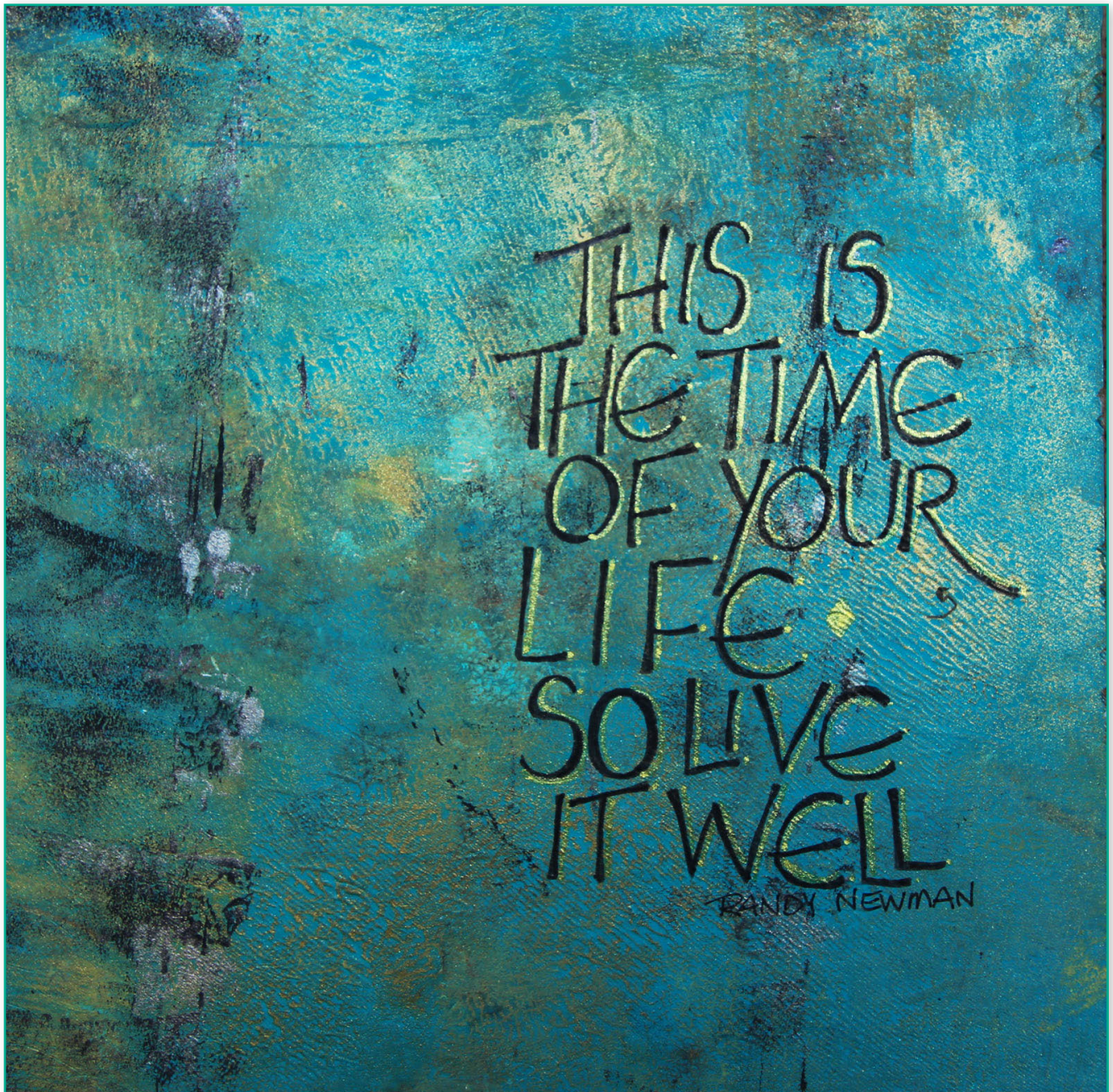


# Escribiente

WINTER 2022-1  
NEWSLETTER



*Escribiente is Albuquerque's Calligraphic Society  
open to anyone interested in the fine art of beautiful lettering*

---

**OUR PREZ SAYS**

The Calligraphic Road

You have to practice driving before you head out on the road for a cross-country journey. Likewise, you need to practice lettering because lettering is a learned skill. There is no substitute for spending time in skill development. You need to find the types of lettering that resonate with you. However, the execution of letterforms is but a thread in the fabric. Some of the other threads include composition and color.

On your journey ask yourself where you are seeing the “STOP” signs. Do you think STOP when you feel your lettering is not up to someone else’s standards? Why not rely on your own standards and your own personal style to determine the success of your efforts?



PO Box 30166  
Albuquerque, NM 87190

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022**

**PRESIDENT:** Evelyn Costello - evelyncostello at msn.com

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Elizabeth McKee - alphabeth55 at gmail.com

**TREASURER:** Polly Owens - powens157 at gmail.com

**SECRETARY:** Lynda Lawrence - lynda33 at hotmail.com

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**E-NEWS:** Bill Kemp - brotherbill55 at hotmail.com

**FUNDRAISING:** as needed (per event)

**HOSPITALITY:** Alma Sanderson - almasanderson.com

**LIBRARY:** Trish Meyer - trish at escribiente.org

**MEMBERSHIP:** Beth House and Ginger Larkin  
beth.house107 at gmail.com and ging1330 at aol.com

**NEWSLETTER:** Lynda Lawrence - lynda33 at hotmail.com

**PROGRAMS:** Elizabeth McKee - alphabeth55 at gmail.com

**PUBLICITY:** OPEN

**EXHIBITIONS:** Trish Meyer - trish at escribiente.org

**STATE FAIR:** Beth House - beth.house107 at gmail.com

**WORKSHOPS:** Janice Gabel - janice.gabel at gmail.com

**REFRESHMENTS:** Sharon Shannon - sshannon2 at swcp.com

Do you think STOP when you feel you have to plan a massive project that can only be displayed in the *Louvre*? Give a kid a crayon and they start their art right away. It is better for your psyche to successfully complete a series of small projects than to experience frustration from projects that seem beyond your grasp.

Be mindful of what you think because if the STOP sign keeps you stuck in one place for too long, you may never know when a right turn or a left turn will take you back into the traffic flow (or in our case the calligraphic flow). If you make a mistake, remember: If things don’t turn out right, make a left. Always a lesson, never a failure.

◆ **COVER ART BY Diane Inman**

I call this my *Covid* piece. The techniques I used were learned during the many, many, many online classes. I finally said, “enough classes; now you need to get to work!” I searched for upbeat sayings to keep my spirits up and those of any readers; hopefully the quotes remind us that just because we’re not in an ideal situation, we still have to make an effort and make the best of what we have.

This six- by six-inch piece came about because I wanted to try out Patty Hammarstedt’s technique of mounting artwork on a panel.

I made the background piece on 140# hot-press watercolor paper using a Gelli Arts gel printing plate with acrylic ink.

The lettering is done with a PN Micron pen. I learned about this new-to-me Micron from a Zentangle class. It’s a wonderful pen with a plastic nib that doesn’t mash down as regular Micron pens sometimes do.

I learned the lettering style from Barbara Close in her *Power Pages* Escribiente workshop. The gold outline is done with a Pentel Sparkle pen.



Escribiente members present a juried exhibit each year as part of the Creative Arts Showcase at the New Mexico State Fair. After being cancelled in 2020, the State Fair was on this year's calendar for September 9th through 19th. Congratulations Escribiente, you pulled it off again in great style!

The Creative Arts Department showcases the work of talented New Mexicans of all ages in arts and crafts. The calligraphy exhibit offers opportunities for student-to-advanced artists to show the world what we do for fun. We didn't let Covid lock-down and cancelled workshops stop us from looking for opportunities to learn and put our creative time to good use. Opportunities for workshop education were just a click away, and we took full advantage with every new announcement of new online instruction!

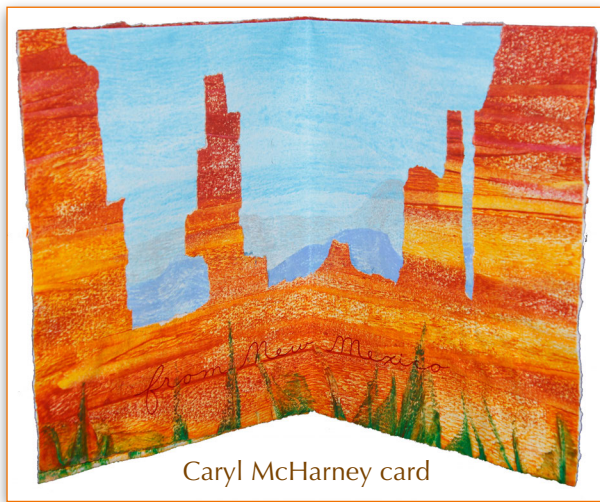
Judges Terry Garrett and Amy Jones



Upper left and right – Amy Jones pages from lessons learned at Ghost Ranch.

Above left and right – box and collage by Terry Garrett

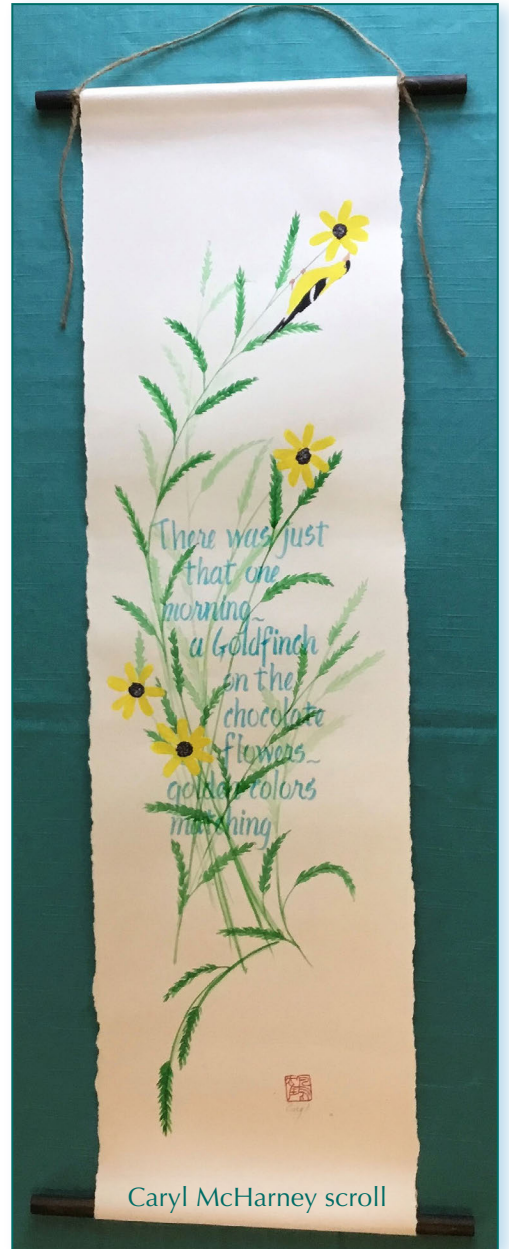




Caryl McHarney card



Ginger Larkin gourd

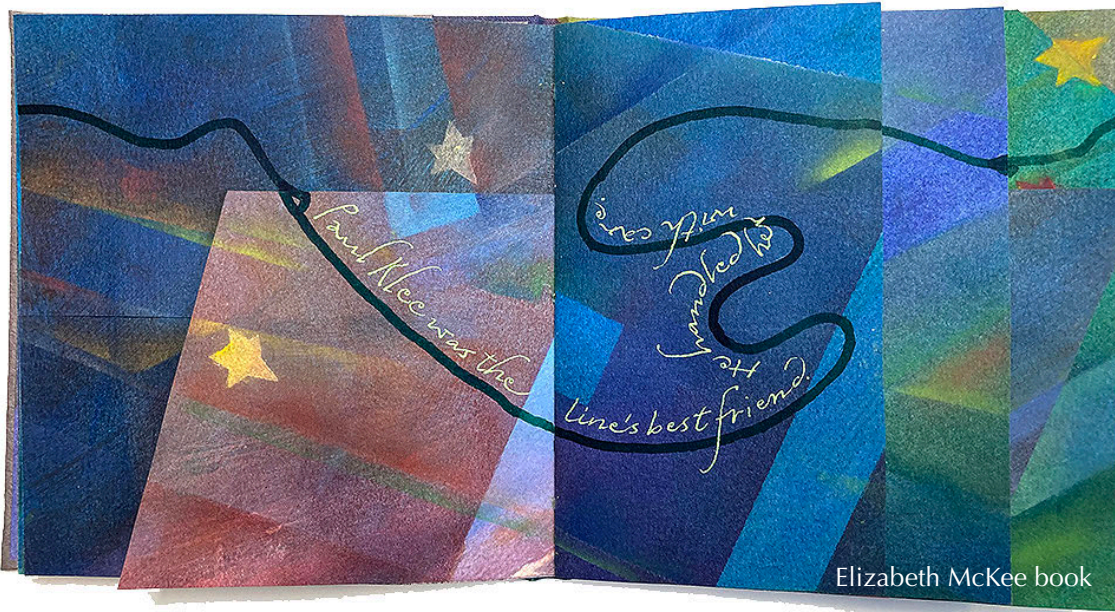


Caryl McHarney scroll

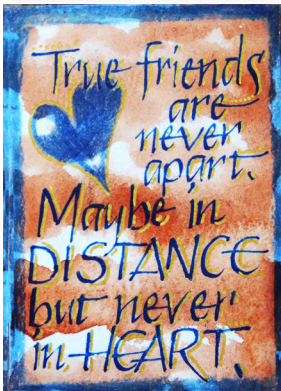
These two hanging messages by Caryl McHarney



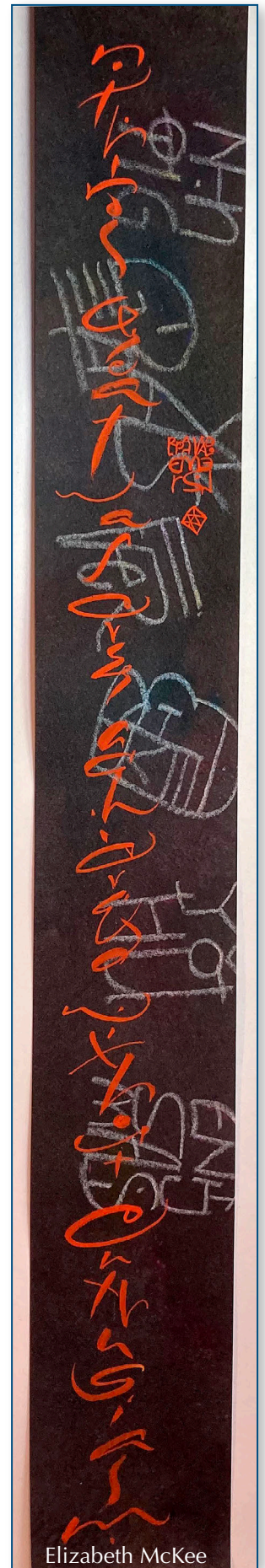
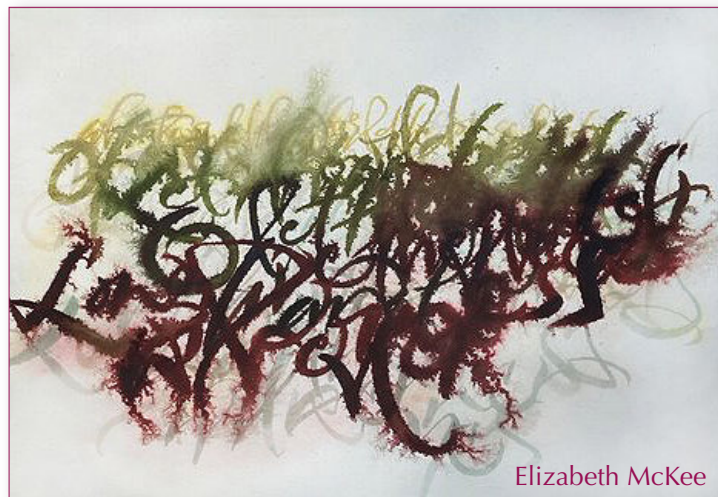
Caryl McHarney

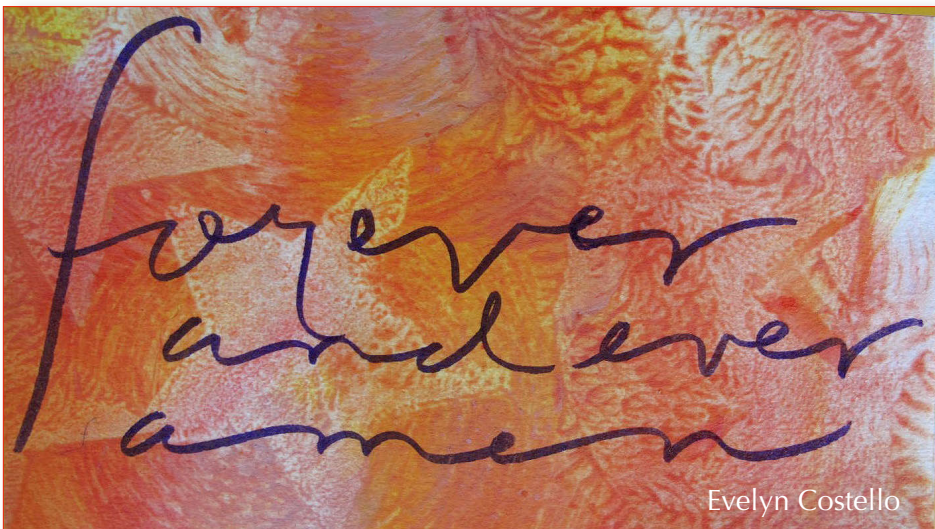
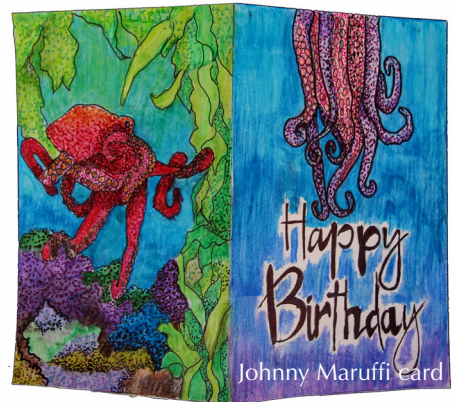
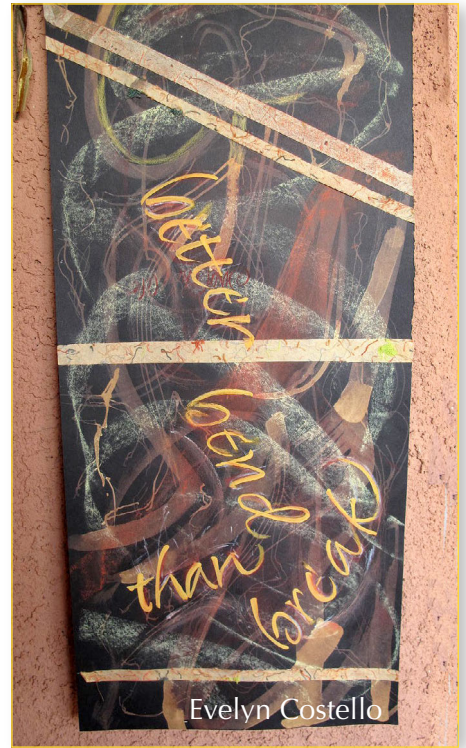
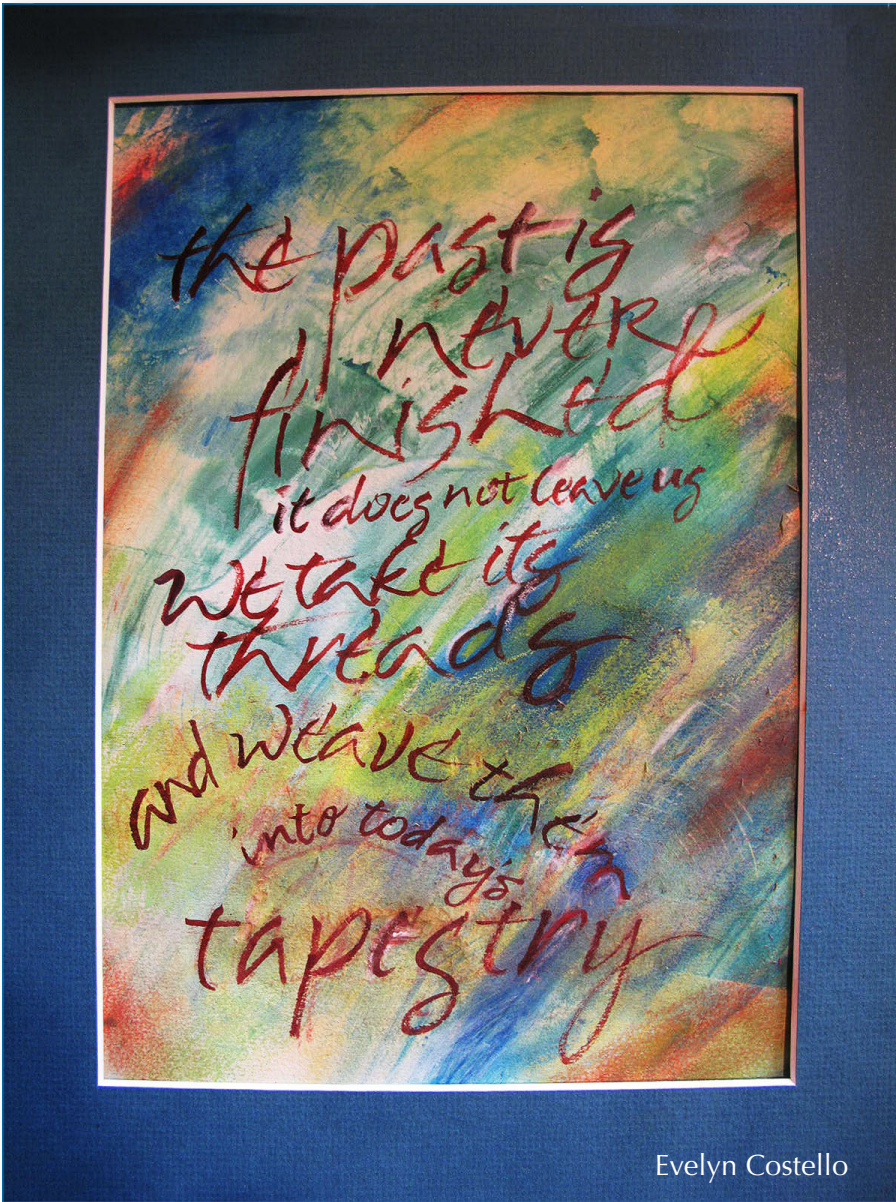


Beverly Tones ATC



Diane Inman ATC







Michal Sommers



Esther Feske Book Page



Beth House



Diane Inman



Beverly Tones miniature book



Esther Feske accordion-fold cut paper



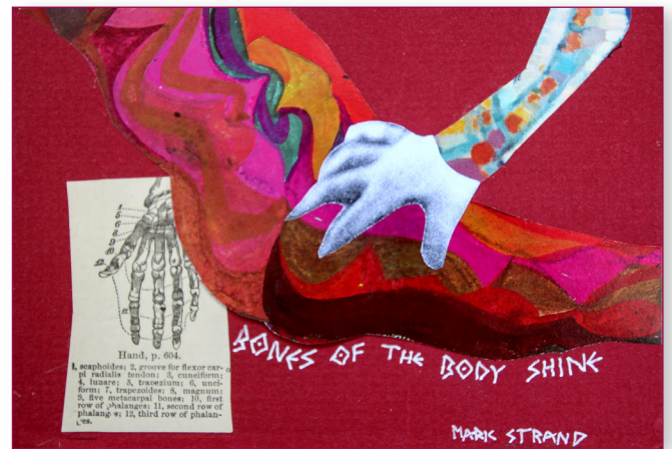
Janice Gabel



Ginger Larkin



Janice Gabel

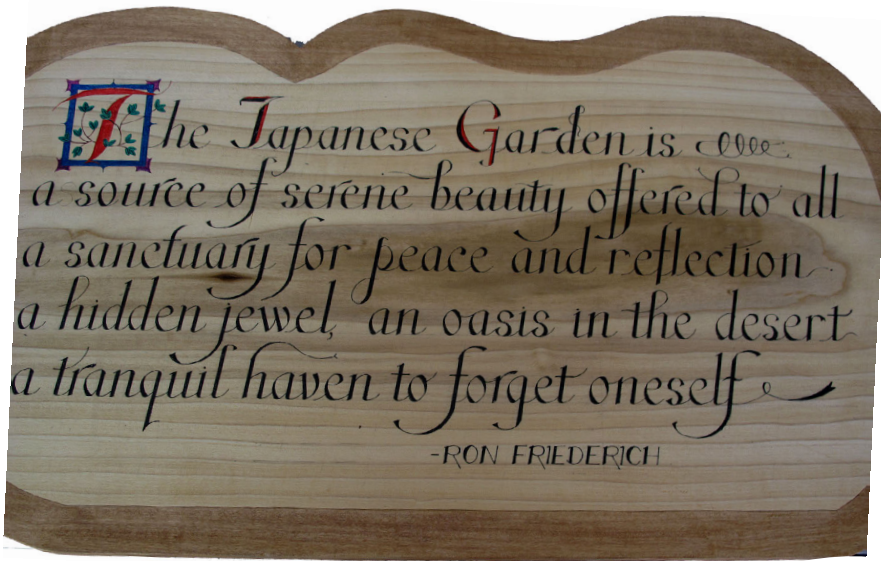


Beverly Wilson post card



Elizabeth McKee postcard





Every year Escribiente shares a spotlight with *Libros* book artists just inside the entrance to the Creative Arts Building. Thank you Beth for leading the State Fair exhibit again this year. Thank you to everyone who entered artwork for the exhibit. It has been a long-standing tradition for members to contribute time and talent to letter names on bookmarks for our admiring public. For many years our hand-lettered bookmarks have inspired others to take an interest in the art of beautiful writing.



**Rebecca Wild (*Small Art: Big Ideas*)**  
**So Many Layers!** Workshop review by Evelyn Costello  
 November 2021 Escribiente-sponsored workshop

Rebecca started her first demo saying that masking off a six- by six-inch taped area would be the hardest part of the class. Little did we know that each of the four projects on the schedule had at least 20 ‘easy’ steps. The class was about layering with pastels, acrylics and powdered graphite. Using simple shapes cut out of Contact paper, we chose colors on a color wheel and filled in the shapes with pastels. Grinding down stick chalk pastels on 220 grit sandpaper was suggested if we did not own containers/pans of powdered pastels. Pastels were rubbed into the Strathmore Vellum Bristol with our gloved fingers, tiny foam makeup applicators and small scraps of cloth. Each layer needed to be set with brush-applied matte medium, so we used hair dryers to speed up the drying process. Also important was to clean the brushes often so the matte medium did not congeal. Open spaces were filled with letters and doodles while paying attention to complimentary/ analogous colors in the palette. Thinned liquid Golden Acrylics mixed with matte medium were sometimes used as a wash over our entire piece after we had already laid down and sealed pastels and graphite.

\*\*Example 1: Evelyn’s masked work in progress



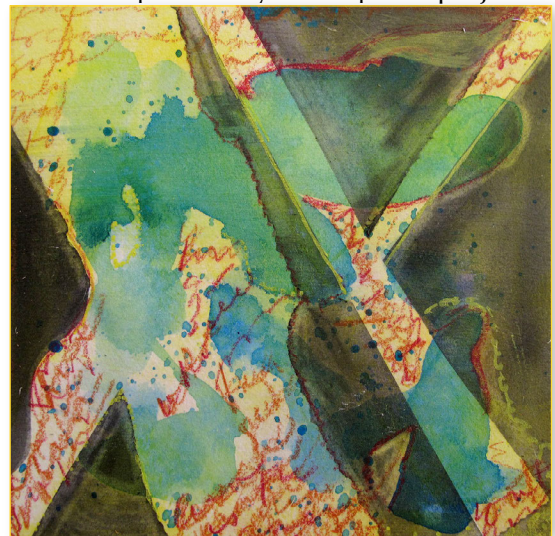
Why so many layers? Think of a flavorful recipe — the more spices, the greater depth of flavor. So, translating that to art, we gained depth through harmonizing analogous colors, or dramatic pop by employing complementary colors all leading to richness and luminosity.

Another project was combined with debossing into the paper backed with fun foam sheets. Pastels applied over the debossed paper left a white trough exposing the letters, doodles or shapes which had been debossed.

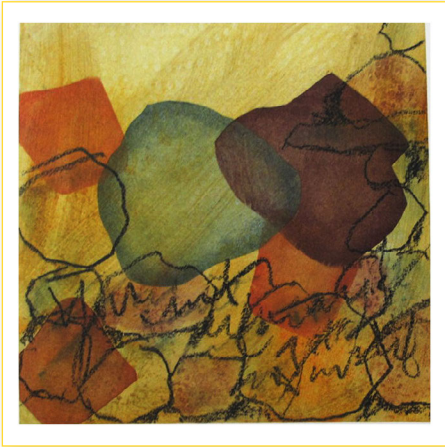
A multitude of materials and tools to assist our designs were scattered across our tables—Posca acrylic paint markers, china pencils, colored pencils and tiny Tombow Mono Zero erasers. It was a plus that we each had a six-foot table to spread our supplies.

One project involved torn tape being used as a mask to conceal a layer of thinned acrylic strokes while pastel-filled shapes were applied later. The low-tack tape recommended to avoid tearing paper upon removal was Frog brand delicate (yellow). Both the Frog tape and wide Scotch Magic tape tore easily when pulled against a ruler for masking random shapes. See \*\*Example 1—project midway through the process, and \*\*Example 2—completed project.

\*\*Example 2: Evelyn’s completed project



The in-person demos were second nature to Rebecca, but we hung on every step, including laying our Contact Paper stencils on our jeans to reduce tackiness. Every step was carefully detailed in our written instructions. Thanks, Rebecca for reminding us the devil is in the details.



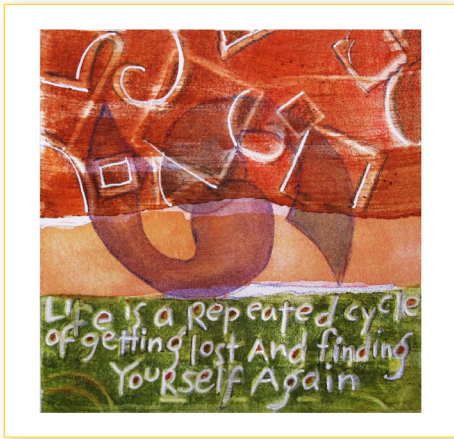
Elizabeth McKee



Geri Michelli



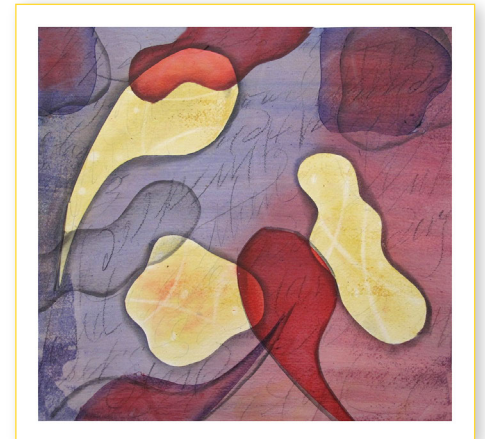
Janice Gabel



Evelyn Costello



Patty Hammarstedt



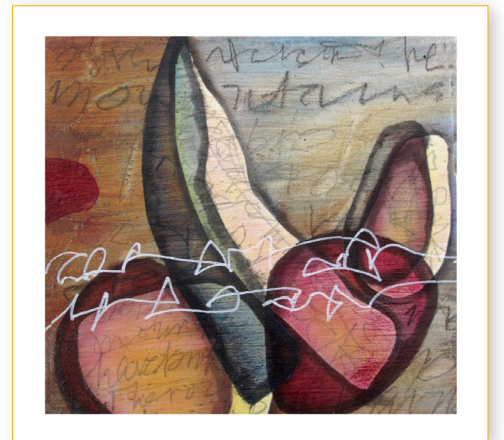
Laura Stevenson



Geri Michelli



Elizabeth McKee



Linny Wix



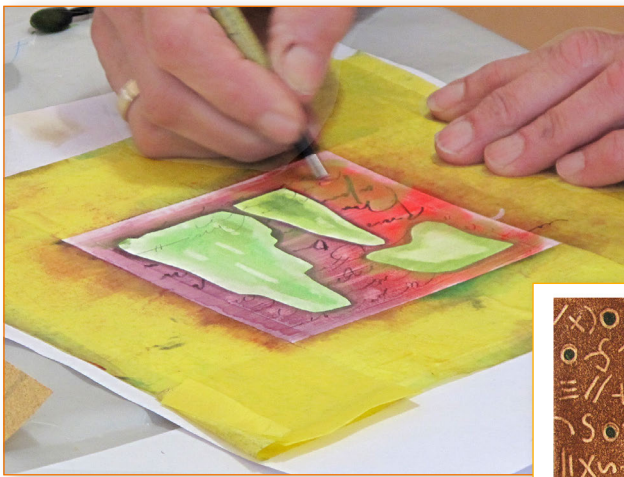
Linny Wix



Maria Mercado



Janice Gabel



Left – Yellow Frog Tape masks off the image as it is being developed.



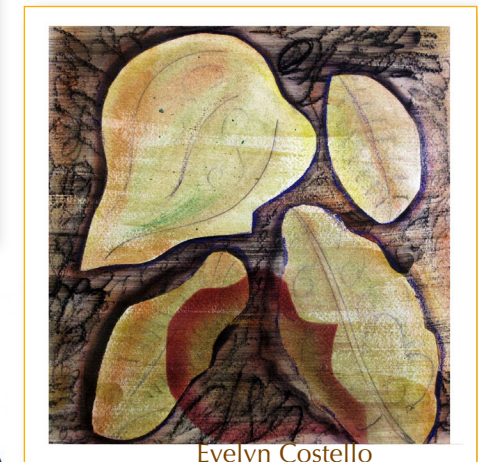
Ron Peterson



Linny Wix

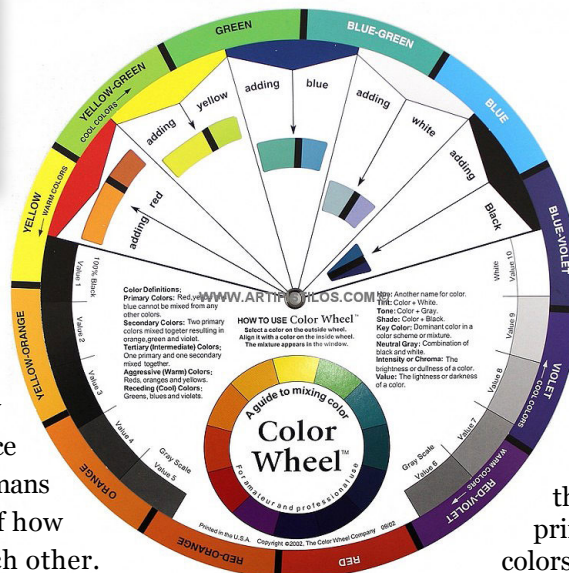


Geri Michelli



Evelyn Costello

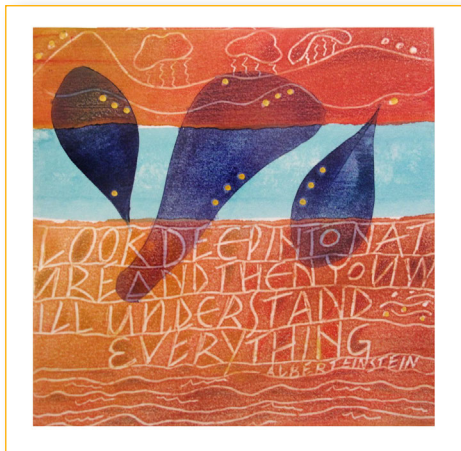
In Rebecca's arsenal of tools was the Color Wheel for use in choosing the best color combinations in developing our small layered treasures. Never underestimate the power of color theory education. Color theory is both the science and art of using color. It explains how humans perceive color; and the visual effects of how colors mix, match or contrast with each other.



**Analogous Colors** are very similar to each other, especially when next to each other on the color wheel.

**Complementary Colors** – Two colors on opposite sides of the color wheel. This combination can create some striking optical effects.

**Tertiary Colors** On a color wheel, the tertiary colors are found between the primary (red, green, blue) and secondary colors (orange, green, violet).



Laura Stevenson



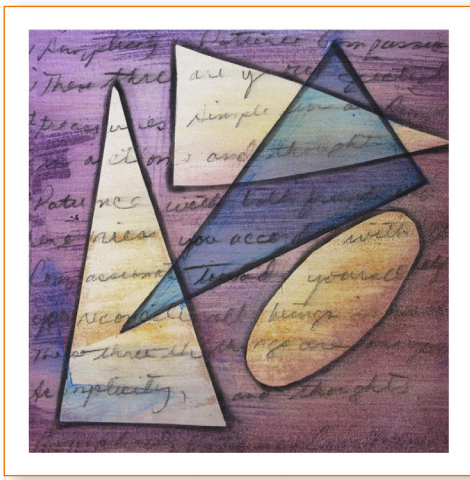
Patty Hammarstedt



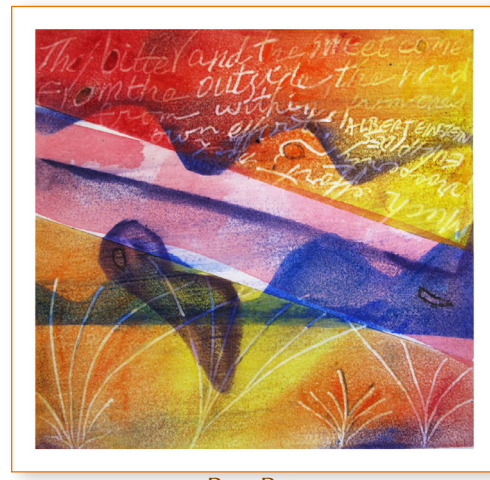
Maria Mercado



Sharon Shannon



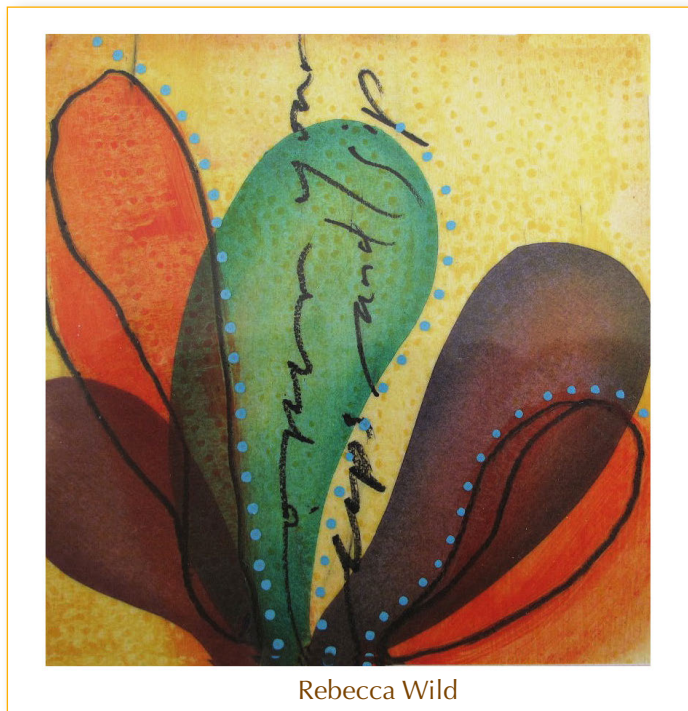
Sharon Shannon



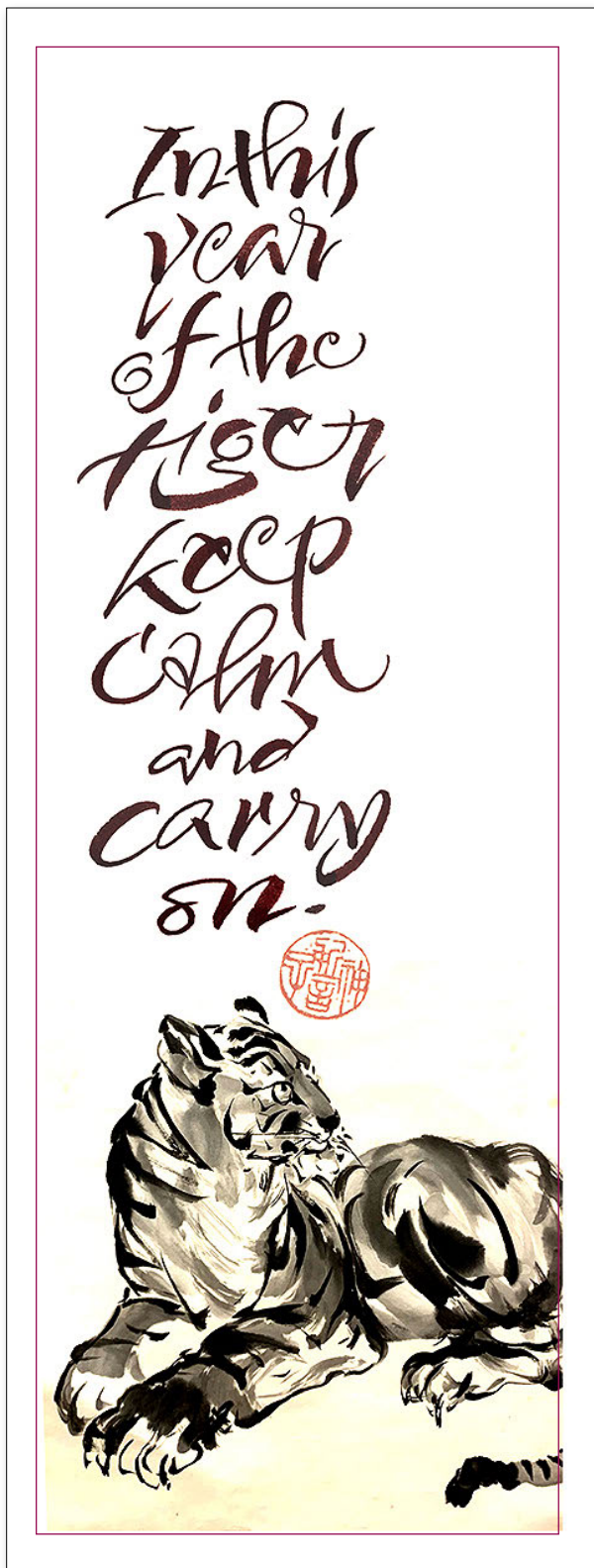
Ron Peterson



Rebecca Wild



Rebecca Wild



The Chinese zodiac suggests the Year of the Tiger will be about making big changes. This will be a year of risk-taking and adventure. We're finding enthusiasm again, both for ourselves and for others. Everyone is fired up, generosity is at an all-time high and social progress feels possible again. Tigers are seen as a sign of good luck, an auspicious symbol in many cultures.

LEFT – Image features Elizabeth McKee's brush lettering. Students are currently in the midst of her online Intermediate Pointed Brush class.

Another local letter-and-learn opportunity is Beth House's beginning Italic Lettering Class which meets for west-siders at the Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho. This is a sequential, structured, step-by-step class to learn the Italic hand. Class meets every other Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Main Dining Room.

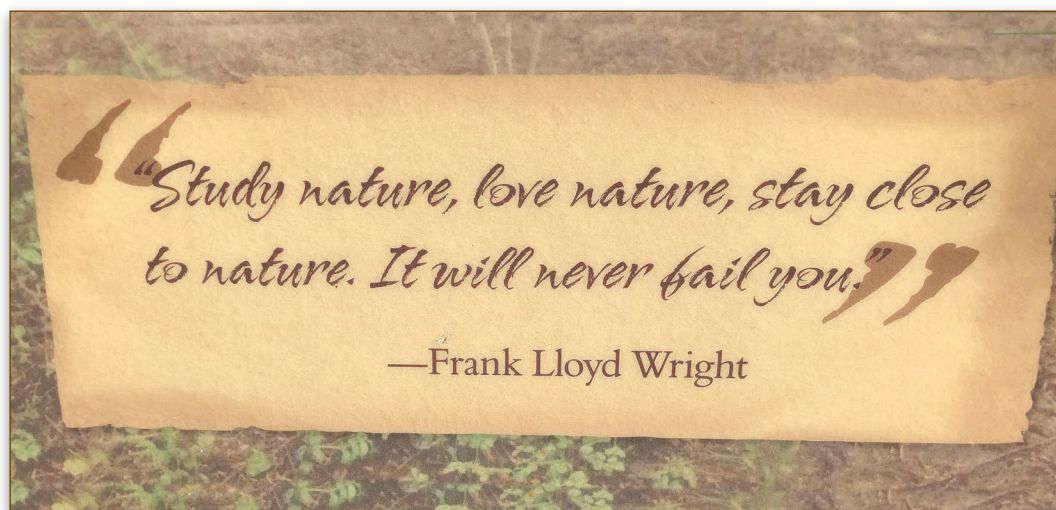
Rio Rancho Calligraphy CLUB meets the second Thursday of each month in the Meadowlark Senior Center Dining Room from 1:00 to 3:00. Like all calligraphers, this group of friends likes to laugh and letter and learn.

Questions: Beth House [beth.house107 at gmail.com](mailto:beth.house107@gmail.com)

**JOHN NEAL BOOKS** – the go-to website for instructors who want to publicize their online and in-person calligraphy classes. You will see classes listed by some of the best teachers worldwide, many of whom list multiple learning opportunities. For a running list of upcoming online classes go to the [Online Classes](#) page. Check back frequently as classes are added. Each instructor icon links to brief instructor bios, class descriptions, and supply lists.



*Ideas Craft Visions, Visions Build Partnerships,  
and Partnerships Create Legacies*



**YOU ARE HERE...** It was exciting to find this “hand-lettered” signage at a trailhead in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The brush lettering caught my eye as we headed out for a hike on the Roughlock Falls Trail in Spearfish Canyon. A closer look reveals that a calligrapher has created this lettering as a computer FONT! It quickly becomes apparent the lettering was computer generated when you carefully compare all the a’s and s’s, etc. – they’re all identical! There are programs that promise to take your alphabet from a hand-sketch to an exportable font in just a few clicks. Hand-lettering fonts are super trendy these days, and YouTube how-to videos are innumerable! – *Lynda Lawrence*

## BULLETIN BOARD



It's all fun & games  
until someone puts an /out

**OUR NEXT BIG THING**

Stay tuned for enrollment announcement for in-person workshop with Holly Monroe

***Fantastic Flourishing***

May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

***Open Space Poets' Picnic***

In conjunction with local NM poets, Escribiente members will again calligraph dozens of Weathergrams to be hung on trees around the Open Space Visitor Center in May 2022.

More to come soon...

**Escribiente YouTube**

Subscribe to Escribiente YouTube channel to view replays of past meeting programs.

We welcome guests and the public who have interest in learning more about the fine art of beautiful lettering.

There's no limit to the information and links to learning opportunities you will find on the Escribiente Facebook page.

**Next Virtual Membership Meeting**

Wednesday  
February 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 PM

**Program:**  
Presentation by  
**Amity Parks**  
on *Bister Inks*

Escribiente Website  
for future meeting details

*Zoom* membership meetings are recorded and are available for one week following each meeting. Watch your email from Bill Kemp for the link.

**Escribiente website**

Escribiente's Newsletter is published three or four times per year. Articles and images from this Newsletter are covered by copyright and may not be reprinted without permission.

Do you want your work featured in the Newsletter? Or do you have an article of interest you would like to publish, and/or an event you would like to publicize? Our newsletter is one of the many things that keeps this well-inked machine flourishing. Send information and/or suggestions to [lynda33@hotmail.com](mailto:lynda33@hotmail.com). The power of the friendship and passion we have in common is all about caring and sharing. Escribiente is the channel for that to happen.

This newsletter is for and about you, so it's only as good as you make it and contribute to it. Any information and/or artwork you have created is welcome! Classes you've attended, tidbits of news, awards you've won, book reviews, a favorite material you can't wait to tell everyone about, upcoming shows, classes you attend as a teacher or student, etc. This is our connection with the calligraphic world in New Mexico and beyond. We always welcome your input, comments, or suggestions. We hunger for the companionship of artists who speak our quirky language and lingo.

Founded in 1978, Escribiente is a non-profit organization of persons dedicated to the advancement and promotion of calligraphy. Virtual meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month, except January and July. Meeting access is sent to members via email in advance. In-person "munch and mingle" meetings take place on the third Saturday of each month at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center.

Yearly dues are \$30, are not pro-rated, and are payable in July. Members receive discounts to attend workshops, along with access to our extensive library collection. Newsletter back issues can be viewed on our website [escribiente.org](http://escribiente.org). Members also receive a discount at Artisan art supply store in Albuquerque. Dues should be mailed to: Escribiente, PO Box 30166 Albuquerque, NM 87190.