



The
2021 Annual Report

of the **Chicago**
Calligraphy
COLLECTIVE

cal·lig·ra·phy (kə-lig'rə-fē) *n.*
1. The art of beautiful writing.
[French *calligraphie*, from Greek
kalligraphia : CALLI- + -GRAPHY.]

The
2021 Annual Report
of the



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“ Calligraphy has always existed in that place of tension between what the letterform desires: to be completely principled, and what the hand desires: infinite freedom of gesture.”

~Steven Skaggs

Our Mission

The Chicago Calligraphy Collective is organized for the charitable and educational purposes of promoting the study, practice, and appreciation of calligraphy—the art of beautiful writing—in all its historical and present-day applications. By offering educational opportunities, the Collective enhances public awareness and interest in the calligraphic lettering arts.

Board of Officers and Directors 2021–2022

PresidentKaren Brooks
Vice PresidentBarbara Dorr
TreasurerPatricia Kutz
Corresponding Secretary.....Lisa Kivland
Recording SecretaryMary Zabrin
Ad Hoc Director.....Debbie Gallas
Exhibits DirectorJulie Wildman/Bob Zuranski
Membership DirectorAmy Neubauer
Special Events DirectorPamela Rodey
Workshops Director.....Karen Ness

President's Message

The Chicago Calligraphy Collective celebrated its 45th Anniversary in 2021. This occasion was marked by a Zoom Panel Meeting in October for all members. Early Founding Members of the CCC attended and shared stories and memorabilia of the first meetings and early activities. The CCC is fortunate that they continue to participate and mentor new members.

The membership in the CCC has increased over the past year. The membership was at 315 members at the end of 2021. While most members live in the general area, we also have 27 different states represented and international members from 14 countries. Using a Zoom platform for most meetings, workshops and study groups made it possible for members to participate without living in the area.

This year the CCC created a Scholarship Grant program for qualified members. The Scholarship Grant program is designed to provide financial support for furthering the knowledge of calligraphy and its related arts. A Scholarship Grant committee of four Board members was established to study policies from other calligraphy guilds and outside sources. The committee then wrote the guidelines for our Scholarship Grant program. The Scholarship Grant program was posted on the CCC website in the fall and members applied. Three jurors were appointed to select one recipient to be named in January, 2022. The CCC Board is hoping this program will continue to grow as an outreach program to help members expand their skills.

A new program—CCC Presents!—was initiated. Three evening Zoom meetings in May, August and November were held for the membership and interested guests. Each meeting had a guest speaker with a topic of interest to calligraphers. The meetings were well attended and allowed the membership and guests to gather in spirit, although not in person due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The CCC continues to hold monthly workshops, study groups and the Day for Beginners workshops through Zoom. These programs are important to help our mem-



Founding and early members of the CCC are shown in this pic from the CCC's 20th anniversary party in 1996. Some of these members were present at our October meeting and reminisced about the CCC's early days. Left to right, standing: June Malin, Rosie Kelly, Mike Kecseg, Peggy Eisen, unknown male, Ann Currie, Jim Chin, Robert Borja, Art Banach, Irene St. John, Nicole Hollander, Rick Jablonski, Kathy Mandell, Ellen Mott-Jablonski, and Muriel Underwood. Left to right, kneeling or seated: John Weber, April O'Connor, Peter Fraterdeus, Reggie Ezell, David Hayes, Mark McIntyre, Moira Collins and Tom Greensfelder. *Photo courtesy of Tom Greensfelder.*

bers in their calligraphic studies and mentoring of each other. Zoom has allowed members to stay connected through fellowship and continue to grow.

The CCC was able to participate in two in-person outreach events before the Covid pandemic shut things back down. The Artist Book House held a program in Evanston this fall. Eight CCC members attended and made hand-lettered bookmarks for attendees. The Irish American Heritage Center hosted their Christmas Bazaar on December 5th. Six CCC members attended this event and created hand-lettered bookmarks for attendees.

The Board of Directors for the Chicago Calligraphy Collective and extra support staff are President, Karen Brooks; Vice President, Barbara Dorr; Treasurer, Patricia Kutz; Recording Secretary, Mary Zabrin; Corresponding Secretary, Lisa Kivland; Membership, Amy Neubauer; Workshops, Karen Ness; Special Events, Pamela Rodey; Ad Hoc, Debbie Gallas; Exhibits, Bob Zuranski; Newsletter, Julie Wildman; Webmaster, Christine Shaw; and Proofreader, Linda Hancock.

The CCC Board of Directors meets monthly via Zoom. The *Newsletter* and *Nib Notes* are published bi-monthly to keep members up to date and informed of activities.

Karen Brooks
President 🍷

The State of the Chicago Calligraphy Collective

This Annual Report is more than a documentation of the year's accomplishments and activities of the Chicago Calligraphy Collective. It is intended to reflect and celebrate the organization's creative spirit and values, as well as its service to its mission to inspire, challenge and instruct its membership and interested public through workshops, exhibitions and programs. It is fundamentally about its identity, about how the organization defines itself and strives to impact the calligraphic community. It is an enduring commitment to build on its extraordinary legacy and a framework for sustaining great traditions while engaging in new adventures.

Vice President's Report | Barbara Dorr

On April 7, 2021 the Chicago Calligraphy Collective Board voted to establish a Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant in the amount of \$500 to honor the memory of CCC members who contributed unselfishly and graciously to the collective with their art and calligraphic talents. It was decided that the first Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant would be awarded to honor Rosie Kelly. A letter was written to Rosie's family informing them of the Board's decision to award the inaugural Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant in remembrance of Rosie.

It was further decided the CCC Vice President would serve as Tribute Fund Scholarship Committee Chairman and the formation of the Scholarship Grant would take place under the guidance of the office of the Vice President. Board members Patricia Kutz and Lisa Kivland volunteered to serve on the committee with Barbara Dorr, Vice President as Chairman, and Karen Brooks, President as Advisor. These four people were designated as the Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant Executive Committee. The four committee members set a meeting time via Zoom on April 20th to begin the process of creating the Scholarship Grant guidelines and, thereafter, met once a month as follows: May 26, June 30, July 28, August 18, September 8, October 20, November 17 and December 15.

The first item on the agenda for the committee was to establish a timeline, shown at right.

After reviewing information graciously shared from other guilds, the committee was tasked with the goal of creating a similar program for the CCC. The Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant documents are listed below:

1. Call for Entries

(Notification sent to the membership on Sept. 24, 2021.)

Timeline for Scholarship Grant

Apr 1	Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant Executive Committee appointed by CCC Board of Directors
Oct 1	Call for Entries
Oct 1	Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant publicized in CCC <i>Newsletter/Nib Notes</i> , website and social media
Oct 1	Scholarship grant applications available on the CCC website
Oct–Mid-Dec	Applicants complete and submit online scholarship grant applications and images to CCC
Dec 1	Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant Selection Committee appointed by Scholarship Grant Executive Committee
Dec 1	Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant publicized in CCC <i>Newsletter/Nib Notes</i> , website and social media
Dec 15	Last day applications are accepted
Mid-Dec–Jan 21	Scholarship Grant Selection Committee meets and selects recipient
Jan 21–31	Final approval of scholarship grant recipient by the Scholarship Grant Executive Committee
Jan 31	Applicants notified by mail or email about the Scholarship Grant Selection Committee's decision
Before Feb 28	Final documents must be received from scholarship grant recipient
Mar–Dec	Funds sent to the host of program designated by scholarship grant recipient

2. Application Packet

(Posted on CCC Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant web page.)

- Scholarship Overview
- Submission Directions for Application and Images
- Application Form
- Certification Statement
- Promotional Release
- Check List

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Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant

- Policies and Procedures
- Selection Committee Appointment, Guidelines and Judging Process

An appointed Selection Committee will review the applications using a blind selection process prior to choosing the recipient. Three Jurors were chosen and a letter was written to the Jurors after they accepted the position explaining they would be receiving a packet to help guide them through the process.

The **Selection Committee Packet** included:

- Scholarship Overview
- Selection Committee Appointment, Guidelines and Judging Process
- Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Statement
- General Guidelines for Reviewing Scholarship Grant Applications

After the Jurors have the opportunity to individually review the applications, a meeting will take place with all Jurors present to select the recipient and an alternate. Tentatively, the meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2022.

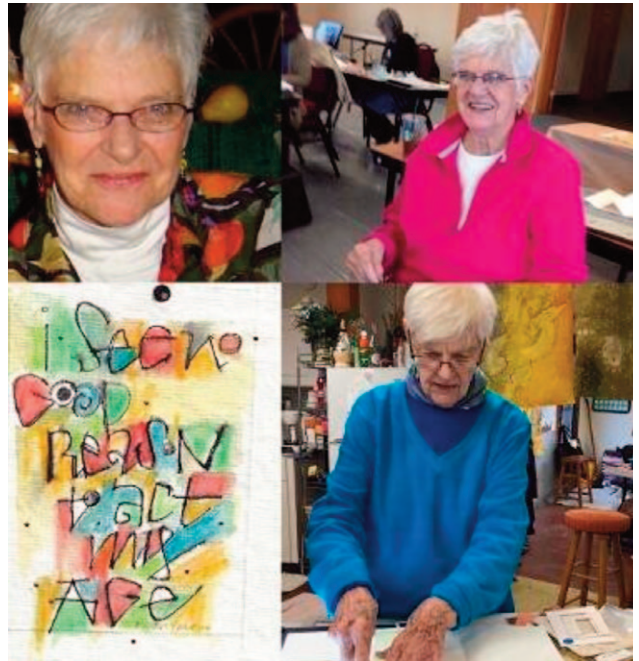
The following drafts of correspondence were also approved for use once the selection process is complete:

Scholarship Grant Recipient

- Notification Letter
- Scholarship Grant Contract of Agreement
- Notification Letter for Program Host

Non-Selected Applicants

- Notification Letter 



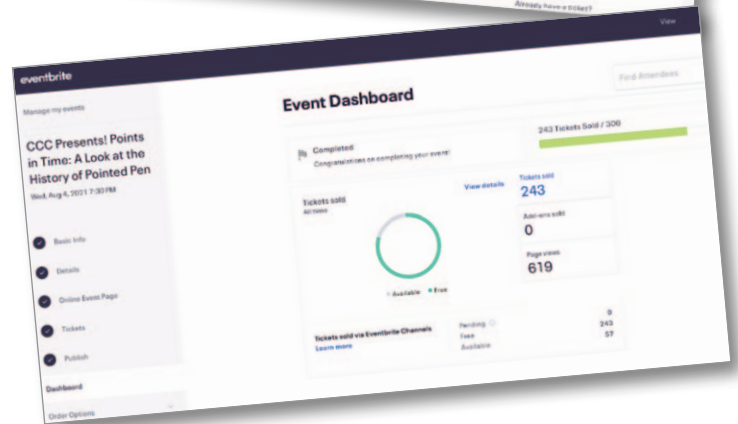
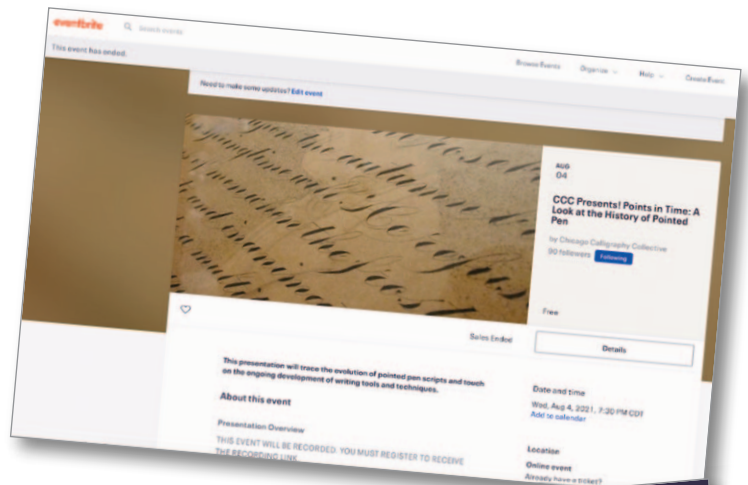
The 2021 Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant is in honor of our dear friend and colleague, Rosie Kelly.

Corresponding Secretary | Lisa Kivland

As the Corresponding Secretary for the past two years, my goal has been to streamline and automate the processes by which we communicate with our members. Last year the use of MailChimp was initiated and this year it continues to be the most effective, free online tool in which to publish our bi-monthly e-newsletter, *Nib Notes*. Throughout the year this publication has reached all members successfully, with a consistently average rate of at least 70% opens and clicks to embedded web links.

With the advent of the CCC's online lecture series, *CCC Presents!*, a tool was needed to allow online registration and audience communication. The online event platform, Eventbrite, was chosen because of the ease of registration for CCC members and the general public. It also integrates with our already established Zoom and MailChimp accounts seamlessly and securely. Automated email reminders programmed by Eventbrite significantly reduce the amount of time that would have previously been needed to accomplish this task. Since our first event, and its inevitable minor technical glitches, our members and guests have become accustomed to this new technology for *CCC Presents!* and I envision its use for other CCC programming, such as Annual Member Meetings, as well.

The Social Media Team continues to strive to engage the calligraphic community and our CCC members via Facebook and Instagram. As of December 31, 2021, our Facebook page has 3,015 followers, while Instagram has 2,200 followers. The list of our Team's goals include the following: feature upcoming CCC events, feature members' works and accomplishments, as well as share pertinent news and events from the global calligraphy community. While the Social Media Team is hard-working, maintaining a steady volume of posts and social media engagement is a time-consuming task, one which I believe merits its own Board position with this responsibility as its sole focus.



The online event platform, Eventbrite, was chosen because of the ease of registration for CCC members and the general public.

The CCC receives a number of emails on a monthly basis from members and those who visit our website. A good number of requests are for in-person beginning calligraphy and basic lettering instruction. Due to the continued Covid-19 pandemic, establishing these types of events at the Irish American Heritage Center was unsuccessful. Hopefully next year, with more restrictions lifted, we may be able to gather a group of instructors willing to share their time and talents for this very important effort in our goal of calligraphy outreach and education. 🦋

Exhibits | Bob Zuranski

Julie Wildman and I have largely completed my transition into the Exhibits position, which began in the fall of 2021. I started the process of hunting for a new venue for the All Members' Show in November, by which time I had moved into the Exhibits Director position. Julie has been very supportive during the transition.

Our virtual All Members' Show was well received. I got numerous emails about how beautiful the show was. The show was held virtually on our website due to Covid-19 concerns. Virtual is not all bad.

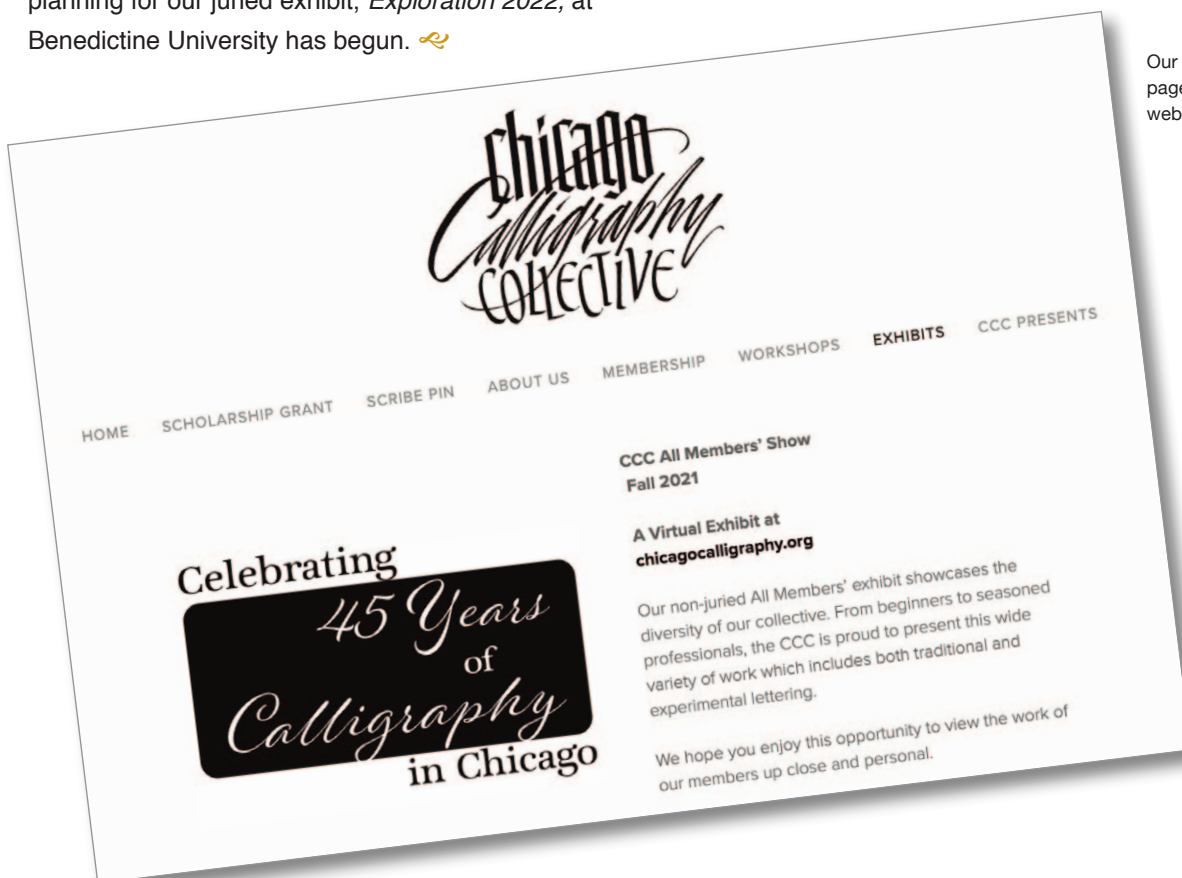
There were 34 artists represented with 73 pieces in the show. The show may be viewed on our website at www.chicagocalligraphy.org/all-members-show-2021

In planning for the next All Members' Show, I intend to search for alternative venues to the Austin-Irving Library in Chicago.

As indicated in my December 2021 report to the Board, planning for our juried exhibit, *Exploration 2022*, at Benedictine University has begun. 🌸



These are how the images appear in our All Members' Show gallery on our website. Viewers just need to click on each image to see the full piece.



Our All Members' Show page on the CCC website

Membership | Amy Neubauer

With the continued Covid-19 pandemic in our nation and world, our CCC membership stayed steady with the previous members of 2020, but increased with new membership by 27% (see graph below.) Since residing in my sophomore year in the Membership Director position, our total membership as of December 31, 2021 was 315 including six affiliate members and eight honorary members. The CCC added 65 new members throughout the 2021 year. We welcomed 20 new members from our Get-A-Member-Get-A-Gift Program with a Blick Art \$5 ecard sent out for member referrals. Unfortunately, 18 CCC members did not renew their membership this year, eight from our tri-state area, eight from the United States and two from countries abroad. And sadly, our longtime member, Beverly Inman, passed away this year.

Thirty-six members have paid for a CCC Business listing. By the end of the year, 21 members had subscribed to the hard copy newsletter sent to their homes.

A majority of the membership—171 members—reside mostly in Illinois and Indiana. We have 117 U.S. members across 27 states with Michigan representing the most at 15 members. For our international members, we have 27 from Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, Poland, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Russia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, with Canada representing the most at nine members. With virtual workshops for the majority

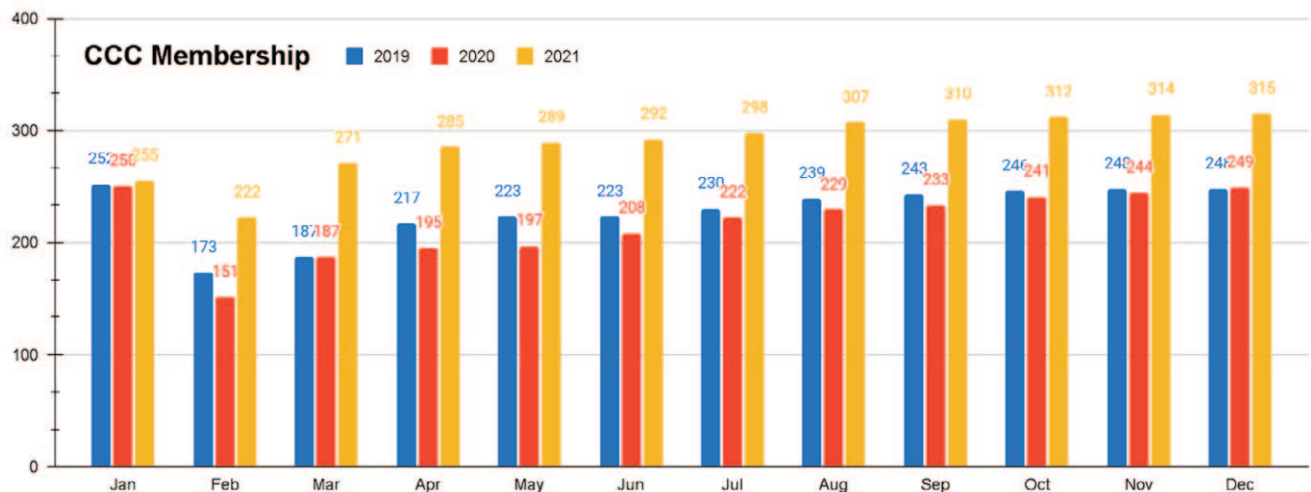
of 2021, we did see many more new members from around the U.S. and world added to our CCC member family. Due to the new Covid-19 variants emerging in 2021, we will continue to host virtual meetings, local guild meetings and workshops via the Zoom platform.

Annual membership rates were reduced by a rate of 50%. 2021 saw the largest increase in membership turnover than the last few years. For March annual renewals, email reminders were sent out the second week of February 2021. Lastly, paper reminders were sent on March 15, 2021 to 29 non-responders.

The CCC Covid-19 Membership Relief Fund was set up to help with financial hardship for those unable to renew their memberships. Members donated to this fund for a total of \$1151.15. Based on need, current CCC members had their 2020 dues and business listings paid for from the Relief Fund.

Due to a reduced rate of 50% membership fees for the Covid-19 pandemic, the CCC Board decided to forgo a 2021 membership gift.

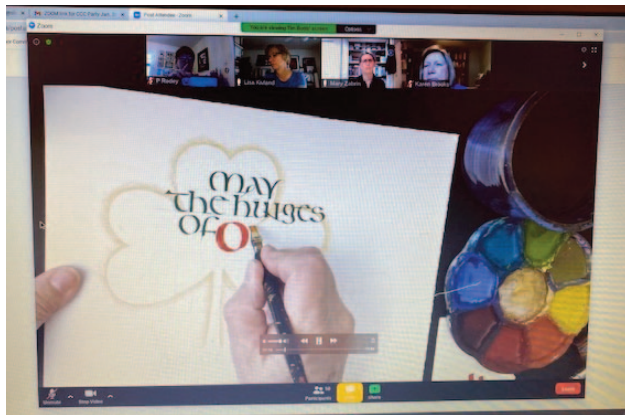
As new members join or existing members update their contact information, the member database continues to be updated, business listing information is submitted to the webmaster, and information is published in the Newsletter. A password protected Member Directory is also maintained on the CCC website. Lastly, the hard-copy of membership files is backed up to our website monthly. 🌸



Special Events | Pamela Rodey

Although we all suffered in the isolation of the pandemic, the CCC was able to continue to connect members through creative Zoom meetings, the addition of our new *CCC Presents!* lectures and an all-member *Letters Mingle Souls Weathergram Project* displayed on the Newberry Library fences celebrating our 45th year as a guild. As we continued to gain members from all over the world, we had record attendance via Zoom.

The pandemic didn't stop the CCC from celebrating via Zoom at our annual Twelfth Night Meeting on January 3rd. Since we weren't receiving gifts during the Grab Bag exchange, Tim Botts gifted us all with a demo on his use of color. The lucky raffle winner, Karen Worst, received the Irish Blessing piece we watched Tim create. We even played games: Christine Shaw's inspired Speed Writing and Patricia Kutz's B-I-N-K-O. Raffle prizes were awarded via the Wheel of Names app.



Tim Botts creates an Irish Blessing piece at our Twelfth Night Meeting—held via Zoom—on January 3rd.

Our Annual Membership Meeting on March 13th featured Gina Jonas's hands-on demonstration from her book, *Calligraphy as Art and Meditation*. The calming effect of her exercises continues to be important for us all. We again awarded many special raffle prizes including our new Scribe pin. After many years serving as Exhibits Director and then President, Mary Zabrin stepped down—and into Recording Secretary! We watched a video of Mary receiving a special certificate—created by Linda Hancock—and awarded to her in a surprise visit by our



Gina Jonas demonstrates a technique from her book *Calligraphy as Art and Meditation* at our Annual Membership Meeting on March 13th.

President, Karen Brooks, and Vice President, Barbara Dorr. We voted via an app thanks to our tech guru, Lisa Kivland. Debbie Gallas joined the board as Ad Hoc Director.

Our first *CCC Presents!* on May 19th featured Carl Rohrs giving an extensive tour through the 25th Anniversary Speedball book which he co-edited. Carl discussed the pieces and the jury process creating the book as many of us followed along with our books at home.



In June, CCC members hung weathergrams on the fence outside the Newberry Library. Passersby were encouraged to take one for themselves and one for a friend.

In June, our members flooded Pamela Rodey's mailbox with an amazing variety of Weathergrams that were tied onto the Newberry Library fences on June 21st. Julie Wildman created a logo for the signage which asked the public to take one or two to hang outside their homes. The 130-plus Weathergrams—with their

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CCC contact info sticker—were gone in a week. We were happy to learn it brought new member, Maydi Diaz, to the CCC.

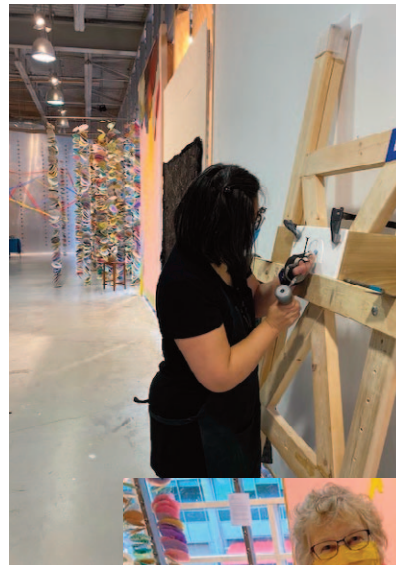
Our second *CCC Presents!* on August 4th featured our own Lindsey Hook speaking on the history of Pointed Pen writing, her grandfather's work and his influence on her career.

Our Fall Meeting on October 3rd continued our 45th Anniversary Celebration in grand style with a panel of nine Founding Feathers who told stories and shared an array of posters and work from the beginning and early years of the guild. Our talented moderator, Karen Ness, guided the panel discussion as they answered a variety of questions submitted by the Board. Bob Williams, the senior founding member, shared details of how people formed and grew the guild before “technology.” The favorite story, shared by Reggie Ezell, was of a person trying to steal a calligraphic piece from an exhibit who begged, when caught, to “just look at it one more time.” What power our art has to touch people's lives.

On November 10th we offered another exciting *CCC Presents!* by Mike Gold titled, “Failing to Succeed.” The examples of his work at various stages of success and failure and his words encouraging us to be kind to ourselves were timely as we continue to often work in isolation.

Two more bookmark-making events rounded out our year. On November 14th at an event for the Artist Book House in Evanston, Pam Paulsrud's *Treewhispers* project was displayed; Pam played her Native American flutes; Alicia Marquez carved “JOY” on marble; and nine CCC members wrote names on bookmarks in a variety of styles for very happy adults and children. On December 5th, six CCC members created bookmarks at the Irish American Heritage Center's Christmas Bazaar.

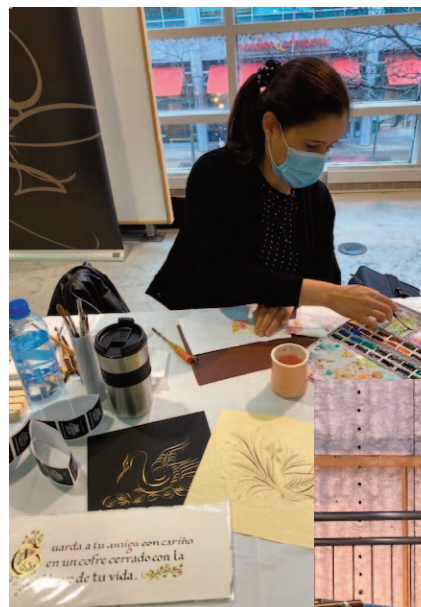
We hope to return to in-person events soon, but this year has proven that the CCC is stronger than ever at 45 years old. 🌸



In November, CCC members participated in an event for the Artists Book House in Evanston.

At left: Alicia Márquez carved the word “JOY” in marble. The *Treewhispers* exhibit can be seen in the background.

Below: Kathy Mandell beautifully lettered bookmarks for patrons.



At left: Andrea Reno demonstrated various techniques.

Below: Pam Paulsrud played her Native American flute.

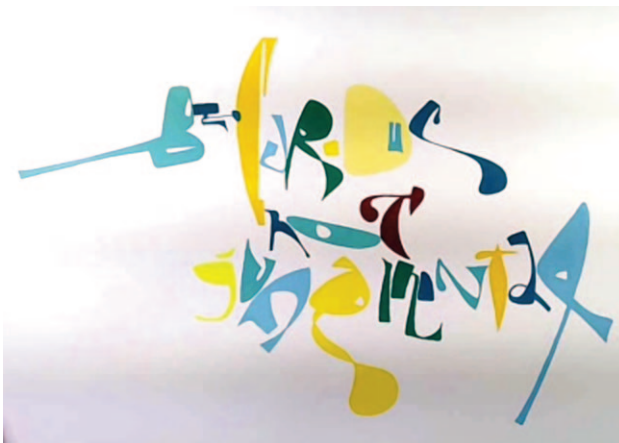


Workshops | Karen Ness

2021 opened in the midst of an explosion of online study opportunities offered from instructors' studios all over the globe. Our members eagerly became part of this international community of calligraphers, recognizing each other by face and smiles in the ever-growing grids of Zoom participants. The CCC encouraged our members in learning with these demo-style lecture hall classes, while at the same time setting ourselves apart in approach.

Our online weekend and three-day workshops continue to be limited to 20 participants. While we all enjoy front row seats at the instructors' tables, our students' desktops and work surfaces are visible. As instructors work with individual students, everyone is welcome to look up and follow along or continue working—our Zoom version of walking over to watch and listen as a teacher moves about the room or staying on task at our own tables. This has been affectionately dubbed, and sometimes emulated by other communities, as Chicago Style!

The CCC workshop year opened in January with Brody Neuenschwander's *Wrong Letters*. The three days of study registered our first of what would become many CCC international Zoom workshop students. February, with Suzanne Cunningham's pointed pen lessons, increased our numbers by three U.S. and even more international students. Several also became CCC members.



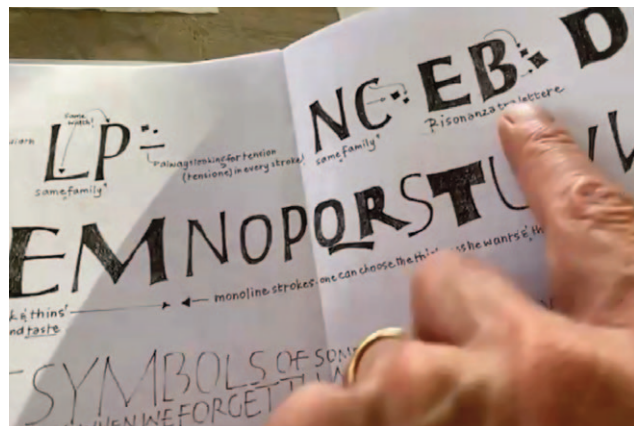
Alicia Márquez's work from Brody Neuenschwander's *Wrong Letters* workshop in January.



Elmo van Slingerland demonstrates a ruling pen technique in his April workshop.

We played with Roman Capital Variations with Massimo Polello in March and engaged with a variety of Ruling Pens with Elmo van Slingerland in April. Elmo's workshop sold out so quickly and the wait list was so long, that he graciously made an encore appearance for a full repeat workshop in June. These workshops added Canadians, Australians and an Argentinian to our numbers.

In May we took out our broad-edged brushes to study *Flame Script* with Loredana Zega, and in June grabbed our pencils to study for three days with Jurgen Vercaemst. Both of these workshops made records by registering seven CCC Board members each!



Jurgen Vercaemst points to one of his pencil letters in his June workshop.

August welcomed another handful of international students as we studied for three days *From Black to Ashes* with Claudio Gil, and September added four to *Further Pointed Pen Variations* with Mike Kecseg. Marina Soria's *Empty Space* workshop in November

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Mike Kecseg demonstrates one of his pointed pen alphabets in his September workshop.

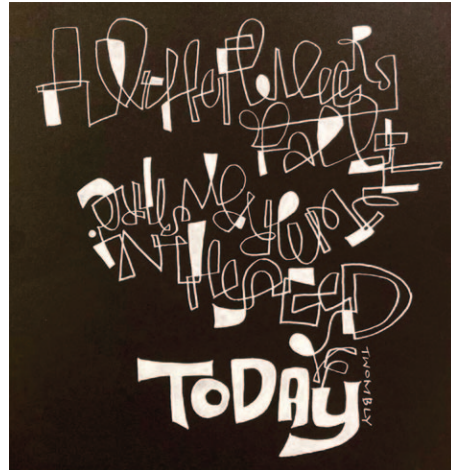
included three international students, and Mike Gold's three-day *Hand Drawn* workshop in November added one. Several of these students are now CCC members.

We took advantage of Zoom to continue adding yet more wonderful study opportunities to our already normally packed workshop year. In January, our own pastry chef and calligrapher, Andrea Alvarez Reno, presented *Lettering on Cookies*. This morning workshop event, with its 42 registrants, included a pre-class video on preparing our cookies and icing. Andrea then provided live demonstrations in decorating and lettering in various techniques on our delicious surfaces.



Design exercise created by CCC member Kristen Hermanny in the 2.5-hour afternoon Day for Beginner's class—*Color Techniques for Calligraphers*—in November.

We also moved forward with two more Days for Beginners—Part Three and Part Four! In March, Mary Zabin continued from 2020 with Caps, and Pam Sussman taught a new binding. In November, Linda Hancock taught *Demystifying Design*, and Julie Wildman presented *Color Techniques for Calligraphers*. Four international students participated in these CCC-member taught days.



CCC member Shizuka Toyama's work (above) and Mary Zabin's work (at left) from Mike Gold's *Hand Drawn* workshop in November.

As we close one workshop year and open another, working with every tool at easy grasp, albeit from our individual studios, we continue to maintain our schedule of study while adding exciting and fun learning opportunities. It is with our membership and craft in mind that we strive to uphold the CCC's strong tradition of learning, professionalism, growth and creative play.

To our 2021 CCC workshop instructors and students, I offer boundless gratitude for your generous sharing and enthusiastic participation. In addition to Workshop Committee members Lisa Kivland, Kathy Mandell and Mary Zabin, my personal thanks go to our president, Karen Brooks, and to the entire CCC Board of Directors.

I am honored to be a part of this dedicated team! 🙏

Tribute Fund | Patricia Kutz

The Tribute Fund was established as a distinctive way to acknowledge calligraphers and/or teachers who have inspired us, recognize supporters of our art and memorialize members and friends of the Collective who have supported our purpose. Income is normally generated through Calligra-Flea Markets and raffles at the member meetings and bookmark sales at events. Although the CCC did participate at the 2021 IAHC Christmas Bazaar, the tips collected from creating bookmarks were donated to the IAHC. Due to Covid-19 and the cancellation of our in-person meetings, most of the income to the fund was limited to donations.

The CCC graciously accepted a Tribute Fund donation from the Rosemary T. Kelly Trust to be used to reflect Rosie's life and promote her passions to future generations of calligraphers and bookmakers. Rosie's niece, Mary Rosenquist, presented the check on behalf of the beneficiaries of the Trust and wrote, "With much love and gratitude to an organization that meant so much and provided so much to our Aunt Rosie."



Sales of CCC member Rosie Kelly's *Artplay* book generated income for our Tribute Fund.

Tribute Fund income included a donation of proceeds from the sale of Rosie's *Artplay* books at Legacies III, the 39th International Lettering Arts Conference held in July. Also, seventy-five percent of the proceeds from



Proceeds from the sales of Scribe pins at IAMPETH were also used for our Tribute Fund.

the sale of our Scribe pins, the majority of which were purchased at IAMPETH in August, was deposited into the Tribute Fund.

During the year, monies from the Tribute Fund were disbursed for a presenter stipend to Gina Jonas for her interactive demonstration of tranquil exercises from her book, *Calligraphy as Art and Meditation*, at our virtual Annual Membership Meeting in March. Additionally, *CCC Presents!* honorariums were given to Carl Rohrs in May, Lindsey Hook in August and Mike Gold in November.

In 2021, the Chicago Calligraphy Collective established the Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant to pay tribute to our past and inspire our future. Through this scholarship grant we will celebrate the lives and talents of esteemed members of our guild and honor their giving spirits. This scholarship grant—providing financial support for furthering knowledge of calligraphy and its related arts—reflects upon the mission statement of the CCC. Anyone from a beginner to seasoned calligrapher may be the recipient of the scholarship grant.

The inaugural Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant honors the legacy of our departed friend and gifted artist, Rosie Kelly, and the recipient of the \$500 scholarship grant

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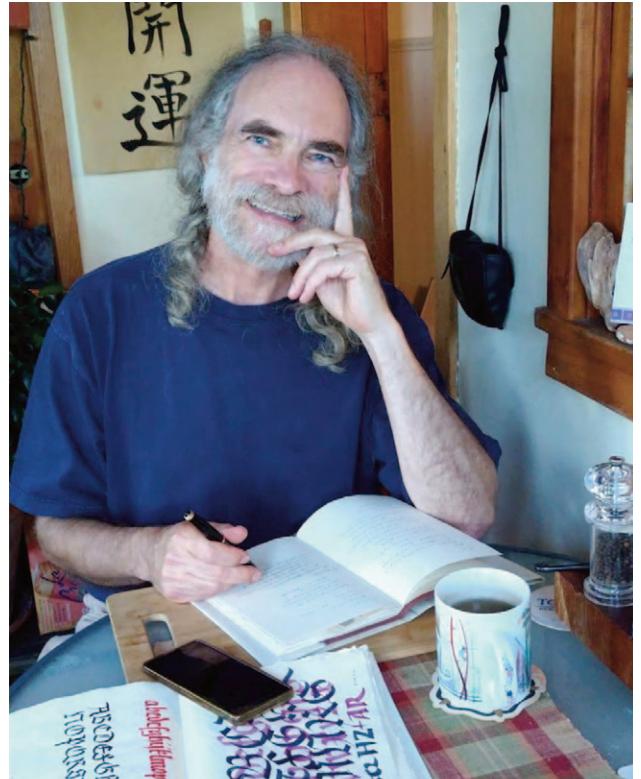
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will be announced in January 2022. A donation of \$1,000 from the CCC Operating Account funded this initial scholarship grant; in subsequent years \$500 will be contributed. An anonymous donation in memory of CCC founding member, Peter Fraterdeus, also supplemented the scholarship grant fund.

At their October 2021 meeting the Board approved the motion, “When a CCC member in good standing passes, the Board of Directors will make a benevolence contribution of \$25 to the Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant in the member’s memory.” At that time a donation was made in remembrance of longtime CCC member, Beverly Inman, who enjoyed taking CCC workshops and creating art as a respite from globetrotting.

The Chicago Calligraphy Collective’s Inklings Grant Program, subsidized by the Tribute Fund, utilizes specially earmarked funds to promote calligraphy in our communities through educational programs. Those interested must submit a proposal to the Board of Directors outlining the details of the undertaking, including a project description and budget. Upon Board approval of the proposed outreach project, funds are disbursed to help defray the cost of materials and related expenses. Unfortunately, in 2021, no applications were submitted. This could be attributed to the Covid pandemic since most of these outreach events are held at libraries and in schools which were not open to in-person meetings.

The value of the Tribute Fund/Scholarship Grant on December 31, 2021 was \$11,741.20. This represents a net profit of \$6,603.36. 🍀



Donations in memory of CCC members Peter Fraterdeus (top) and Beverly Inman (bottom) were made to the Tribute Fund.

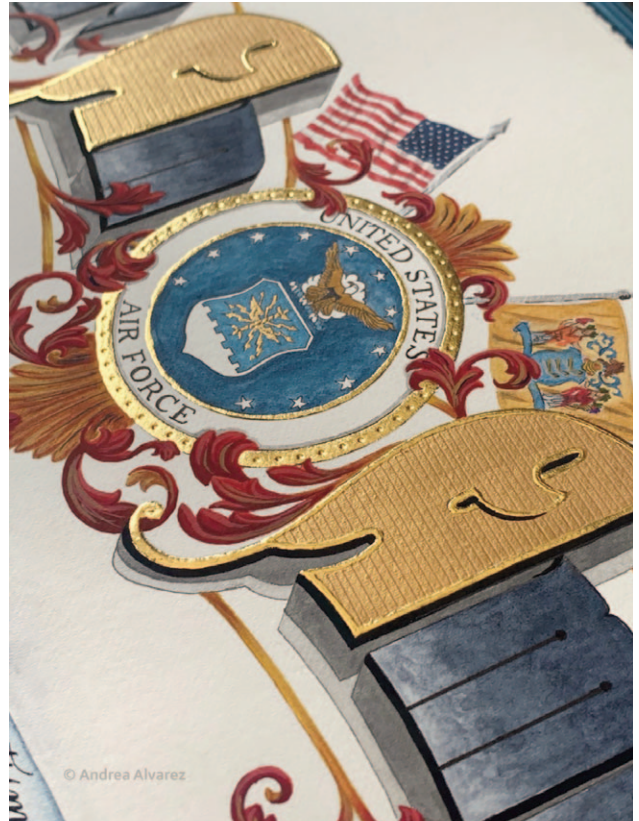
Treasurer's Report | Patricia Kutz

As evidenced in the pages of this Annual Report, the CCC Board of Directors, support staff and members have demonstrated remarkable resolve to persevere through the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the uncertainties we faced during the year—and still do—the optimism and determination of the CCC community never wavered. We are taking meaningful steps to further strengthen our guild as a diverse and inclusive community.

For fiscal year 2021, the excess of revenue over expenses including the Tribute Fund was \$13,422.30 and assets totaled \$128,400.35. The Collective remains vision-focused, mindful of transparency and has met the standards for charity accountability.

2021 was an unusually challenging year as the Covid-19 pandemic continued to disrupt our lives, and the CCC was not spared. The many hurdles turned into opportunities to develop new ways to augment the value that the CCC offers our members. During the past year the CCC has achieved milestones parallel in magnitude with any achieved during our 45-year history. As a mission-driven organization, the CCC must measure our success by metrics beyond financial indicators; it is also critical to measure success in achieving our mission. It is with great pride and excitement the CCC can proclaim financial success in 2021 as well as significant expansion of our mission.

Our Annual Report shows how the CCC has been resolute in our determination to support our members, future members and the wider calligraphic community through these trying times, demonstrating flexibility and intentionality. The CCC Board of Directors launched and implemented new creative opportunities by staying close to our core values of innovation and inclusion. The leadership team remained committed to working hard to fulfill the mission of the CCC and to bolster its value proposition for all members and future members by adapting our 2021 strategic focus in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Tough decisions needed to be made. How do we make plans realizing in the same breath we



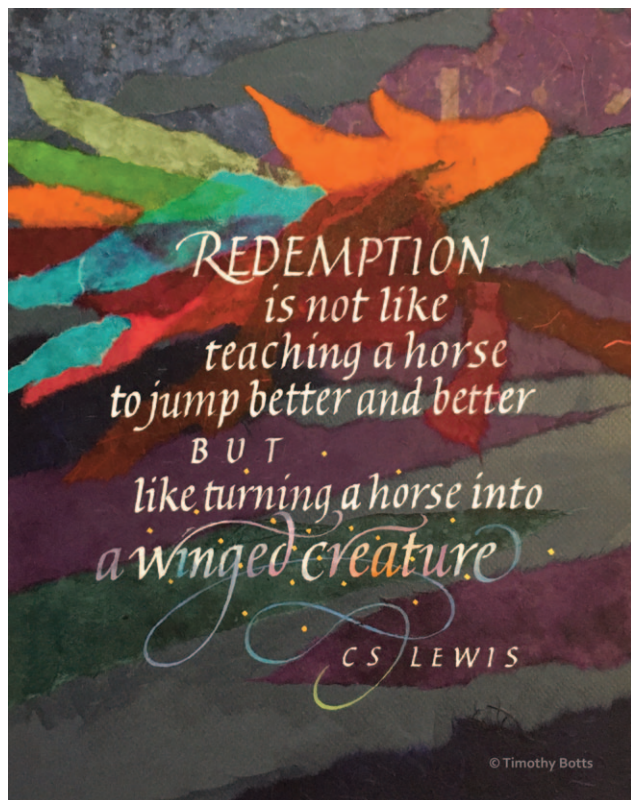
Detail from *An Engrossing Piece* by Andrea Alvarez in our virtual All Members' Show.

might not get to do them? How do we dream up new ideas and lay the groundwork for them to happen? How do we reinvent where we previously found inspiration? Yes, it has been a challenge, but the Board of Directors collaborated to assess the risks and prepare for what may lie ahead. For this, the CCC is extremely proud.

Continually, the CCC is anticipating our next gathering or bouncing around ideas for future projects to share our love of letters with the calligraphic community. Member engagement expanded with the launch of *CCC Presents!*, a series of innovative programs which provide opportunities to introduce engaging speakers with abundant wisdom on subjects of interest to their calligraphic audiences. Highlighted in 2021 were three gifted presenters who communicated their expertise and insights on calligraphy—both historical and modern day. Presenter honorariums are subsidized through the Tribute Fund.

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Pegasus by Tim Botts. This piece was in our virtual All Members' Show.

Additionally, the CCC achieved a long-standing goal and the realization of the vision of our President, Karen Brooks, for the advancement of the CCC's mission to encourage members' calligraphic study. On October 1, 2021, the Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant began accepting applications for a \$500 scholarship grant which will be awarded in January 2022. A donation of \$1,000 from the CCC Operating Account funded this initial scholarship grant

This has been a year in which the importance of having a connected community has never been so evident. Meetings were held, albeit online. We wished workshops could have been face-to-face and in real space rather than virtually but lockdowns and restrictions on travel made that impossible. The CCC's reliance on Zoom became even more critical. Effective May 7, 2021, the CCC contracted for a Standard Biz Zoom Plan (Two Licenses) at a discounted cost of \$359.82 annually. Zoom accepted our IRS 501c3 Determination Letter and no longer charged any sales tax. Most importantly, this plan increased our meeting capacity to 300 and al-

lowed one license to be devoted strictly for workshop preparation and presentation.

The CCC transitioned workshops to online learning, a movement which was growing more prominent around the calligraphic world. These changes were necessary to keep our community safe during the global pandemic. The success of the virtual workshops has helped enhance our learning environment allowing the CCC to serve the educational needs of our members. Utilizing this platform for calligraphic instruction, the CCC presented four 3-day and seven 2-day workshops as well as two Day for Beginners and a Lettering on Cookies workshops.

Fifty-nine percent of revenues were generated by workshops, advancing the professional development of seasoned calligraphers as well as beginners. Online learning enabled us to widen our institutional reach, bringing inspiration to more calligraphers than ever before including our international peers. Seventy-nine percent, the bulk of the organization's expenses, were attributable to workshops, including instructor stipends.

This was a difficult time for all of us, and the Board of Directors realized many of our members were experiencing immense personal and professional challenges. As a result, annual membership dues were reduced to half, from \$30 to \$15 for one year. Our membership remained steadfast; only 18 members did not renew their dues. Meanwhile new memberships increased by twenty-seven percent. Membership numbers rose impressively to 315 at the end of 2021 and paid membership fees totaled \$7,402.46 even with the lower membership dues.

Twenty percent of revenues were produced through membership dues, newsletter subscriptions and web listings. Only two percent of expenses were ascribed to membership, including virtual membership meetings. Expenses were kept to a minimum through our electronic newsletter and renewal notices and the elimination of the member gift for 2021.

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In acknowledging the hardships brought about by the pandemic, the CCC Covid-19 Relief Fund was established—funded by member donations—for those unable to renew their memberships. The CCC was deeply touched by our members' thoughtful response to our campaign. They generously championed the cause to assist their fellow calligraphers in a time of need brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Offering secure, user-friendly e-commerce capabilities on the website, the CCC can accept payments with all major credit cards through PayPal and Stripe. 476 successful orders totaling \$31,870.50 were processed through the website during 2021. Seventy-nine percent of online payments tallying \$25,074.50 was for workshop registrations. The balance reflected \$6,291.00 for membership fees and \$505.00 for Scribe Pin sales. The CCC pays reduced nonprofit processing fees with both companies.

In August, the CCC registered for an account with Zettle by PayPal so we can accept credit card payments at the point of sale. A complimentary card reader was sent so it could be used that month at IAMPETH Marketplace for Scribe Pin sales. Money from Zettle sales is sent to our PayPal balance daily and then the funds can be transferred to our Operating Account. Zettle can be used for contactless credit and debit card payments, as well as Samsung, Google and Apple Pay, and offers checkout using PayPal QR codes.

Looking forward, we are targeting three priorities. First, we need to keep the organization strong in the face of uncertainty. The pandemic has changed some of our operations and activities, and we need to ascertain which of these are likely to return to their previous state, which will be transformed, and which will be replaced.

Second, we will continue our efforts to boost our relevance by promoting mutually enriching interactions. Whether it be participating at creative events as we did this year at the Artist Book House and Irish American Heritage Center, hosting exhibitions at new venues, or contributing to Calligraphy Guild Representatives meetings and Facebook page, we will stay connected.



Dipped & Sewn by Drora Kopernik. This handmade book was in our virtual All Members' Show.

Lending financial support, the CCC made donations to the Irish American Heritage Center as well as Legacies III, the 39th International Lettering Arts Conference held virtually in July.

Third, we need to further extend the CCC's geographic reach. While the CCC has been international since its founding, the creation of virtual programs has contributed to attracting members from around the globe, and we will keep working in this direction.

What has remained constant through the highs and lows of 2021 has been our gratitude. We are thankful for the role your generosity and resilience have played in making this year one of strength and endurance. New obstacles certainly await us, but with the dedication and tenacious spirit of the CCC community, we will navigate them together. As we move forward into another year, the CCC depends—now more than ever—on your continued support for which we are incredibly grateful. 🧡

The Chicago Calligraphy Collective is a public charity and has received qualification as a tax-exempt corporation under the provisions of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Fiscal Year 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets			
Checking and Savings			
US Bank Expense Account			201.52
US Bank Money Market Account			85,149.44
US Bank Operating Account			
CCC Tribute Fund			
Legacy Fund	2,500.00		
Scholarship Grant	1,121.50		
Tribute Fund - Other	8,119.70		
Total CCC Tribute Fund		11,741.20	
Operating Account - Other		31,308.19	
Total US Bank Operating Account			43,049.39
Total Checking and Savings			128,400.35
Total Current Assets			128,400.35

TOTAL ASSETS 128,400.35

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Equity			
Opening Balance Equity			56,094.36
Unrestricted Net Assets			58,883.69
Net Income			13,422.30
Total Equity			128,400.35

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 128,400.35

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Fiscal Year 2021

	Operating Account	Tribute Fund	2021 Total
REVENUES AND SUPPORT			
Workshops	21,934.78		21,934.78
Memberships/Subscriptions/ Web Listings	7,402.46		7,402.46
Tribute Fund		7,374.61	7,374.61
Fundraising	328.11		328.11
Interest/Administration	11.29		11.29
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	<u><u>29,676.64</u></u>	<u><u>7,374.61</u></u>	<u><u>37,051.25</u></u>
EXPENSES			
Workshops	18,753.07		18,753.07
Tribute Fund Scholarship Grant	1,000.00	21.25	1,021.25
CCC Community Outreach/Goodwill	683.70		683.70
CCC Presents! Honorarium		650.00	650.00
Administration	586.35		586.35
Operation	500.00		500.00
Newsletter	489.32		489.32
Website	328.17		328.17
Membership Meetings	270.05		270.05
Membership	237.16		237.16
Tribute Fund Outreach		100.00	100.00
Exhibits	9.88		9.88
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u><u>22,857.70</u></u>	<u><u>771.25</u></u>	<u><u>23,628.95</u></u>

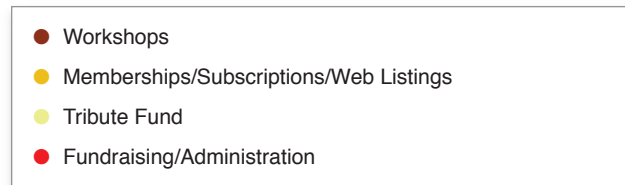
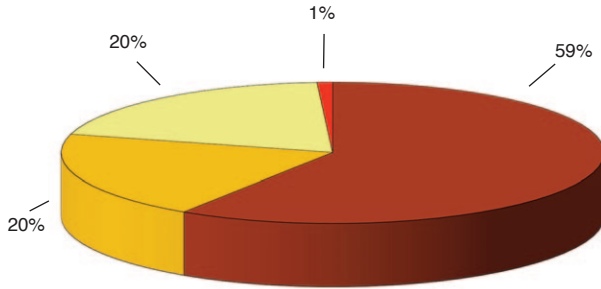
Change in Net Assets	6,818.94	6,603.36	13,422.30
Net Assets Beginning of Year	109,951.56	5,026.49	114,978.05
Net Assets End of Year	116,770.50	11,629.85	128,400.35



Detail of *The Pen* by Christine Shaw. This piece was in our virtual All Members' Show.

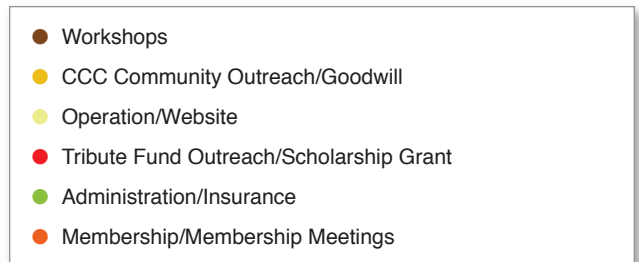
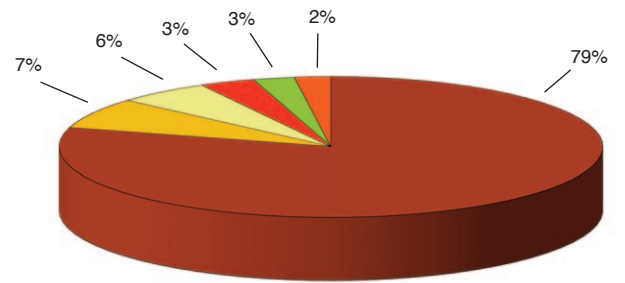
REVENUES AND SUPPORT

Fiscal Year 2021



EXPENSES

Fiscal Year 2021



BUDGET OF ACTIVITIES

Fiscal Year 2022

REVENUES AND SUPPORT

	Operating Account	Tribute Fund	2022 Total
Workshops	15,002.82		15,002.82
Memberships/Subscriptions/ Web Listings	4,487.00		4,487.00
Tribute Fund		1,550.00	1,550.00
Exhibits	985.00		985.00
Fundraising	80.00		80.00
Interest	18.11		18.11

TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT 20,572.93 1,550.00 22,122.93

EXPENSES

Workshops	11,360.00		11,360.00
Exhibits	2,870.00		2,870.00
Tribute Fund	500.00	1,550.00	2,050.00
Membership	1,503.00		1,503.00
Operation	1,000.00		1,000.00
Administration	842.80		842.80
Insurance	550.00		550.00
Newsletter	518.96		518.96
Membership Meetings	450.00		450.00
CCC Community Outreach/Goodwill	400.00		400.00
Website	328.17		328.17
Printing/Office Supplies	250.00		250.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 20,572.93 1,550.00 22,122.93

Change in Net Assets 0.00 0.00 0.00

Credits

Thank you to all the Officers and Directors for diligently preparing their summaries for this Report.

A very special thanks to:

Patricia Kutz and Karen Brooks for compiling the copy and images for this report; to Linda Hancock for her expert proofreading skills; to all those who supplied photos; and to Julie Wildman for the design and production of this publication.

Created on a MacBook Pro using QuarkXPress 2021 and the Adobe Creative Suite CC. Callout quote on page 2 is set in Goudy Old Style Standard Italic and Medium. The remainder of text is set in Helvetica.

The CCC logo was designed by Timothy Botts. The letters on the front cover were designed by: 'L' - Valerie Weilmuenster; 'R' - Rita Foltz; 'S' - LynnAnn Babuk; and 'C' - Kathy Mandell.



4626 North Knox Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60630

www.chicagocalligraphy.org

Facebook: Chicago Calligraphy Collective

Instagram: [chicagocalligraphycollective](https://www.instagram.com/chicagocalligraphycollective)