



**2022 Valentine
Social & Card
Exchange**
Copeland House
at Lover's Lane
United Methodist
Church

President's Letter



"We Ink 'em Up!"

Presidential Seal by Janell Wimberly

Dear Members,

Here we are in February again. Let's all hope we don't have any near repeat of the awful weather we had last year! We will be celebrating Valentine's Day with our annual Valentine Social and Raffle at our meeting February 12th this year at the Lovers Lane UMC's Copeland House. If you haven't RSVP'd yet, and you are planning on attending the social, please go to the valentine-rsvp@kaligrafos.com email address and send a note with the names of the person(s) attending so a pre-lettered name tag will be waiting for you. Margaret has planned a whole list of goodies that members will be bringing for our refreshment table. And don't forget to bring some cash to buy Raffle tickets at the

Valentine Social! Brenda has some lovely items up for the raffle and you won't want to miss them. **GET THOSE HAND CALLIGRAPHED VALENTINE'S READY FOR THE EXCHANGE!** Can't wait to see them all.

Rick Garlington is heading up the Nominating Committee this year with sights on a new President and Secretary. If you have interest, please let him know. Prior service on the board is helpful for understanding the responsibilities that will be required. Also, if you have interest in any of the other board committees, we are always looking for new people and ideas for the coming year, come see me.

Kaligrafos and the Fort Worth Calligraphy Guild are working together and planning a two-day workshop in October (10/22 & 10/23). The workshop will be held at the Stacy Furniture Store in Grapevine and the subject will be the Uncial alphabet with Celtic borders as an added feature. Holly Monroe, from Oregon, will be our instructor for the weekend. We are very excited to announce this and will continue with more details later. But mark your calendar! It's sure to be a full class.

March brings our final session of our mini workshop series, Mini Masterpieces. We will be finalizing some pieces that will be suitable for framing.

If any of you have been taking online classes and have samples to share, please bring them to the March meeting and share with everyone. It's always nice to see what others have been learning. And there are so many classes out there that we should surely have some samples to show.

Don't forget your ATC's! We will be sharing the February and March cards at the March meeting. So, you get a little reprieve on February's.

THANKS to Trish Manche and Monica Winters who will be creating and mailing the Kaligrafos Birthday cards for next year! We appreciate this special service to the guild members as this is always a heartfelt envelope to receive in our mailboxes.

Sincerely,

Jeri Wright

Board Members

Executive Board

Jeri Wright, President
Monica Winters, Vice President
June Baty, Treasurer
Betty Barna, Secretary

Chairpersons

Sherry Barber, Web/Communications
Margaret Mall, Exhibits
Brenda Burns, Fund Raising
Eric Doerr, Membership
Rick Garlington/Trish Manche,
Newsletter

Special Meeting Location

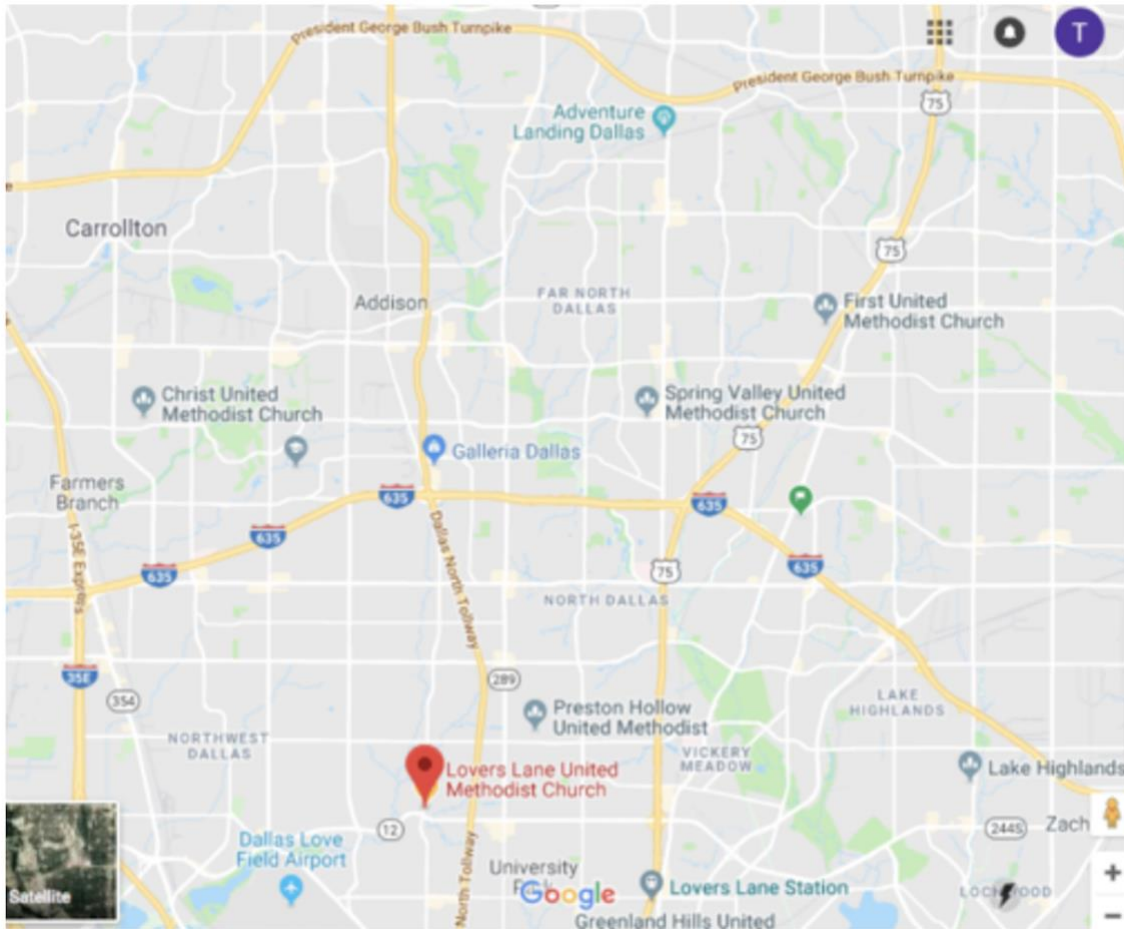
Copeland House

at Lover's Lane United Methodist Church

9200 Inwood Road, Dallas, TX 75220

Northeast Rear Corner of the Parking lot.

Event held from 10:00am to 12:00pm



When you arrive, proceed up the stairs/ramp and into the house.

- Food and Raffle items will be to your left.
- Raffle tickets may be purchased.

Card Display in the room to your right.

- Take your card to the front of the room and sign up with a number.
- See the volunteer at the table for instructions.
- If you would like your piece displayed on a stand, please bring one with you.

Don't forget to RSVP to valentine-RSVP@Kaligrafos.com with your name, number of attendees, and the name of your guest.

Betty Barna and The Button Alphabet

By Monica Winters

Back in September I received an envelope with my name written in a funky, chunky and colorful style as part of an envelope exchange. I had been scratching my head and searching the internet and Pinterest to see just how it was done, what is the name of the script, etc. Now I know: it is a playful and colorful version of the Button Alphabet, albeit hand-drawn and colored. And how exciting it is to have our talented Betty Barna get us started on this Button Alphabet exploration.

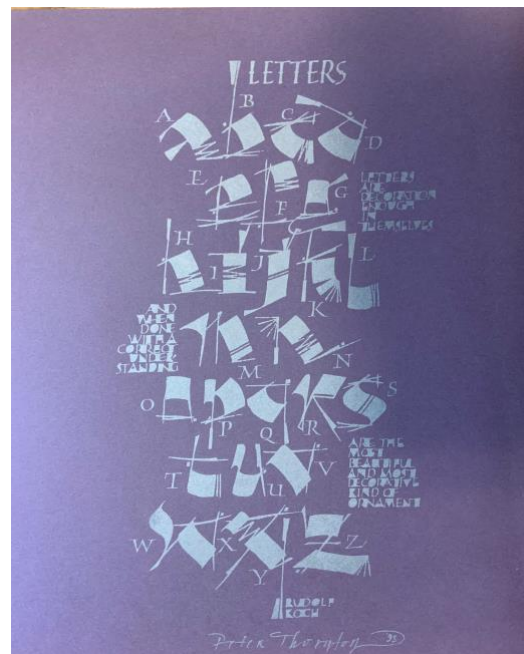
“Button” is actually a misnomer for this alphabet. The appellation comes from its function to depict names on buttons, not because it looks like a button. Originally designed by British-born calligrapher Peter Thornton, it was later taught and popularized by Louis Lemoyne; we learned Betty’s version in this program. The beauty of this alphabet script is that it is versatile, fluid, lively and – best of all- fun. Cool and funky, it is best used sparingly because it can be difficult to read, especially on envelopes destined for our “challenged” postal service.

The easiest way to begin is with a 6.0 Parallel Pen – or any broad flat-edged writing implement. Betty likes to use a Copic Marker (a large flat maker – hard to find) with alcohol ink. She recommended we begin with the Parallel pen because of its availability (all calligraphers should own a whole set!) and this pen allows easily for manipulation, which is crucial in the formation of these letters. It’s sharp, flat edge, along with its ability to deliver ink and to write with the corner of the nib, make it perfect for writing Button-style. She emphasized the versatility of the 6.0 mm nib because to write this alphabet with a smaller nib would be to lose the chunky character of this script.

Betty provided us with a lower-case exemplar to begin our practice journey (by the way, if interested, upper case exemplars are readily available with an internet/Pinterest search. Better yet, develop your own!). She additionally provided lined paper along with some Neenah Vellum paper for writing on, which is translucent enough for the lines to show through, very useful for practicing.

She emphasized that the pen must be absolutely perpendicular to the surface of the paper, which makes it easier to manipulate and to accomplish the necessary strokes.

Betty deftly demonstrated and discussed each letter in turn, and showed how each letter lends itself to variations. She then challenged us to do a series of the same letter, incorporating subtle changes to achieve the character of each letter, as she demonstrated on her exemplar with the letter “g.”



For variations, use an exceptionally broad mark-making tool to write the word or words, then use this prototype to trace and color in for a lively and colorful version as opposed to the bold, solidly colored one.

Betty concluded her presentation with a quote from Edward Rutherford that urges us to keep practicing in spite of our bloopers because making practice marks allows our marks to become what we want them to be:



In calligraphy and painting, which are almost the same thing, both the yin and the yang must be present. You know this. But you do not practice it. You think too much. You impose. This is the yang. You must let go, not

try to form your thought. Forget yourself. Allow the negative, the yin, to enter. Contemplate in silence and then, with much practice, without your seeking any form at all, your hand will unconsciously become the thought.

Now I know how my envelope-exchange

calligrapher accomplished my envelope! With more practice, I too can develop my own version of the Button Alphabet and send some fun and funky envelopes.



Creativity Warm-Ups: Do you have 15 minutes a day?

By Beverly Stewart

Practice makes perfect. This statement applies to athletes and musicians, but does it have anything to do with artists? Participating in artistic endeavors is not usually going to result in injury if you don't warm up ahead of time, but instead, you might waste a lot of time, paper, and ink doing things that are not productive. I would say that you don't even have to strive for perfection on your first attempt at art for the day. What artists DO need is a bridge between the daily demands of their lives—escaping the tyranny of the screen, the laundry, the traffic, the stress of job and dealing with people—and that other space that our mind occupies—that space that some have called “right brained madness”. The creative place our minds go to play—and sometimes solve real-life problems.

Perhaps we have something specific we should be working on and can't seem to get into it. We claim to have “creative block” or have “lost our mojo” or “have no inspiration”. When my studio loses its appeal and at crazy moments I may think my artistic endeavors are over for good—might as well sell my stuff... (Is this artistic suicide?) Usually it means I just can't think of anything I want to make right now. In reality, each of us would be better artists if we came to the studio table every day and did a little something. Creativity warm-ups are a way to overcome these artistic “famines”.

One time I read that you can become an expert in anything by spending 15 minutes per day on it. Fifteen minutes per day? Wow! As I have gotten older, I am often surprised by things that others consider me to be an “expert” in. Usually, it is something I have been interested in and spent little bits of time on consistently throughout my life. Artist Trading Card albums would be one example from my life. I usually only make one ATC per week as I participate in the Technique Lover's Challenge over at Splitcoaststampers.com. So HOW in the world did I come to have 900 cards in three fat albums? One card at a time. Learning one new thing every week. Not only do I have 900 unique ATC cards, but I have also learned many techniques to use in my paper-crafting. That's about 17 years of consistently doing one activity per week. And sometimes it's all the time I have to craft for the week.

Here are a few principles to lead you to effective creative warm-ups:

Keep your workspace cleared off and ready for action—don't let things pile up. This is a physical block that keeps you separated from your creativity. There are days that I find my mojo—at the bottom of the pile of stuff that was blocking me from stamping. Clean workspace?! Ready to go!

Sometimes my stamping sessions begin on Pinterest. By browsing through someone else's work, I am inspired. I don't mindlessly browse letting Pinterest make all the suggestions. I search—usually for a stamp set by name. You might start with the name of a technique or a calligraphic hand or the name of an artist you follow. Online inspiration leads me down my own roads, but Pinterest is the “jump-start” that I needed to get my creativity motor started.

Warning: Sometimes screen time is a detour from your creativity—don't let the computer or phone steal the time you could use to express your artistic passion. Know when to turn it off!

The more I stamp, the more I stamp. Substitute your own passion for “stamping”—probably calligraphy, but it could be something else. Do something simple to start—blend some colors, try out that new tool, or just doodle with no purpose in mind to begin with. Just mess around with your supplies. Remember why you bought them. Play!

Make your warm-ups quick. Limit them to 15 minutes. When time is up, move on to something more challenging or do something else for the day. You don't have to accomplish anything, but you might surprise yourself. Often, the warm-up has done its job and I have already moved on to something else by the time 15 minutes is up.

Tune in next month for more Creative Warm Up Tips.

Kaligrafos Virtual Exhibit:
Tree Whispers

Now available for FREE viewing online at:

[Tree Whispers on Vimeo](#)

Kaligrafos Mini Workshops 2021-22

Miniature Masterpiece Series

This year's mini workshops are designed as a three-part series. Each class builds upon the next as your creative instincts bloom. This Miniature Masterpiece series will be held after the October, January and March meetings. When members sign up for all 3 classes, they receive the final class at no charge. So, make sure you sign up BEFORE the October meeting day to be included at this special price and on the list for your workshop packet. Sign up early (one-time payment of \$50.00) for all 3 classes to make the best of this member opportunity. Using the Paypal option on the website is quick and easy and will ensure you are signed up early. Don't rely on the USPS to get your check in on time, either pay via the website or contact our treasurer June Baty to get signed up. Easiest: just click here: [Workshops » Kaligrafos](#)

The first class will begin with preparing our paper for a step-by-step process of creating layered pieces of personal artwork in miniature form. You will be layering watercolor washes, bits of collage elements (postage stamps, torn pages from books, ticket stubs, etc.) as well as gestural lines, transferred images, gold foil, etc. A fun and lively monoline lettering style will be introduced to enhance your miniature art. Your creations will be miniature pieces of work that will convey personal meanings, emotions, abstract images, whatever you can imagine.

These tiny masterpieces can be used in various ways: added to journals, stand-alone artwork, can be used in a book, added to personalize cards for friends and family, and so many other ways. The class is a non-threatening building process to trust your instincts of color, design and layering techniques which will result in some lovely Miniature Masterpieces that will give you so many hours of creative options.



Kaligrafos ATCs

(Artist Trading Cards) 2021-2022

Month	Word	Color or Suggestion
September	Stamp	Multi color – rubber or mail type
October	Autumn	Red/orange/yellow/brown - leaves
November	Thankful	Autumn colors – horn of plenty
December	Holly	Green/Red - berries
January	Winter	White/Ice blue - snowflakes
February	Friends	Violet/Green -
March	March	Blue/New Green – budding trees etc
April	Diamond	Black – the shape of a diamond
May	Flower(s)	Bright colors – all spring flowers

Images do not have to be part of your layout of the wording and of course you can choose whatever color you want – these are just suggestions!

We will exchange February and March cards at the March Meeting!!!