     |  |

What form of the calligraphic arts would you like to see in a:  
Program \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like to teach?  n/a \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Hosted by and for the Membership of the Fort Worth Calligraphers Guild

**OCT 27, 28 & 29, 2017**  
MD Resorts, Aurora, TX

Spend a 3-Day retreat weekend of fun and learning *Tricks of the Trade* with a day of *Envelope Art* and two days of *Brush Calligraphy* with [Carol DuBosch](#) - PLUS extra lettering activities after dinner.

**ENVELOPE ART – One Day**

We all love to see our name “in lights” and creatively addressing envelopes to friends and family is a great way to let them shine and know they are special. This workshop will give you dozens of clever and practical ways to use your calligraphy to make unique envelopes.

**Brush Calligraphy**

Learn to write a personal script using a pointed brush and discover the many new uses for this exciting calligraphic style.

**EVENT VENUE**

Give yourself the time relaxing and creating with a *fabulous creative instructor* and fellow lettering artists. MD Resorts is on a 37 acre ranch located in Aurora, TX, near the *Texas Motor Speedway* ready to serve you with true old-fashioned southern hospitality.



**TUITION & OVERNIGHT STAY**

Meals begin Friday Breakfast through Lunch on Sunday

<b>Commuter 3 Day</b> - (lunch & dinner)	\$345
<b>2 Night stay - (Fri &amp; Sat)</b>	
Double Occupancy	\$505
Single Occupancy	\$605
<b>3 Night stay - (Thurs, Fri &amp; Sat)</b>	
Double Occupancy	\$585
Single Occupancy	\$735

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT**

Mail\* a check *made payable to FWCG* for half the amount to hold your spot. Send to Angie Vangalis, Workshop Chairman PO Box 3126, Coppell, TX 75019.

\* **CREATIVE BONUS!** *Send your check in a handlettered, decorated envelope for a prize drawing.*

**BALANCE**

**Balance is due August 1, 2017.** After this date a refund will be provided if your spot's filled from a waiting list.

**MEMBERS ONLY RETREAT - TAKE OFF \$25 WHEN PAID IN FULL BY MARCH 1, 2017**

**Questions?** Contact Workshop Chairman, Angie Vangalis [angie@txlac.org](mailto:angie@txlac.org) • 214-957-1736



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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

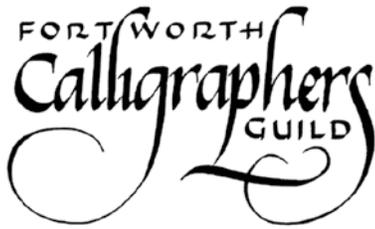
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Send your (50%) check or pay in full to hold your spot. Choice of lodging:

<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUTER 3 DAY		\$345
<input type="checkbox"/> DOUBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Night	\$505
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Night	\$585
<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Night	\$605
	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Night	\$735



P.O. Box 101732  
Fort Worth, TX 76185

CONTACT US

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[parliamentarian@fortworthcalligraphersguild.com](mailto:parliamentarian@fortworthcalligraphersguild.com)

*Guild Meeting*  
*Thursday, April 20, 2017*

**NOTE: DATE CHANGE**

***In May we will return to the 2nd Thursday of the month for our meeting.***

**Meeting Location:**

Bedford Public Library  
2424 Forest Ridge Drive  
Bedford, TX 76021

BUSINESS MEETING — 6:30

PROGRAM following Business Meeting — 7:00 ish

— UNICIALS —

We will continue our series on “History of Calligraphy Around the World” with a program on uncial. Deanna Fava will present the program and asks that you bring:

- Favorite marker or Parallel Pen - No dip pens Please!
- Favorite pad of paper or good quality inkjet or laser copy paper.
- Ruler or small T-square for lining paper.
- Pencil

