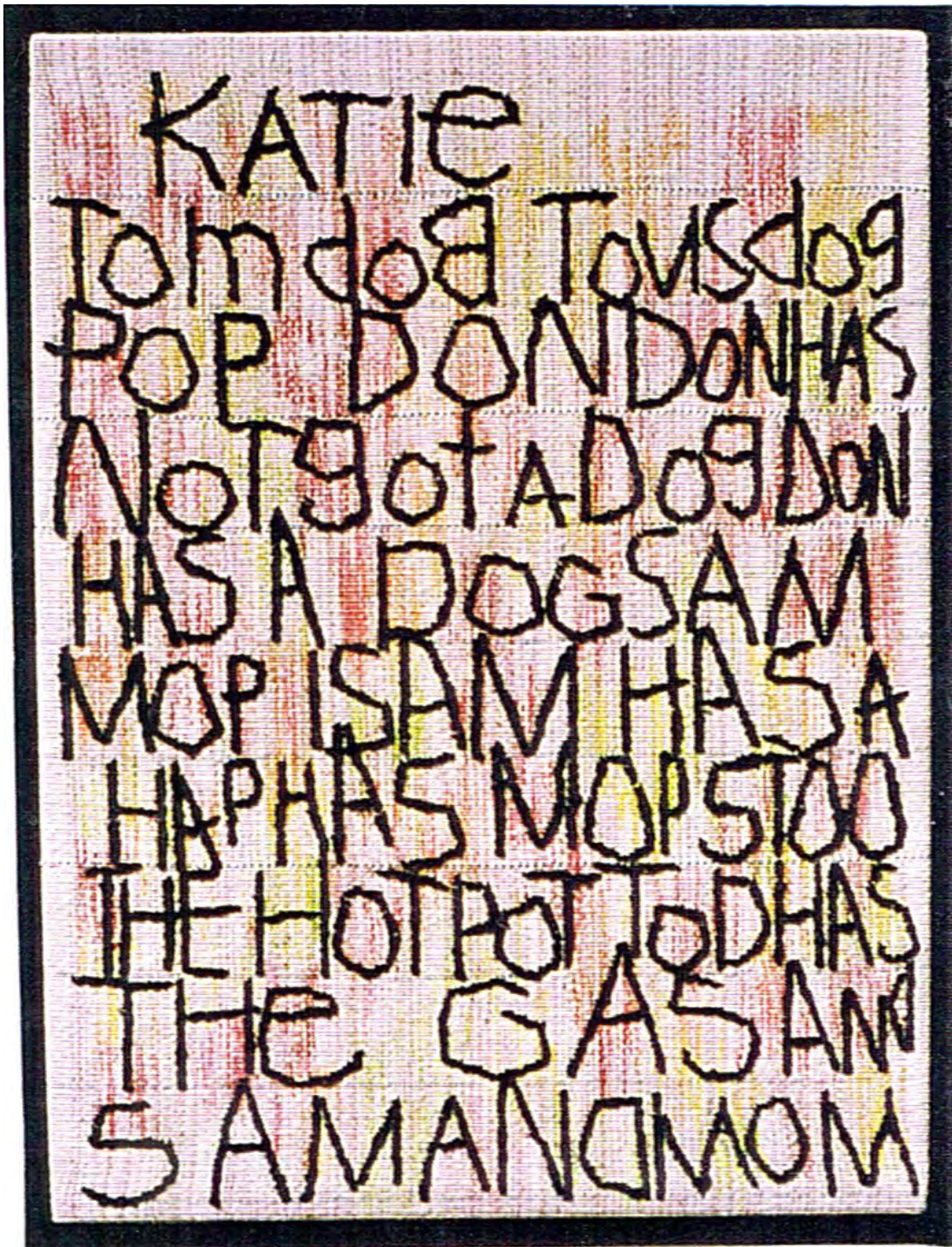


Escribiente

NEWSLETTER

Albuquerque's Calligraphic Society is open to anyone interested in the fine art of beautiful lettering. Summer '15





Viking Runes, carved in bone; runes were also cut into the corners of quarried stones. Communication by writing has come a long way, wouldn't you say?

Greetings!

We have excellent and experienced leadership again this year. However, two spots need to be filled - can you step up? "Many Hands Make Light Work." Also, please let our president know your ideas for programs, workshops and mini-workshops of interest to the club!

ESCRIBIENTE

P.O. Box 30166
Albuquerque, NM 87190

In this issue

- Front cover:** Betsy Townsend's weaving of a child's lettering: "Not Got a Dog," Soumak on Painted Warp - cotton.
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OFFICERS

- President Jan Florence
- Vice President Esther Feske
- Secretary Ginger Larkin
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- Monthly Flyer Lynda Lawrence
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- Programs Jan Florence
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- Refreshments Nancy Napier
- Shows
- State Fair Catherine Hogan
- Workshops Jan Florence

Mark Your Calendar

STRATHMORE is offering another set of online workshops for 2015. Go to www.strathmoreartist.com/artist-studio/ to find out more and to sign up. The workshops are FREE, self-paced, and will remain open from their starting dates until December 31, 2015.

Workshop 1: Bold, Expressive, and Unconventional Printmaking

Instructor: Traci Bautista
Start date: March 2, 2015

Workshop 2 – Loose and Expressive Acrylic Painting

Instructors: Patti Mollica
Start date: May 4, 2015

Workshop 3 – Exploring Pen & Ink – Part 1: Hand Lettering & Calligraphy

Instructor: Maureen 'Marzi' Wilson
Start date: Sept. 7, 2015

Workshop 3 – Exploring Pen & Ink – Part 2: Drawing

Instructor: Alphonso Dunn
Start date: Sept. 21, 2015

FYI: Escribiente is a non-profit organization of persons dedicated to the advancement and promotion of calligraphy. Meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational Center (SW corner of Elizabeth and Southern SE), except for January and July. December's holiday meeting will be announced. Yearly dues are \$30 with online newsletter and \$40 with printed and mailed newsletter. Dues may be mailed to: ESCRIBIENTE, PO Box 30166, Albuquerque, NM 87190. They are not pro-rated and are payable May-July. Benefits of membership include: receiving the newsletter; book, tape or DVD checkout from our lending library; discounts to attend workshops; and discounts at local art, paper, and frame shops. Escribiente's Newsletter is published more or less quarterly and supplemented by monthly flyers. Articles from this newsletter are copyright, and may not be reprinted without permission from the editor. Do you want your work featured in the Newsletter? Do you have an article of interest you would like to publish? Do you have an event you would like to publicize? Send information by mail or e-mail to: Escribiente Newsletter Editor, PO Box 30166, Albuquerque, NM 87190.

Carrie Imai Workshop... MASTERING ITALIC



...and so much more! Carrie has the most upbeat personality, encouraging way and the sweetest smile, that this class was very user friendly! Perfect our Italic? You bet we did! Stretch it, scrunch it, play with it? You bet we did. Make fun projects? Oh yes! The weekend was chock full of busyness, serious lettering, and play. All well balanced. Carrie has a knack of knowing when we are getting to the lettering point that we need a break from it, and move into

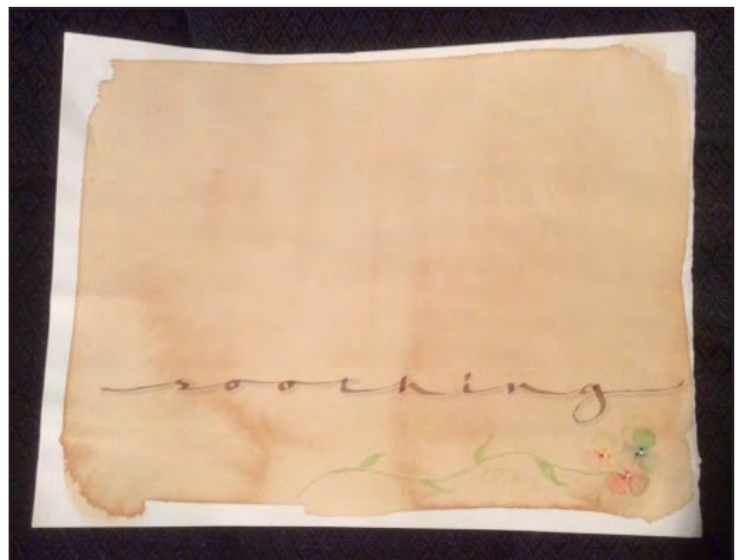
something totally different, yet able to use what we have learned while its fresh in our minds.

She showed us the rules of Italic, giving us a packet full of exemplars and samples, plus the added attraction of pen preparation, which was very helpful. We also made cards, calendars, envelopes, painted, made flowers, did pen manipulation and it all blended together beautifully with our Italic theme. It was a great group, where everyone produced

gorgeous results, and I think we all vastly improved our Italic, and became more aware of the form we need for beautiful letters that work well together. We have the calligraphic gene!

Carrie fit quite a lot in two days. It was a class well worth taking, highly recommended, and I hope Carrie comes back soon. She definitely has a lot to offer!

-- workshop review by Julie Gray



Top: Carrie Imai italic; below: by Julie Gray. photos by Julie Gray



*Above: examples from the Carrie Imai workshop in April, photo by Julie Gray.
Below: participants with Carrie in center of front row, photo by Trish Meyer*



POSTCARD JOURNALING

by Pat Vizzini

Postcards are a great way to practice creatively by using calligraphy and design. Painting and drawing subjects are also options but I always try to include calligraphy. Whether you are at home or traveling, it's a nice way to keep a record of your progress. It's also a nice way to keep in touch with friends and family and is more personal than an email. They will appreciate the effort.

Many techniques can be used, but the paper or material that you use is the first consideration when making your postcards (PC). Buying packs of precut PCs is fine but can be expensive and not always easy to find. It is more economical to buy large sheets of paper such as cold or hot press watercolor paper because it heavier and more suited for this purpose. It's easy to cut it down into 4"x6" cards. The other paper I love to use is Arches Black Cover. It's great for using bleach, gouache, chalk, metallic inks and pencils. Lighter weight paper can be used but it needs to be backed with heavier paper or self-adhesive postcard backing such as for photo PCs. Just remember that any paper you use has to be durable enough to go through the mail. And a postcard isn't a postcard unless you put a stamp on it and stick in the slot. Take a picture of it if you are worried about it getting lost in the mail.

Different tools for writing are fun!! Starting with parallel pens and moving on to brushes, various types of pointed and broad-edged nibs, nib brushes, automatic pens, clarinet reeds, bamboo reeds, credit card edges, markers, balsa wood, popsicle sticks, carpenter pencils, any new



tool etc. I've even used a stone crab claw and the pointed tip of a seashell. Anything is worth trying.

Then try different styles of calligraphy and design. This is such a good way to practice while keeping a record of your progress by mailing it to yourself. Be bold and don't be afraid to experiment. Even if it didn't turn out the way you expected, the challenge is to mail it. Following are tips and tricks that I've used since 2009 when I started postcard journaling. You will have your own ideas that you develop once you start. This is in no particular order (other than alphabetical).

- * ALPHABETS: it's where the letters start.
- * BLEACH on dark papers, whether writing with a nib dipped in bleach or spraying bleach on dried ink or masking fluid. This always has a nice effect. Make sure you rinse the nib often to keep it from corroding when using bleach.
- * BORDERS help define the space sometimes. Can use tape or any manner of line designs.
- * CARVE STAMPS using erasers, corks, linoleum etc.
- * COLOR your backgrounds using

watercolors, coffee stains, sink art, diluted inks, fabric dyes, shoe polish (on top of finished work). Using masking fluid as lettering "ink" before coloring the background is also a nice touch.

* DOODLES

* DRAWING with pointed or flat tools. Drawings of anything, whether flowers, trees, tree roots, scenery through a window, what's on the desk in front of you, cracked cement sidewalk, weeds etc. Then fill in with color.

* EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT COLOR COMBINATIONS

to use as guides for future projects.

* EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT CALLIGRAPHY COMBINATIONS.

* EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT MEDIUM COMBINATIONS and on different paper surfaces.

* FAVORITE RECIPES, quotes, what a child said, snippets of overheard conversations.

* MAIL YOUR MISTAKES to yourself and keep a record of what to do differently (make notes on the back of the PC).

* MEDIUMS, besides different types of ink: chalks, markers,

watercolors, gouache, colored pencils, graphite, charcoal, pastels, crayons, finger painting, acrylic paint, luminous watercolors or sprays, metallic pencils, gel pens, etc. Use a spray fixative if you need to.

* PHOTOS can be cut and glued onto the PC then draw a frame around it, or photo transfers. Don't forget to write something on it, a favorite quote, word, etc.

* PRACTICE techniques from classes that you've taken.

* SCRAPS from practice sheets, or from previous class samples, can be cut into 4"x6" PC sizes if large enough, or smaller pieces can be made into a PC collage.

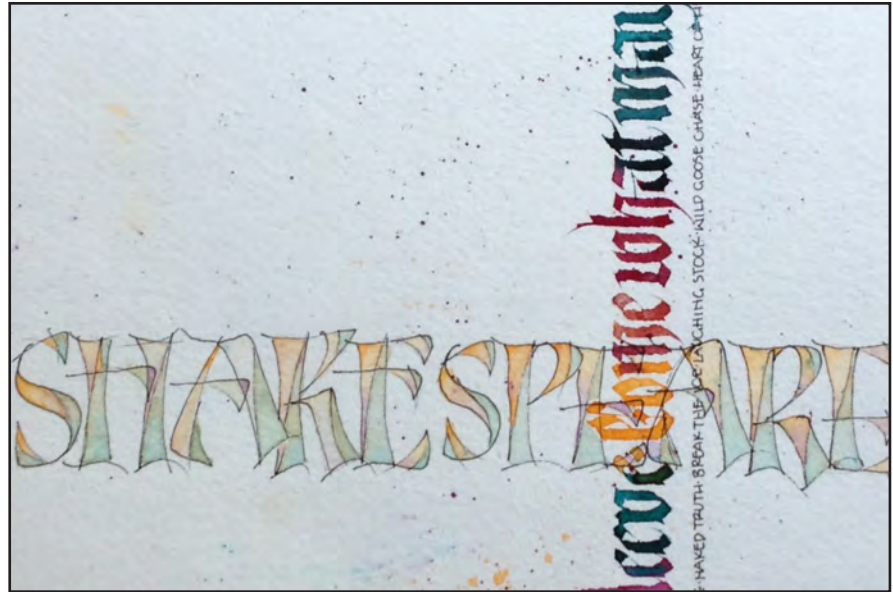
* WORDLE

* ZENTANGLES - make outline letters or random lines with masking fluid; when dry, outline those lines with a waterproof marker such as a micron 005 or 01, then erase mask. 'Tangle' within the letter outline or negative spaces.

FINALLY, CONNECTING THE POSTCARDS: I use a corner cutter to round the corners, a hole punch for one corner (a template could help get the holes in the same place on every PC), a screw post to attach them AND a wrap-around cover.

TO MAKE A WRAP-AROUND COVER: for cover for 4"x6" postcards, cut a 9"x6" sheet of heavy paper, and decorate it. (4"x 2 --front and back-- = 8" plus an extra inch for thickness if you are using a 1" long screw post, so total size of the cover is 9"x6"). Pre-fold the cover paper into 4x6, 1x6, 4x6 sections. Punch an outside corner to match the PCs; put the PCs into the cover and put the screw post through the stack and secure it. The PCs will swing out of the cover to be seen.

The point is to create these little pieces of art for yourself. If nothing



else, record on the back of the card the process that you used such as medium used, paper type, size and type of tool used etc. This will be a helpful, future reference for a larger piece. You can include whatever you wish in your Postcard Journal... THEN MAIL IT!!

Editor's Note: An article on pp 18 - 19 in **Bonefolder Vol #7** is about **Pod Post Press, "Making Every Day a Good Mail Day."** Excerpts:

Jennie Hinchcliff and Carolee Gilligan Wheeler, The Pod Post Press (www.podpost.com), are on a mission. In our email-besotted world, they want to rehabilitate the art of letter writing. Through traditional letters and mail art, they are finding worldwide communities through the U.S. postal service....

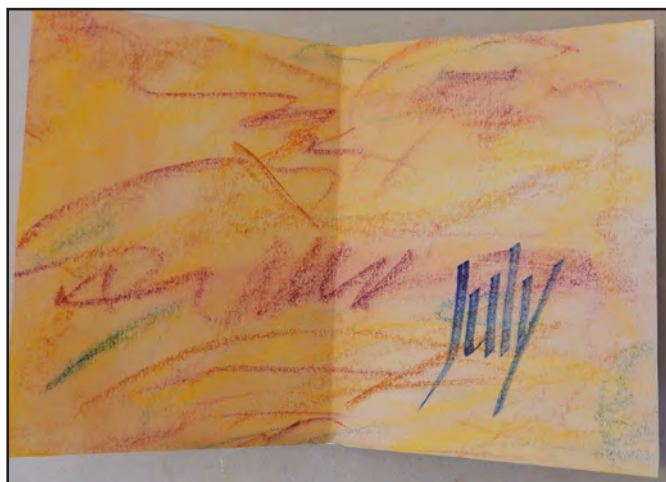
Presentation makes the Pod Post unique. Hinchcliff and Wheeler travel frequently to zine fests and book jamborees, encouraging the use of everyday materials to make art. They also created a system of "permissions," entitling anyone to make art. Using the merit badges offered by the Girl and Boy Scout organizations as a model, they designed 18 merit badges (available on their website) honoring those

who learn the skills needed for Bookbinding, Printmaking, 'Zine-making, and Correspondence.... Further tweaking the Girl Scout image, they attend public events dressed in scout-like shirtwaist dresses, jaunty berets and broad sashes displaying their Pod Press badges. The response was overwhelming. As people came over to see what was going on, they were able to engage a new audience.

Hinchcliff and Wheeler were surprised by how seriously many people take their badges. Pod Post Press fans often feel they can only adopt the badges when they have earned each level....Badges for some skills have become a self-assessment tool.

In 2009, they published **Good Mail Day, A Primer for Making Eye-Popping Postal Art** by Quarry Press <<http://www.Good-Mail-Day.com>>. The book is a glorious paean to the joys of mail art, covering decorated envelopes, faux postage, artist stamps penmanship, pen pals, developing a (non-violent) postal personality, and lots of DIY mail art projects. Its 6,000-copy first edition sold out in a month. The book is now in its third printing.

Here are some photos from Nancy Napier's recent Bookbinding Workshop. "Nancy gave a very good workshop! I think all of us were pleased with our projects." Agnes Franzak (below, left, with Nancy) sent these photos.



Betsy Brown Townsend 1933 - 2015



Fri, 17 Apr 2015 "Betsy's daughters Kristinn and Brita have asked me to let the group know that Betsy left us this morning. She said Betsy was just glowing on Sunday from the friends who visited her to celebrate her birthday." "I hope this obituary conveys what a wonderful member we have lost without getting mushy.

*Betsy hated mushy. I miss her a lot."
--Caryl [McHarney, Betsy's world-traveling companion, who provided photos.]*

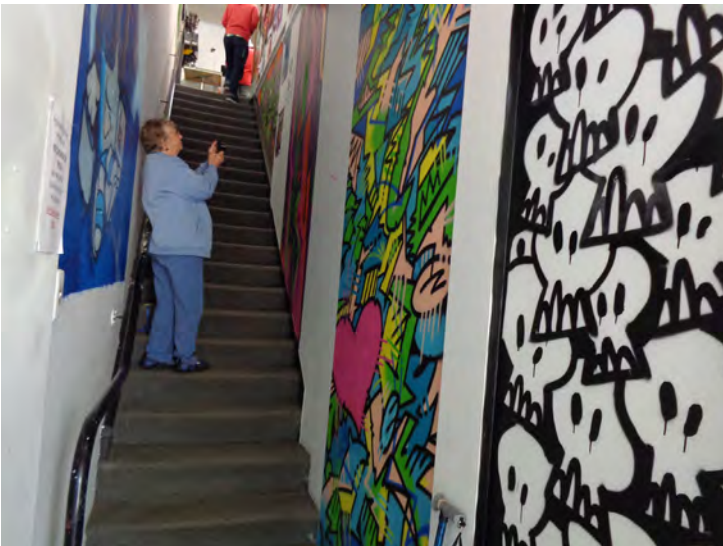
Betsy Townsend was an educator, a weaver and most of all an inspiration to her fellow members of *Escribiente*. Her unique view of calligraphy led her to create works using letter forms on paper and in textiles.

Betsy received her Bachelor and Master degrees in art education from Wisconsin State College and studied weaving in Gotland, Sweden. She was an Education Specialist in Curriculum and Development at the University of New Mexico and attended the Rhode Island School of Design in 1990. She and her husband Neal, an educator, painter, and potter, went on to teach at the University of New Mexico and the Albuquerque Public Schools until 1992.

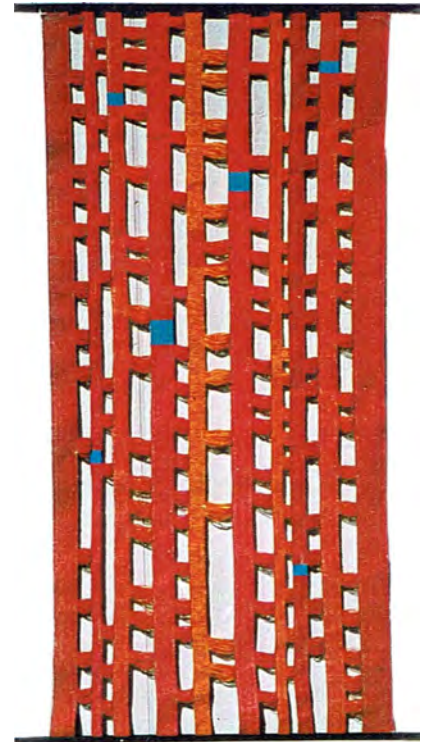
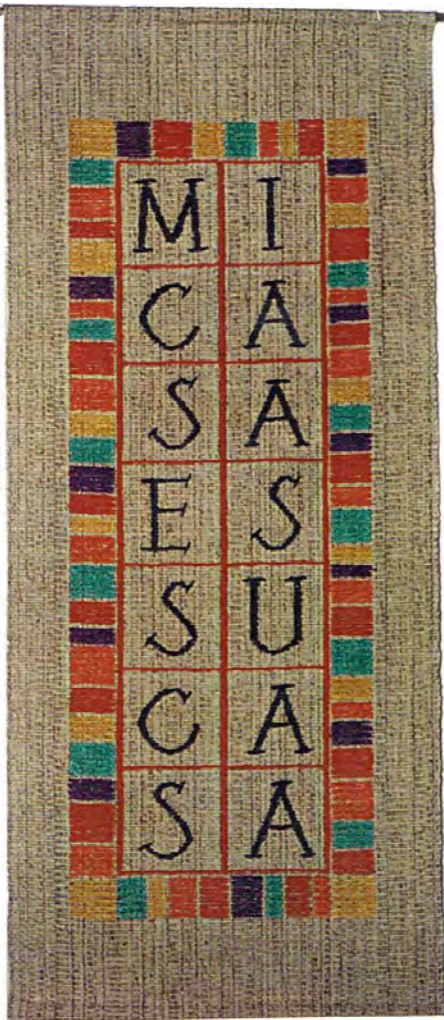
Betsy and Neal married in 1960 and had four daughters, Brita, Lissi, Shana and Kristinn, who gave them nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Betsy was a stay-at-home mom from 1961 to 1970, after which she and Neal showed their work extensively and won many awards. Betsy continued in their tradition after his death in 2002.

Betsy had wide interests. She played oboe with the Wisconsin Civic Symphony, and on a recent trip across the Pacific Ocean she began playing the digeridoo. She continued this on her return to Albuquerque, working on the unique breathing required. She was an active member of the First Unitarian Church, the Hungarian American Club at UNM, a Senior Mentor at the UNM Medical School. Betsy's pleasures were family, creating art; humor; nature; classical, folk, and ethnic music; reading; good conversations and discussions; cooking, gardening, raising chickens; knitting; T'ai Chi Chih; cats, *some* dogs; ethnic cuisines, and chocolate.

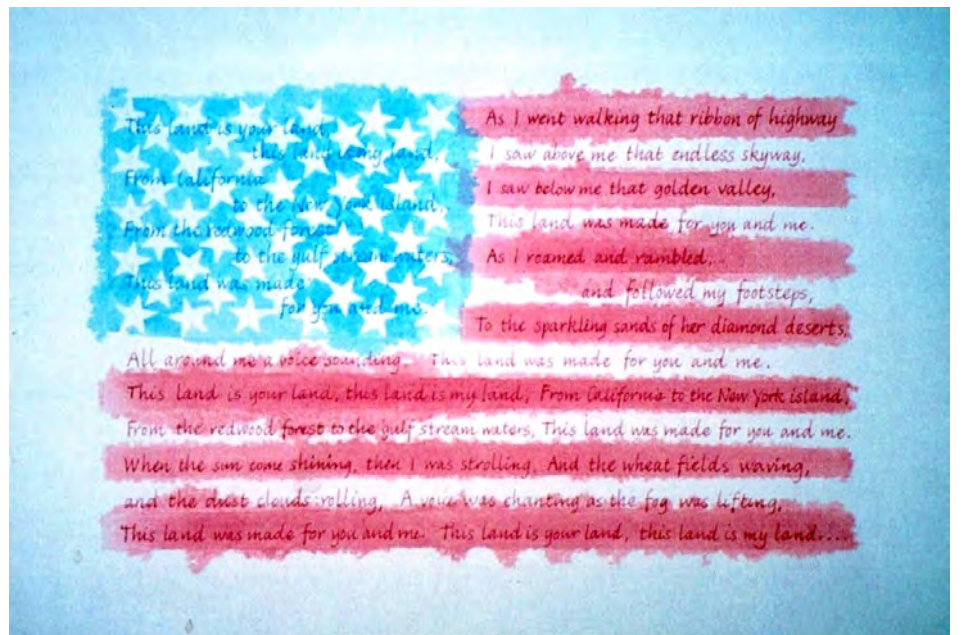
Betsy's and Neal's work will continue to inspire fellow calligraphers and their many students far into the future. Donations in Betsy's memory could be sent to the New Mexico Cancer Society, Angel Wings, or Hospice de la Luz.



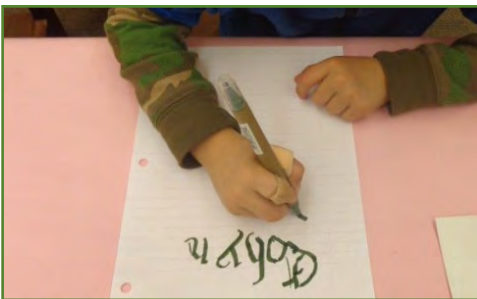
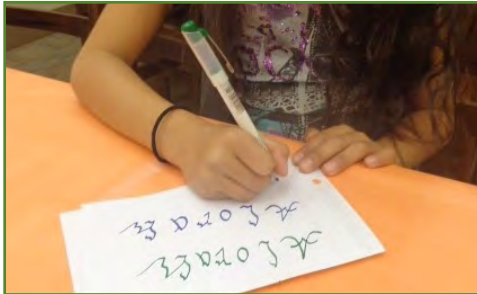
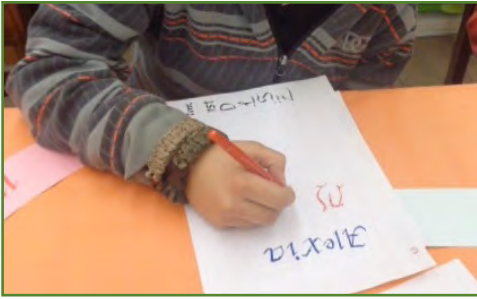
Left: Betsy, always curious, photographing graffiti in Hobart, Tasmania. Above: making leis on a cruise ship in the Pacific.



*A Sampling of Betsy's artwork
 Left: "Love," weaving. Center: "Mi Casa es Su Casa," Soumak - cotton, rayon, linen, award in 1996. Above: "Framework," Spaced Warp - linen, wool. Below left: "Begin Each Day..." Soumak - linen, cotton, wool. Below: "This Land Is Your Land," calligraphy.*



Bit and Pieces



Here are some shots from the day Beth House, Pam Beason and I spent with the kids at Bosque Farms Elementary School, which is a really neat, well-run place. We made bookmarks and then let them try their hand at calligraphy, fun all around. Of course the felt markers got mushed by firm, determined little hands. I have cropped their faces because I would not publish them without parental permission. --Caryl McHarney

Below: Lynda and Pat at Bosque Farms school, photo by Ginger Larkin.



Former Escribiente member **Barb Christy** passed away in Washington state. A very talented calligrapher and seamstress, Barb was forced by her cancer to leave her beloved Manzano Mountain home and live with her dear daughter for the last couple of years. Members may remember her sassy sense of humor and her fine ability with a pen and a needle. She'll be missed.

-- Kathy Chilton, May 29, 2015

From our sister SW Calligraphy Guild in Las Cruces: If you attended Amy Jones and Diana's workshop, "Marks as Texture," you might be interested in the links to purchase squeeze bottles, tips, and Golden High Flow Acrylic paint. <http://www.merriartist.com>. The bottles and tips can be ordered separately. Bottles are 89¢ each and tips are \$2.19, actually not much different than Paper & Ink's when all is totaled up. The advantage would be that replacement tips are available here. Possibly Paper & Ink carries the exact same brand of bottles and the tips will also fit if one is lost – don't know till we try.

Here is the link: <<http://www.merriartist.com/SearchResults.asp?Search=Gutta>>.

The paint IS different from regular acrylics. Detailed information about the product and uses can be found on the information page for the product. A 1oz. bottle sells for \$4.54; 4oz. is \$10.07. <http://www.merriartist.com/Golden_High_Flow_Acrylics_s/1496.htm> It comes in many colors.

- The website for creating your own font is: <http://www.myscriptfont.com>
- The website for journal leather is: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/PeggySueAlso>
- Also, you may already know about JetPens.com, but the website has shades of gray ink and some very neat pens, etc.

ONLINE CLASSES April notices from John Neal Booksellers: Jean Wilson is teaching lessons for calligraphy students on her blog: <http://pushingtheenvelopes.blogspot.com/search/label/nib%20lessons>.

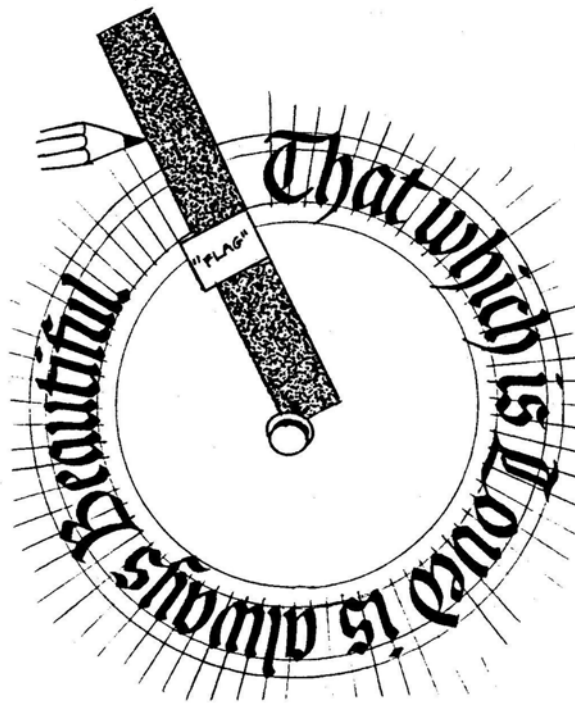
To view the supply list and the books recommended by Jean, please visit: http://www.johnnealbooks.com/prod_detail_list/996

Lettering in a Circle

That which is Loved is always Beautiful.

① Decide the size of circle you will use. Punch a small hole in the exact center of the circle (or press a gob of kneaded eraser firmly in place & put a hole in that.) With a compass, draw baseline, x-height, ascender & descender lines. Measure diameter at baseline & multiply by 3.14 to find length of baseline.

② Using letter heights and baseline length established above, work out your lettering in a straight line. For condensed styles of letters (Gothic, Copperplate, Italic) count the vertical strokes (not the number of letters). Capitals may count as 2 or 3 strokes. Divide total length (or less if you want room for decoration between End & Beginning) by number of strokes. This fraction of an inch is your "stroke spacing". Mark this out on a new baseline and do the lettering again; see if this fits the horizontal & vertical dimensions you've planned. Practice letters using this "stroke spacing" until you are comfortable with it.



③ To transfer the "stroke spacing" to the circle: Using a strip of very stiff heavy paper or mat board, put a pushpin through the lower left corner and into the center hole of a circle which is drawn identical to the final piece. (This is a practice piece.) Where the strip crosses the baseline, put a paper or tape "FLAG" below the base-

line and to the left. Cut FLAG to a length equal to the "stroke-spacing". Lightly draw a vertical on the left side of the strip, then move strip around to right so end of FLAG lines up with first mark. Make another vertical, and so on, around the circle. Practice letters-in-a-circle several times before final.

④ This creates 3 benefits easily: • equally spaced strokes, • verticals radiate evenly from center, • verticals slant slightly forward, as is traditional. NOTE: for more slant, move pin to center or right bottom of strip.

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MEETING REMINDERS

Meetings are at 6:30 pm the first Wednesday of the month (except January and July) at the Manzano Mesa Multi-Generational Center, 501 Elizabeth SW in Albuquerque. A current schedule is on our website: Escribiente.org and see us on www.facebook.com/EscribienteNM

***** It's not too early to prepare your entries for the **NM State Fair**. The Fair is held at Expo New Mexico, Wednesday, September 9 to Sunday, September 20, 2015. <http://statefair.exponm.com/p/getconnected/competitions/246> for the "premium book" describing calligraphy competition categories.



Early Bird Registration

A Show of Hands 2016
International Calligraphy Conference

June 26 – July 2

Warren Wilson College
Swannanoa, North Carolina

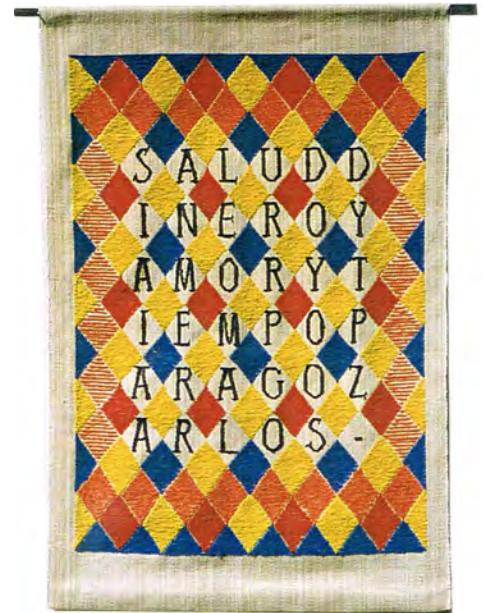
Early Bird Registration is limited to the first 100 registrants and gives you priority in choosing your classes. Starts May 20, 2015. Down payment is \$500.

www.AShowofHands2016.com

Electronic registration is highly preferred, but checks and paper remittance may also be made. If paying through snail mail, print out the form from the website, fill it in, then mail it with your check, payable to A Show of Hands 2016 • PO Box 1521 • Fairview • NC 28730

Come enjoy the hospitality of the South, the beauty and serenity of our mountains, the camaraderie of the participants, and the wisdom of our faculty.

“ You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have. ” ~ Maya Angelou



One more weaving by Betsy Townsend: "Salud, dinero, y amor, y tiempo para gozarlos" (Health, money, and love, and time to enjoy them) - a Spanish blessing; Soumak - cotton, wool.

THANK YOU to all who contributed to this newsletter: Jan Florence, Evelyn Costello, Julie Gray, Ginger Larkin, Caryl McHarney, Pat Vizzini, Trish Meyer, Agnes Franzak, Kathy Chilton, Esther Feske, and the daughters of Betsy Townsend for photos of her artwork.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Here are just a few ideas: classes you've attended, artwork you have done, tidbits of news, awards you've won, book reviews, a favorite material that you can't wait to share, conferences, conventions, contests, upcoming shows in the community, classes you are teaching, tips and material experiments, art problems that you've encountered (solved! or in need of help?).

We also love to have new members to join us in this delightful adventure. Please **BRING** a friend to share our love of calligraphy. **Escribiente is YOUR connection with the calligraphic world in New Mexico and beyond. We always welcome your input.**

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SPEEDZONE Print and Copy at 6000 Lomas NE
Support them and their superb helpfulness!
Contact Frank Horner or Nanette Ely-Davies at 505-262-2679.
You won't be disappointed.