

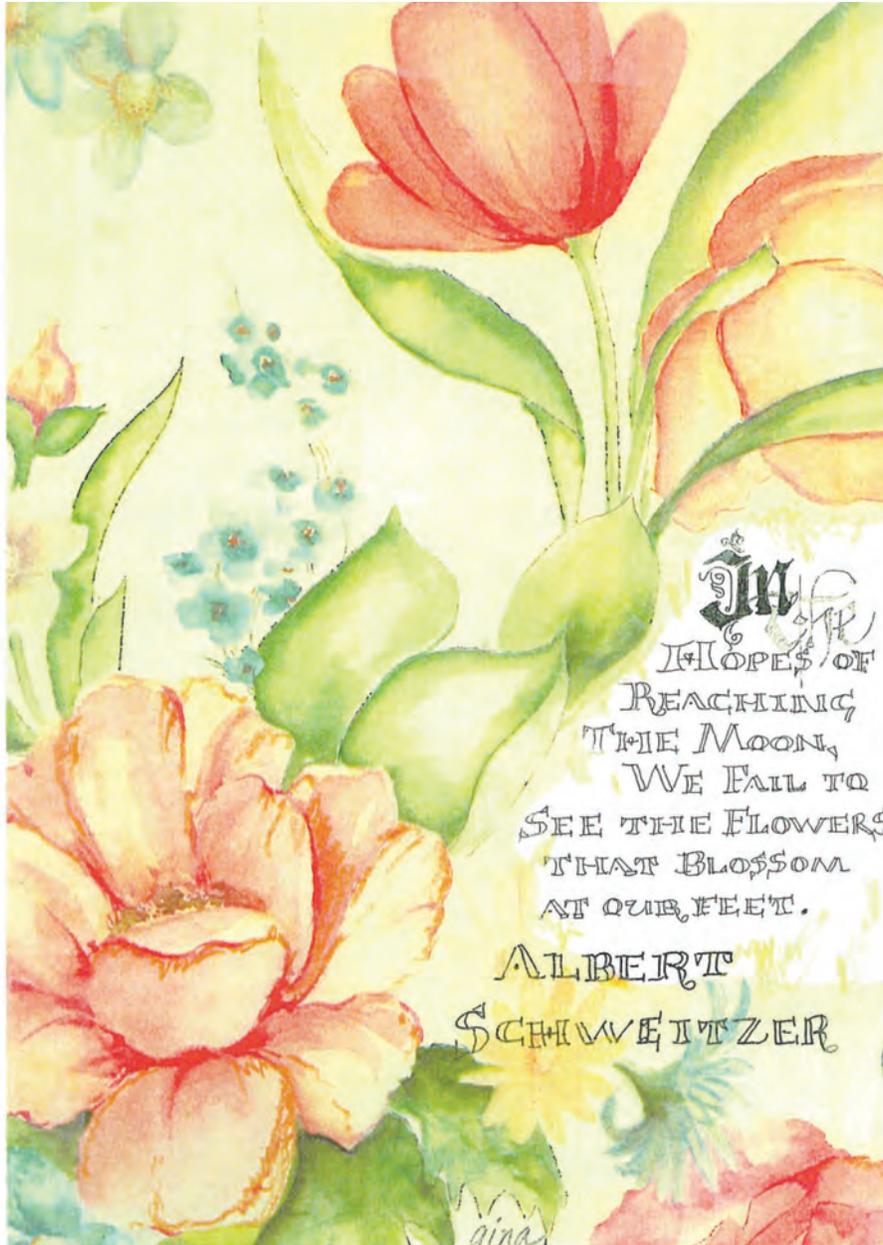
The
Scribes
Scribblers

Inklings

THE FORT WORTH CALLIGRAPHERS GUILD

SEP-OCT 2020

Issue One of Four



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COVER ART by Gina Tanner

Gina used Dr. Martin dyes for the flowers. Lettering was done with a Slicci pen, pencil, and Pilot Parallel Pen using Jerry Tressor's ink.



Inklings is published by the Fort Worth Calligraphers Guild four times during its meeting year, September through May. Issues will be released during the months of **September, November, February and April**. The in-between months will be email blast communications. E-Blast will likely occur the Monday prior to set meeting dates.

To submit an article, please email text to 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. We try our best to give our members accurate and current information.

Hello lovers of letters;

Unfortunately, Bedford Public Library is not able to host us until maybe Spring 2021. Accordingly, we will be meeting online starting **Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 2 pm**. However, through the hard work of our Vice President, Angie Vangalis, some intriguing and delightful programs for our meetings have been arranged.

During this time please think of others and send encouragement. Use your calligraphy skills to give them a handsome note that will uplift their spirits. Or take a walk in the early morning and smell some flowers. Albert Schweitzer said it best in this short quote.

"In the hopes of reaching the moon, We fail to see the flowers that blossom at our feet."

Stay well and look forward to see all of you in September.



AUGUST

- 18..... Cindy Haller
- 21..... Linda Langley

SEPTEMBER

- 9..... Francis Stoppiello
- 21..... Nan Kirby
- 30..... Lynette Broyles

OCTOBER

- 4..... Belinda Anderson
- 22..... Cynthia Bottrell
- 29..... Laura A. Sinnott

NOVEMBER

- 4..... Mary Jane Ott
- 8..... Linda Jones

Virtual Meetings for Fall 2020

Note: Phones and tablets require the Zoom Cloud Meetings app. You can get the app here: https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

A meeting link will be sent to our members the day before and about an hour prior to the meeting on Sunday.

The meeting space will open at 1:30PM where you can check in to make sure your zoom connection is working and get to visit with our fellow members.

Zoom updates their software on Thursdays.

Please make sure you update your software prior to our Sunday meeting to avoid complications during the meeting. Get the updated software here:

https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

See pages 3 and 4 for SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER program notes.



FOLDED PEN ADVENTURES

A Book Review by Mary DeChellis with the author's blessing.

Folded Pen Adventures by Carol DuBosch has been my favorite book this summer. If you're looking for new ideas or inspiration, this little 32-page book is packed full of them. I know you're thinking, "What? only 32 pages?" Don't let the small size fool you; there's no "fluff" and every sentence counts. In fact, it seems to me that there's at least a 3-day workshop between its covers. The following topics are covered:

THE BASICS

- How the Folded Pen Works
- Script Basics: Making Marks
- A Miniscule Alphabet
- A Majuscule Alphabet
- Numbers and Punctuation
- Writing Words

SCRIPT VARIATIONS

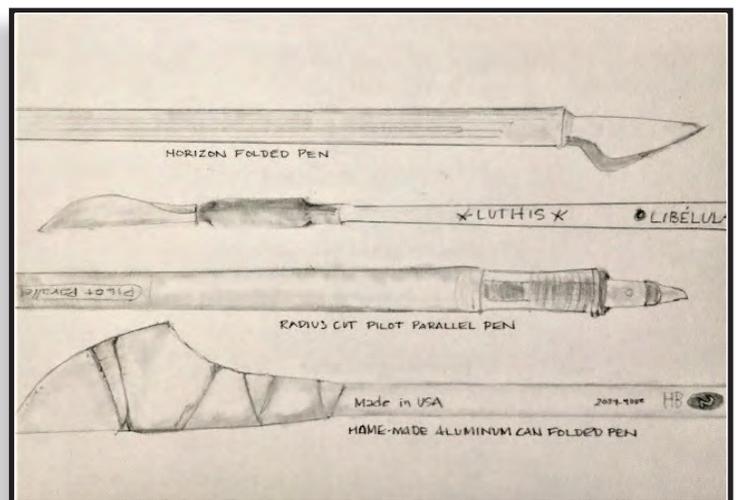
- Spitting Strokes
- Flourishing
- Variations on the Line
- Variation: Koch's Neuland
- Variation: Ben Shahn
- Variation: Script Handwriting
- Variations on One Quote

AWESOME TECHNIQUES

- Bleach Techniques
- Winsor & Newton Color Blending
- Color Drop Blending
- Black and White Blending
- Acrylic Gloss Medium
- Walnut Ink Color Blending
- Making a Folded Pen
- The Artist's Tools

The book starts with an explanation on how the folded pen works followed by some basic mark making for a folded pen script. Next there's a miniscule exemplar, a majuscule exemplar, followed by numbers, punctuation, and practice tips on writing words. From the basics, we move to pen techniques, such as spitting and flourishing, to variations such as Koch's Neuland and Ben Shahn "Gothic."

Then it's time to play, and Carol leads the reader through a variety of color techniques such as writing with bleach, color mixing with Winsor & Newton Dark Blue and Yellow Ochre Inks, and color-drop blending with a variety of other inks. There's a great spread on how to make a folded pen followed by a look at some of Carol's tools. And finally, there are TONS of examples, literally from inside cover to outside cover, each with a caption describing the process or how a particular effect was achieved. More than enough to keep anyone busy and inspired during a COVID-19 summer.



Some examples of folded pens

I have my own copy and have purchased one for the FWCG. If you would like to borrow the guild copy, please email me at mary.dechellis@yahoo.com to arrange a pick-up. To preview some of the pages or purchase your own copy, go to John Neal Books where it's currently listed at the bargain price of \$15.99.

FWCG MINUTES: APRIL 5, 2020

The General Membership meeting of FWCG convened at 2:00PM, **Sunday, April 5, 2020** using Zoom video conferencing. Meeting called to order by President Gina Tanner. There were 240 attendees from multiple calligraphy guilds.

Gina thanked Angie Vangalis for coordinating the change to a virtual format due to COVID-19 shutdown of our usual venue and stay at home recommendations.

The nominating committee headed by Deanna Fava has proposed a slate of officers for the 2020-2021 year:

Gina Tanner – President
Angie Vangalis – Vice President
Cayetano Olivarez – Treasurer
Nancy Teigen – Secretary

Voting will be held in May using a survey monkey.

Judy Johannesen, workshop chair, reported that all upcoming workshops have been canceled, however the Dan Mooney workshop in October 23-25 on Triple Gilding is still on at this time. Angie reported that Legacies III, International Lettering Arts Conference scheduled for July 3-10, 2021 is currently in limbo.

There was no further business. Angie introduced the speaker Tamer Ghoneim who presented a program on techniques for lettering in the round.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Teigen, FWCG secretary

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM Live, online meeting via Zoom

Join us as we kick off the new calligraphic year. President Gina Tanner will lead a short business meeting and then Vice President Angie Vangalis will facilitate and introduce the program.

2PM
Sunday,
September 13,
2020

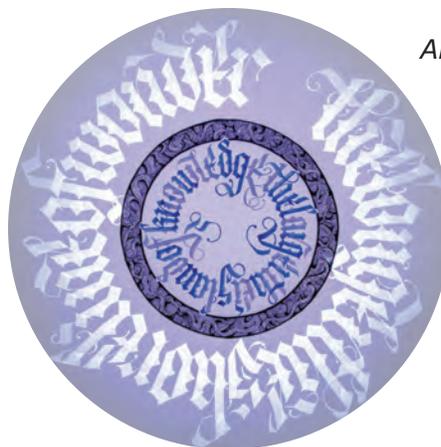
GHOLLISH gothic WITH TAMER GHONEIM

Learn the essential tips and techniques that you'll need to begin making beautiful blackletter masterpieces with invisible ink!

Tamer will walk you through the tools, materials, and steps to start practicing this incredibly fun and versatile style, and will answer your questions live. With Halloween, just around the corner, you'll have the information, motivation, and inspiration to begin creating your own ghoulish works of art!

SUPPLIES

- Pilot Parallel Pen (3.8mm) with your favorite cartridge color.
- Strathmore Calligraphy paper or Gilbert Bond, or Marker paper or HP 32 Premium Laser paper.
- Ruler.
- Pencil.
- Pigma Micron pen Black .01 size.
- Guide sheets (link for handouts will arrive in another email).



About Tamer, a Houston calligrapher, photographer and entrepreneur:

He's extremely passionate about everything creative and just as passionate about helping others tap into their creative potential. He is the Director at Energy Risk Consulting. In addition to teaching, he also freelances.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

Live, online meeting via Zoom

After a short business meeting, Vice President Angie Vangalis will facilitate and introduce the October program.

Sunday October 11, 2020 at 2:00PM

Live, online meeting via Zoom

CAPTIVATING CADEL CAPITALS *with* VIVIAN MUNGALL

Learn the basics of various Cadel patterns and styles to develop your own capitals.



SUPPLIES

- Pilot Parallel Pen (3.8mm) with a cartridge. *Note: Vivian uses Ziller Soot ink, in a cartridge. She dilutes the ink with about 3 parts ink to 1 part water) so it flows through the pen nicely.*

- HP Premium 32 Laser paper or your choice of paper to see guidelines through.

Optional materials to have on hand:

- FineTec gold gouache or Ziller Aspen Gold ink for filigree.

- Watercolor or gouache for adding colored filigree.

- Pointed pen for the fine line filigree around a letter.

About Vivian:

Vivian specializes in broad pen lettering, copperplate and illumination. She has been recognized as an IAMPETH Master Penman (in 2002). She has been President of IAMPETH and hosted the annual convention in Orlando in 2010. She is Vice President, Web Master and teacher for her local guild, Scribes of Central Florida.

She and her husband Richard became partners in the Ziller ink company in 1986.



FWCG MINUTES: MAY 10, 2020

The General Membership meeting of FWCG convened at 2:00PM on **Sunday, May 10, 2020** (Zoom video conferencing). Meeting called to order by Vice President Angie Vangalis. (Due to technical difficulties President Gina Tanner was unable to preside.)

Cayetano Olivarez, treasurer had e-mailed the treasurer's report to the board earlier in the week. We have a current book and bank balance of \$11,045.61. He thanked the 32 people who made donations of a total of \$153 for the April meeting. The fiscal year will end May 31, 2020 so an audit committee will be named to audit the treasurer's books.

Linda Jones, membership chair noted that dues for 2020-2021 are \$25 and due by July 1, 2020. So far 14 members have already paid. Please send dues to Linda Jones as soon as possible so that the directory can be completed by September.

Nancy Teigen read the minutes from the April meeting. Angie requested a correction in the number of attendees – should be 240 people. The minutes were approved with this correction.

Officer elections for next year were completed using Survey Monkey. Thirty people voted and the proposed slate of officers was unanimously chosen: Gina Tanner – President; Angie Vangalis – Vice President; Cayetano Olivarez – Treasurer; Nancy Teigen – Secretary

The 2021 calendar theme was also voted on via Survey Monkey. The winning theme was "Nature." Several people voiced commitments and requested specific months. Deadline for entries is the September meeting (Sept. 13, 2020). Entries can be mailed or scanned to either Sharon Schmidt or Nancy Teigen.

Angie Vangalis reported that the planning for Legacies III is moving ahead slowly. The deadline for proposals has been extended. Angie also asked for ideas for programs for the FWCG programs for next year.

Workshop Chair Judy Johannesen reported that any updates for the October workshop will be posted on the *continued, Page 6*

continued from Page 5 (May 10, 2020 Minutes)

FWCG website and also sent out in an e-blast by Linda Jones.

Linda Jones reported that she needs more donated calligraphy birthday cards in order to keep sending to all members for their birthdays. There was discussion on possible ways to handle this. Members are encouraged to make and send cards to Linda for now. A possible summer play date may also be used for card making.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:35PM. The program was presented by Jeri Wright on using a triangle brush to paint flowers and leaves.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Teigen, FWCG secretary

Even though we may be meeting in person by January, we can still show our programs in Zoom format. So I've decided to schedule the entire year with Zoom programs, just in case.

Programs Preview for the 2020-2021 Season

13 SEP - Fraktur & Invisible ink with Tamer Ghoneim [zoom]

11 OCT - Cadels with Vivian Mungall [zoom]

8 NOV - Calendar Reveal - 12 artist's viewpoints of Nature - Members [zoom]

13 DEC - Holiday Gift Card holder - Folded Paper Project - Sharon Schmidt [zoom]

10 JAN - Journaling - "Organize Your Year On a Positive Note" with Janet Takahashi [zoom]

14 FEB - Valentine Exchange - (Members send to other members) if Social is not possible.

14 MAR - Celtic Knotwork - Suzi Ickles [zoom]

11 APR - Dancing Versals - Cindy Haller [zoom]

9 MAY - Election - Art Nouveau, Art Deco Lettering Styles - Cayetano Olivarez in-person only

Adjustments to the schedule may be made along the way. Please watch for future e-blast emails and newsletters for latest details, supply lists etc.

Angela Vangalis
Vice President
2019-2021

Workshop Notes

All major workshops are on hold for the fall months. Judy Johannesen will be working on rescheduling the ones we had worked out. If mini-workshops or classes can be worked out online we will let you know via email.

Calendar Art Due

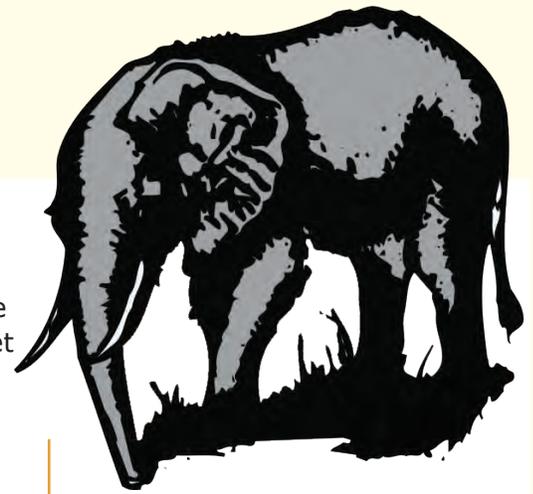
Handlettered nature-themed art is due this Sunday. Please send scans (300 to 600dpi) to Nancy Teigen. Remember to include details of inks, paper, and hand and/or how you chose the quote. Scanning help needed? Snail mail to Sharon Schmidt. That artwork will be returned to you once the layout is finished.

Artists will be featured in our November Zoom meeting in the "Calendar Reveal" program.

THE CREATIVE PROCESS

(Or How to Eat an Elephant — Part 1)

Second Edition by Sharon Schmidt



My friend and musical director Megan reminded me of a joke I'd heard as a child.

"How DO you eat an elephant?" she addressed the group of singers as we were about to read through a monumental piece for the first time.

"One bite at a time."

So we proceeded to break it down in phrases and chipped away at it for most of an hour. By the end of that session we had, well, eaten the first course.

Over the summer I decided to revisit the subject of "the creative process" as it applies to calligraphy.

This subject is very large and somewhat mystical. My thoughts were:

- Where does creativity come from?
- Do I even have a process?
- Do I need one?
- If I don't have one, how can I develop it?

What started out as a method to break out of inertia or artists 'block' led me to discover that the creative process is somewhat like that elephant. It's HUGE! It cannot be explained. It can very nearly debilitate you if you get too near it and don't know what you're doing. The following is my attempt at spooning through and understanding and "digesting" this huge subject.

I encountered several artists while on my vacation. These are not professional artists but are more like you or me. They have families; they have jobs; they have responsibilities. But like us, they have a strong desire to explore,



develop, and express their creativity.

I'd been thinking of writing a series of articles on the creative process so I thought I would get some 'interviews' in with these folks while I was with them.

To my surprise, when I asked, **"How do you work? What is your creative process?"** several said, **"I don't know.** They said I don't think I have a process. Let me know what you come up with!" *

Those responses make me want, all the more, to explore the concept. I too feel very creative at times but do not always produce the art that is in my mind. Or else, sadly, the times I attempt to produce the idea, I find it isn't really as good on paper as it was in my head.

A fellow named Mattias Konradsson states in an on-line article that the left half of the brain--being logical--sometimes "thwarts" the creative thinking of the right half.

In order to overcome this, he says, "Basically we want to involve our right brain and numb the left one as much as possible. This is brainstorming..."

If you're creating art, just doodle. If you're writing, just scribble."

Every music student yearns to skip the practice of 'scales' and get to the real meat of the song because it is the tune that brings the satisfaction. But every teacher of music will tell you it is in the scales that technique and agility are learned and perfected.

In the movie, "Finding Forrester" actor Sean Connery's character, William Forrester, in instructing a student on becoming

a writer. He says **"Don't think. The first draft is from the heart. The rewrite is from the head. Sometimes just [the act of] writing can fuel the rhythm. When you feel your own words come, then you're writing."**

Konradsson says, "After a while, nice ideas will start to surface." After significant brainstorming, he says to step back and let things settle in your mind. **"Sleep is excellent for this. While you dream, your subconscious will go through information it has assembled, sorting, chewing it over. Similarly...when you think it's perfect, release it.** And after a couple of days you find all sorts of horrid mistakes. So take a break, relax, and let the brain do its thing."

From this advice, I glean **two important starting points** when it comes to calligraphy as a discipline and art in general: **One. JUST DO IT.** Put pen or brush to paper or canvas. You don't have to have a specific plan at first. That will take shape after the brainstorming.

Two. SLEEP ON IT. Let the brain spheres duke it out while you rest. The creativity has begun.

**Only one person I talked to had a description of a process and she learned it at work in teambuilding exercises. But her process involved brainstorming, which does tie into what I have researched and described above.*

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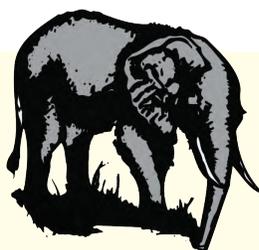
EDITOR'S CORNER

I hope you had a relaxed yet (calligraphically) productive summer break, making you refreshed from all the forced stay-home policies. I certainly made the best of it and I hope you did too.

Special thanks to Mary DeChellis for her article and to fellow board members for content and proofing.

We'll SEE you soon on Zoom.

—Sharon Schmidt



The Creative Process

Konradsson quote *continued from Page 7*

"During sleep, the **logic center** of the brain will work out the structure and details. Once you're awake, some details will have solidified and you can revise with logic and still maintain the original creative premise you first pursued." Your lettering can be the same way:

A time of concentrated study of letter forms and ways to use them will give you a wealth of ideas to draw from.

Then as you **DO** (or DOODLE with) your letterforms, your creativity will lead you into the expressive arena. And by then, you'll have the tools to produce on paper or media what you need to express.

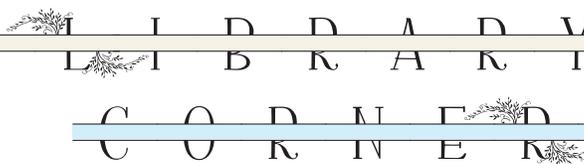
There. That's the first teaspoon full of the elephant.

— Sharon Schmidt

P.S. Being somewhat of a writer, I didn't change much of the first draft structure or grammar. But what sleep did was bring to my mind the other examples to include.

To apply this concept, how the creative process worked for me in the writing of this article is from the years I studied it in school, absorbed it and made it my own. **The polish is from the logic center** (what remains in my left brain sphere—for years I have said that my left brain had atrophied, so it is fun to recognize there's still a little left). *In other words, it took me 30 years and 2 hours to write this piece (and another hour to revise it for print in 2020).*

Look for Part 2 in the next issue of **Inklings**, scheduled for November 2020.



Bet you wished you'd had one of our terrific library books to peruse during the summer break! The temporary check-out system during Covid restrictions are the same procedure of requesting a book (go to www.librarything.com. On the home page, under "Already a member?" enter FWCG in the "name" field; the case-sensitive password is **Letters26**.)

Then contact Mary by e-mail mary.dechellis@yahoo.com to let her know which book(s) you want to check out. Arrangements can be made for you to pick up the book(s) and if no one else had requested it, an extended return date could be arranged.