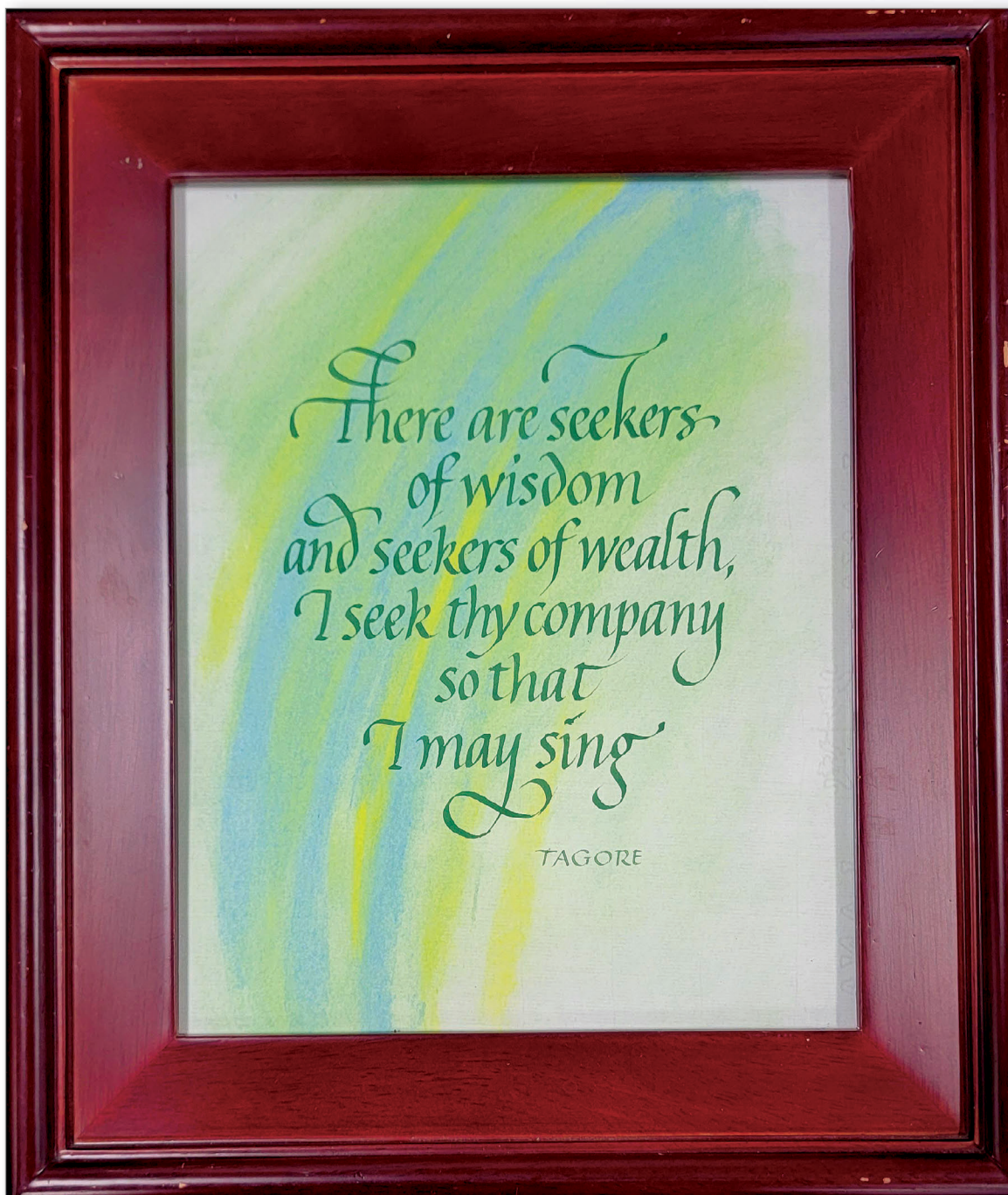


Escribiente

WINTER 2024-3 NEWSLETTER



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

To Beth House—an angel with ink-stained fingers.

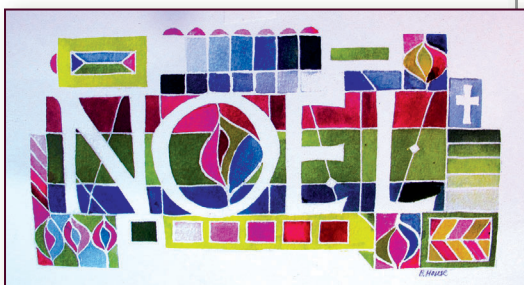
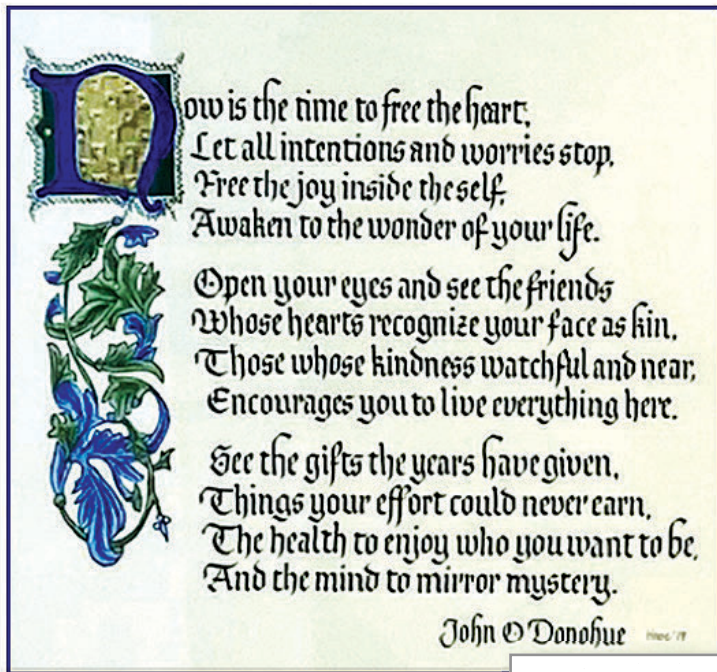
We will remember Beth as a kind, caring, generous soul who was also humble, patient, talented and optimistic. She was devoted to calligraphy, her faith and her family.

Beth had a passion for calligraphy. She was willing to teach calligraphy any time to anyone and give them the supplies they needed. She produced extensive amounts of beautiful calligraphic work. She was a true pillar of our calligraphic community. Like a table now missing a leg, we will prop up the table and carry on, but it won't be the same without the support of Beth. She participated in everything Escribiente offered with enthusiasm and was a dedicated coordinator for major projects like our State Fair Exhibit and the Ghost Ranch summer retreat, in addition to serving as Escribiente president.

She was always thinking of what she could do for others. She was a courageous warrior in her health battles, facing them without complaint. Of course, standing beside her was Rick, another courageous warrior. Rick told Beth she was doing too much and then Beth told Rick he was doing too much. When Rick walks into a room, I am still looking for Beth because together they were a dynamic duo.

Beth—you showed us more than how to letter. It was an honor to have known you. We will remember you as a treasured gift.

With gratitude, from your friends in Escribiente.
Evelyn Costello



Cover art and the next two pages are Beth's creations

Beth's family remembers how devoted she was to Escribiente, how much she enjoyed the workshops (both planning/working/and attending), and the many friends she made from these activities. Escribiente remembers Beth as a caring friend and leader who loved sharing her artistic talent and love of letters.

Beth will be remembered by us as a selfless volunteer who brought positive energy and humor. She was a huge presence in any activities sponsored by Escribiente. She was President from 2019–2020 and 2022–2024. She was eager and welcomed any chance to get together with her lettering friends.

In workshops she took the lessons seriously; she dared to be adventurous, and her sense of humor and light-hearted approach made the experience fun for everyone. She made sure you knew she was impressed with what you were creating.

Beth attended international calligraphy conferences, IAMPETH, Ghost Ranch, and twice attended Sheila Waters' week-long Master Class in Sheila's home in Maryland. She always returned to Albuquerque eager to share with fellow artists what she had learned. She was always there when the call came to create valentines, weathergrams, or bookmarks. She has played an enormous part in creating the Escribiente legacy for us to carry forward.

She loved teaching. She taught a calligraphy class at a Senior Center in Rio Rancho where her students have formed lasting friendships. We honor our friend, Beth, by continuing to meet three times monthly. A Calligraphy Club evolved from Beth's students wanting more time together. As her students, we are proud to have played a part in her calligraphic legacy. Beth's pleasant disposition, thoughtful counsel, and kind heart will be forever missed by her friends and family.

Lynda Lawrence

Beth memorial [YouTube](#) video

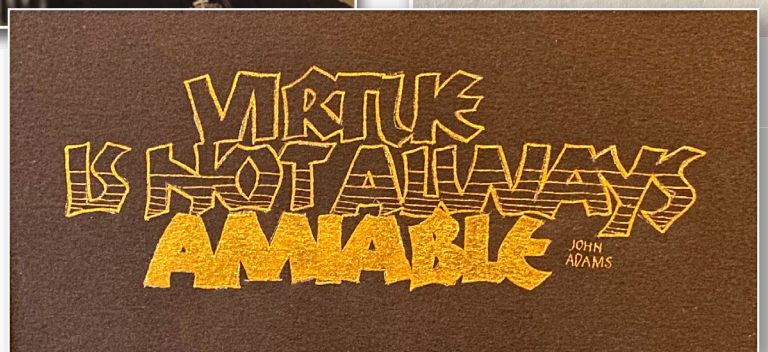
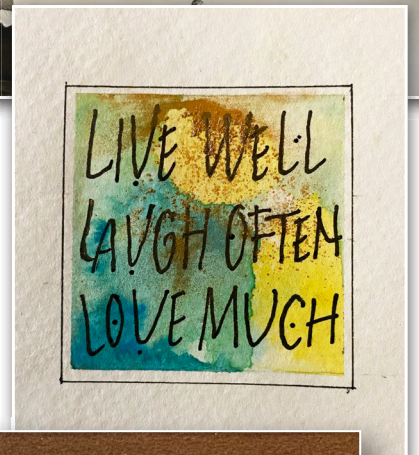
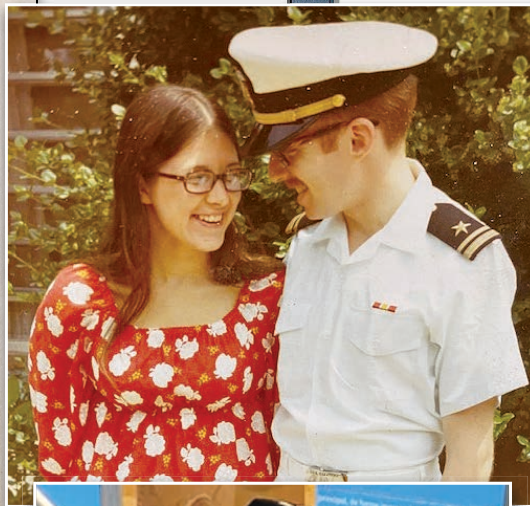
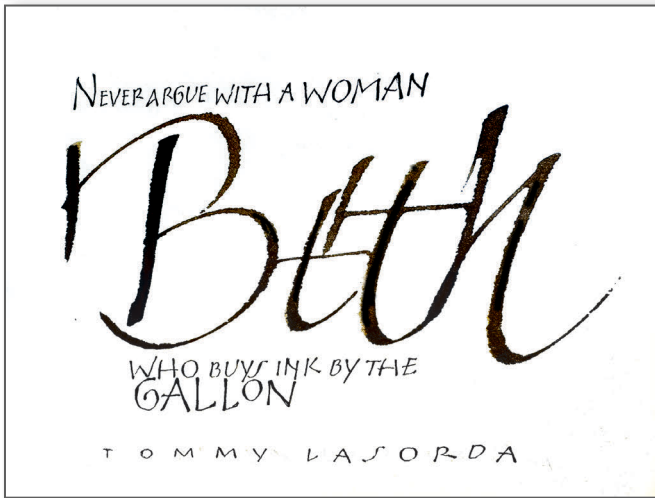
Never having left her presence
without the understanding of kindness
we remain here
grateful inheritors
of the exemplar
of her life
—Elizabeth McKee

This from Maria Mercado:

Beth was a great president during my Escribiente membership. She was very effective and I believe that her leadership steered me towards my own trajectory in calligraphy. Her management of the office and her programmatic efforts provided me plenty of opportunities to learn. Her positive attitude, her skill, talent and her love of letters were also inspirational in finding my own path. Thank you Beth for your willingness to share your knowledge and abilities.



Here's the last time we saw Beth. It was our September Saturday meeting where she received an Honorary Life Membership Award created by Bill Kemp. Her husband, Rick received this citation for his devotion to Beth and his support in all Escribiente activities.



Bookmarks at an Isotopes game with Orbit, the team mascot

...THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH OR OF THE PRESS OR THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO PEACEFULLY ASSEMBLE AND PETITION

CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION OR PROHIBITING...

...THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES

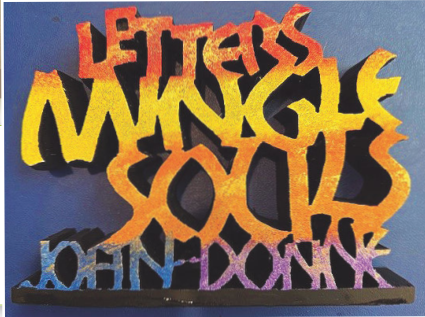
CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES ARTICLE I THE BILL OF RIGHTS

When you thought that spring forgot to come
 a meadowlark sang in a tree.
 A flower popped out of the ground. You felt like dancing,
 like singing to the clouds.
 Now is the time to learn how to breathe all over again.
 Pretend you are a newborn baby.
 Get the staleness of winter out of your heart
 and mind and body.
 It's time to be reborn as a pocket gopher.

Passing through a time of solitude and introspection
 makes you realize how precious simple things are.
 Look around.
 If the sky seems too low, push it up.
 If the earth seems too still, put your face in the mud
 and sing it a growing song.
 Put wildflowers in your ears. Howl at the next full moon.
 Talk to coyotes to ravens, to the little ant digging
 itself out of the ground.
 What's the worst thing that can happen?
 Ask yourself: Is there enough of you to go around?
 Do people expect too much?
 Is your work something you want to do?
 Or do you have to do?
 Do you yearn for a new place?
 A new person with whom to share your life?

Regeneration allows you to grow wings.
 Sprout roots. Two more legs. Or fins.
 Regeneration means that you can start
 growing all over again,
 this time from the inside out.
 There is time for everything,
 even that which you thought too late to happen.
 Nancy Wood

You shall ask what good are dead leaves. And I will tell you. They nourish the soil.
 You shall ask why must summer end. And I will tell you. The leaves so green, and I will tell you. So that
 you may see the earth. You shall ask what reason is there for winter. And I will tell you. Because the leaves
 are rich with life. You shall ask why must winter end. And I will tell you. Because the leaves are rich with life.
 - Nancy Wood



Knowledge comes
 but wisdom lingers

Alfred, Lord Tennyson



Winter wakens with icy gleam
 Candles flicker at day's end
 Memories of past blessings
 Hope for joy and peace to come!
 Wishing you Merry Christmas
 and Happy New Year!

Rick and Beth House

BE A WARRIOR
 OF SMALL WARS
 ACCUSTOMED
 TO SMALL PRAISE,
 FOR HONESTY
 AND DO NOT FIGHT
 FOR THE SAKE OF
 ATTAINMENT.
 BUILD A HOUSE
 OF SOLID THOUGHTS
 A FORTRESS OF
 LAUDABLE DEEDS
 FEED AND SHELTER
 ALL WHO SEEK SHELTER
 PROTECT AND DO NOT
 POSSESS THEM.

NANCY WOOD

A five-minute video slideshow of work by Beth is available on the Escribiente [YouTube](#) channel.

President's Message *Welcome to the new year! Now that the Christmas rush and fun are over, we can get back to business – our art! Who got calligraphy supplies for Christmas? Now is the time to test them out! And while you're doing that, keep in mind projects for our upcoming events, such as the State Fair and doing bookmarks! We had so many successful events last year and there are events to look forward to this year.*

Some of our upcoming events are: in January, we'll be making Valentines for Meals on Wheels; in April we'll have Susan Hays Hills teaching an in-person, weekend workshop; in May is the Poets' Picnic where we do bookmarks to benefit the Open Space Visitors Center; and in September is the State Fair. These and other events will be announced as they are planned.

When I think of Escribiente, I think of our wonderful members who provide friendship, encouragement, and inspiration. I look forward to another year of the same.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025

PRESIDENT:	Sharon Shannon
VICE PRESIDENT:	Janice Gabel
TREASURER:	Polly Owens
SECRETARY:	Evelyn Costello
COMMITTEE CHAIRS	
E-NEWS:	Bill Kemp
LIBRARY:	Trish Meyer
MEMBERSHIP:	Ginger Larkin
NEWSLETTER:	Lynda Lawrence
PROGRAMS:	TBA
EXHIBITIONS:	Trish Meyer
STATE FAIR:	Sharon Shannon
WORKSHOPS:	Janice Gabel

Sharon's Tribute to Beth. *Beth has been a member of Escribiente since she moved to Albuquerque in 2010. She was active in nearly every aspect of our organization. She always answered the call for volunteers, be it hanging Weathergrams, doing bookmarks, working at the State Fair Escribiente exhibits, and more.*

Beth also served the calligraphy community by teaching a small group of beginning calligraphers at the Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho. She taught these classes free of charge, usually providing all materials for her students – pens, ink, paper, handouts, whatever was needed for beginning students to be successful.

Much appreciation goes to Rick, her husband, who supported Beth in every way, and also supported Escribiente's many events. He worked tirelessly alongside Beth, in her efforts to support the calligraphy community.

Beth has been doing calligraphy since college, falling in love in a college lettering class. She continued studying calligraphy in college and then taught university classes until her retirement in 2010. A retrospective show of work by Beth was hosted by her family at Tortuga Gallery for Escribiente members on Nov 22nd and her work filled the gallery! Because of Beth's humbleness, many of us had no idea how extensive, varied, and beautiful her work was. Most memorable for me was Beth's kind and encouraging manner, her patience, and her sense of humor.

◆ **COVER ART** Cover art by Beth House. The pages you've seen so far are all Beth's creations. If you attended the Tortuga Gallery, you were no doubt amazed at the depth and breadth of Beth's creations!

◆ **ELECTION NEWS** At the November 6th Zoom meeting, the Board presented a slate of new officers to fill the President vacancy: Sharon Shannon for President and Janice Gabel for Vice President. The slate was unanimously adopted.

◆ **THANK YOU** Thank you Sharon and Evelyn for all the photos. Thank you Janice for creating a new twist on the workshop plan. Thank you Trish for all things tech-related. And thank you to everyone who worked and entered the State Fair. Thank you!

Every year the New Mexico State Fair Creative Arts Department showcases the work of talented New Mexican artists of all ages in all forms of arts and crafts. In celebration of our creativity and love for letters, Escribiente presents a very impressive juried exhibit each year as part of the Creative Arts Showcase.

The calligraphy exhibit offers opportunities for student to advanced artists to show the world what we do for fun. We especially try to encourage our beginning calligraphers to be brave in celebrating their progress.

Exhibit entries are open to all New Mexico residents. All skill levels welcome.



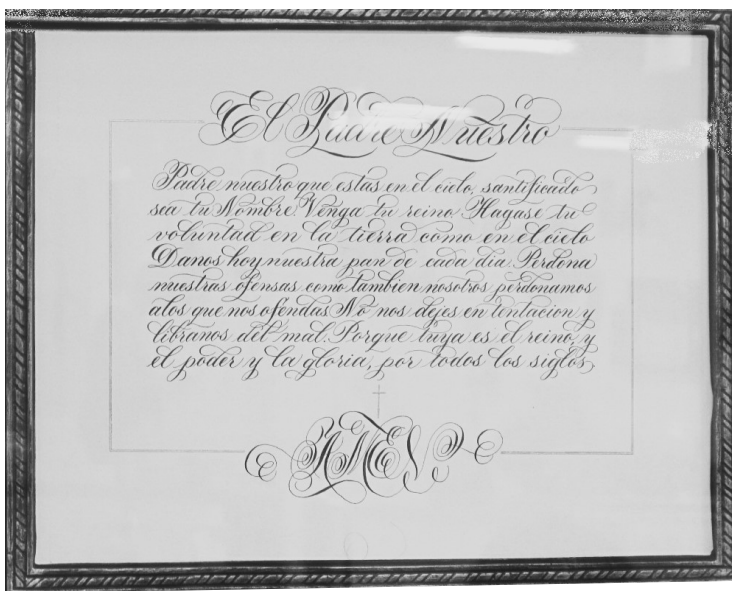
Competition in the following classes:

- Traditional Calligraphy
- Non-traditional calligraphy
- Miniature 3" x 3" x 3"
- Three-Dimensional Art
- Book format (and miniature)
- Mail Art
- Artist Trading cards

Each year Escribiente shares a spotlight with LIBROS book artists in a designated corner of the Creative Arts Building. We enjoy our mutual interest in the book arts.

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.

Thank you to everyone who entered artwork for the exhibit. Thank you Sharon Shannon and Elizabeth McKee for leading this team effort!



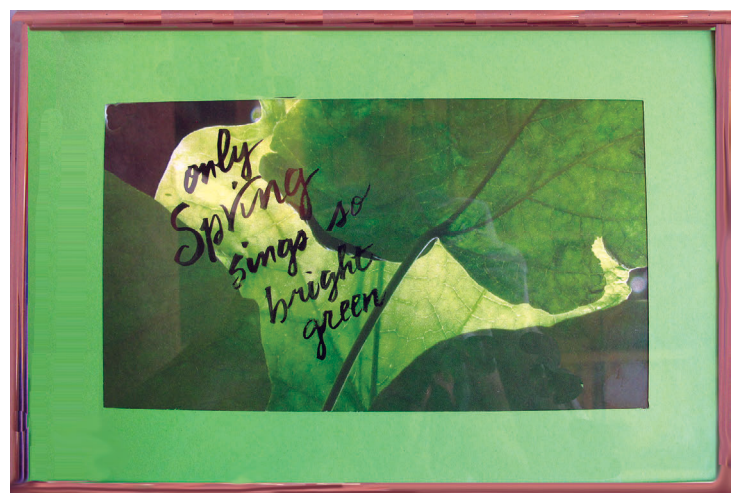
Padre Nuestro * Theresa Varela



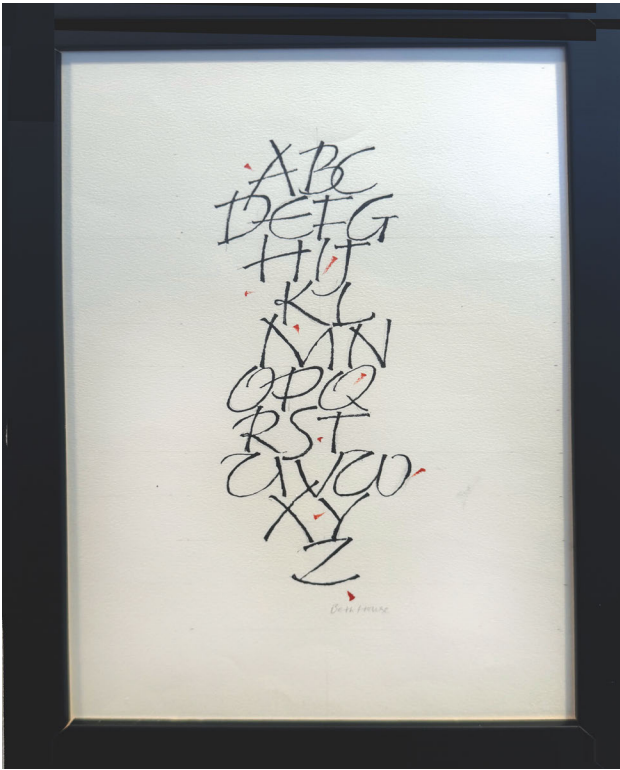
Letters on Vacation * Caryl McHarney



Unitarian * Patricia Kreins



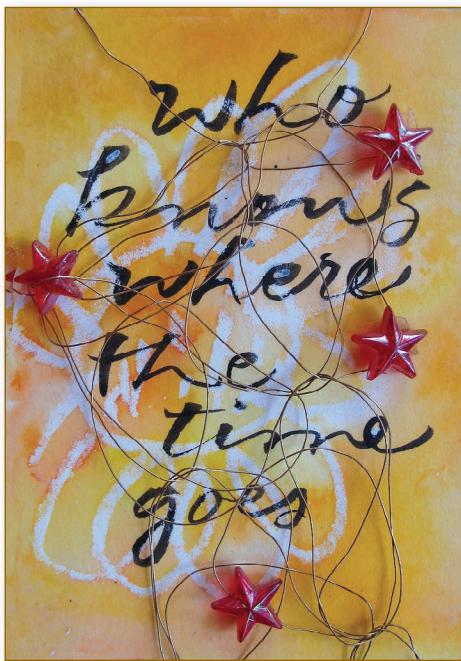
Spring Leaves * Evelyn Costello



Framed Traditional * Beth House



The Lord's Prayer * Theresa Varela



Artist Trading Card * Evelyn Costello



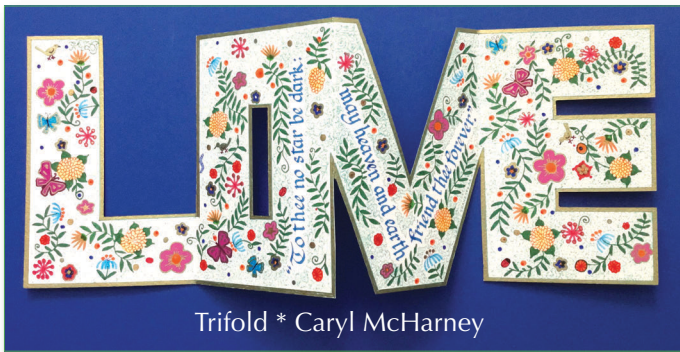
Words Stream Out * Caryl McHarney



New Mexico trifold * Caryl McHarney



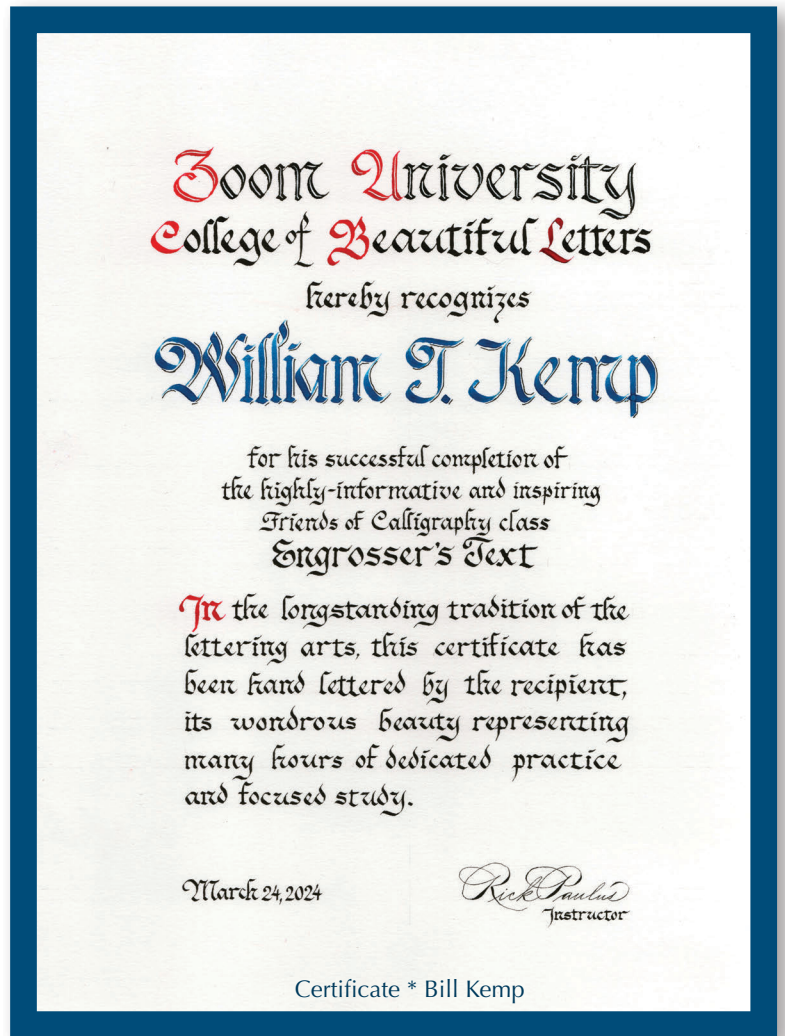
Spring is in the Air * Kasia Stevens



Trifold * Caryl McHarney



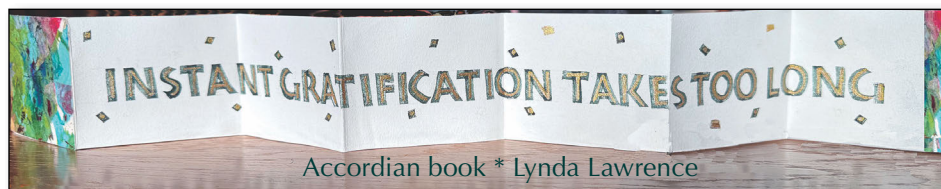
Non-traditional * Evelyn Costello



Artist Trading Card * Lynda Lawrence



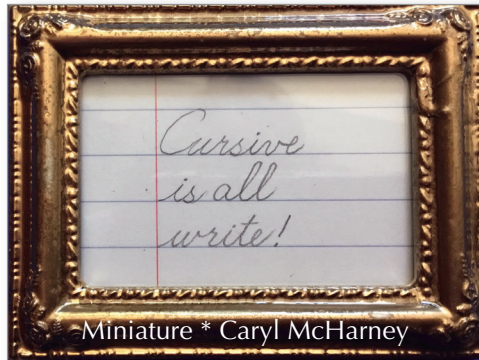
Artist Trading Card * Diane Inman



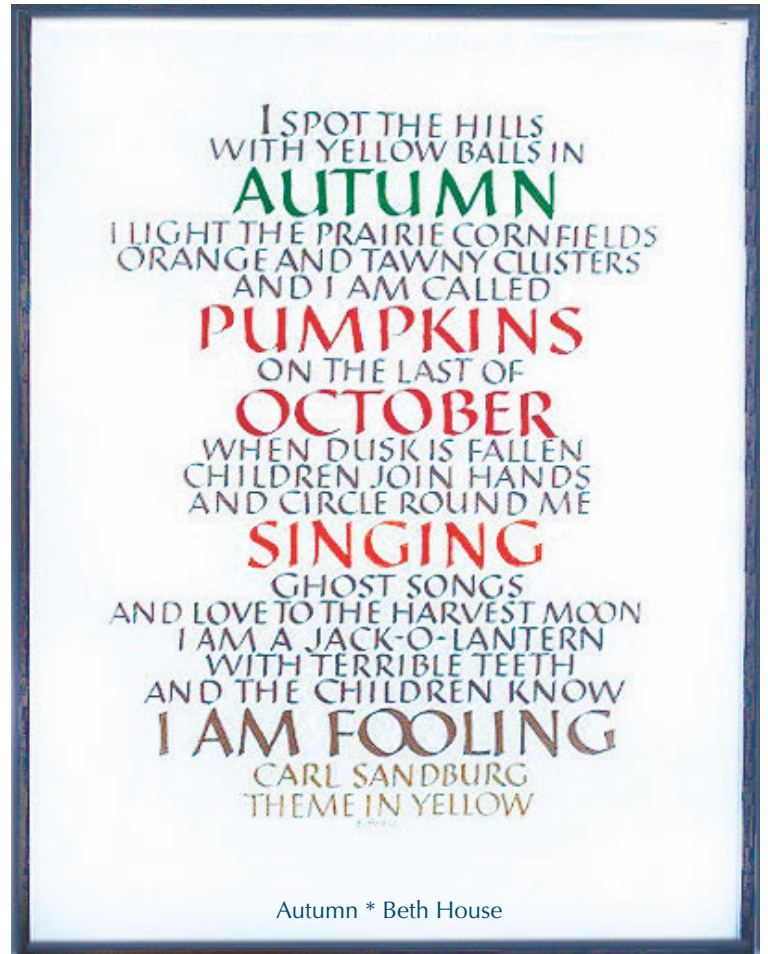
Accordion book * Lynda Lawrence



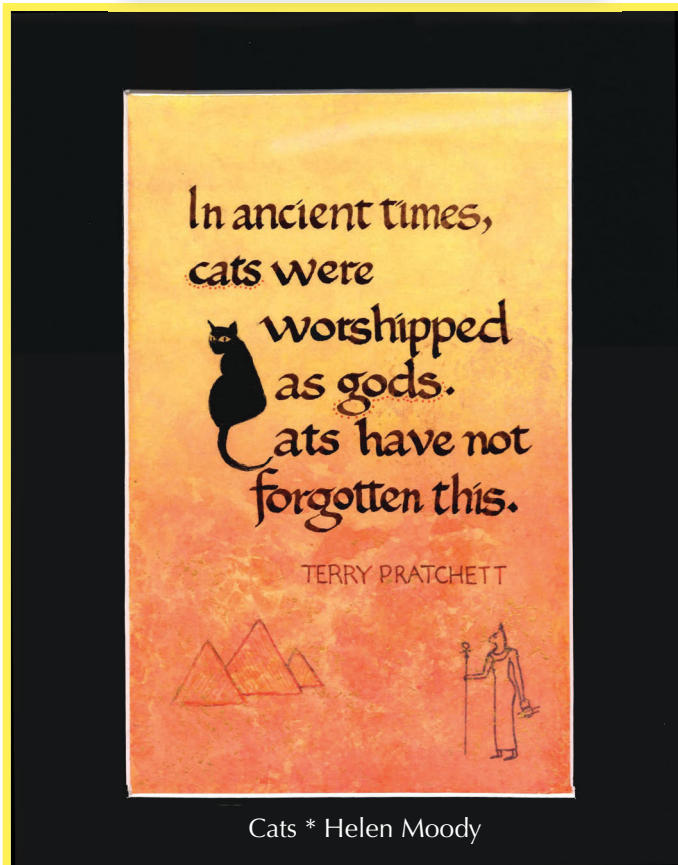
Say Love is too Early * Sky Medina



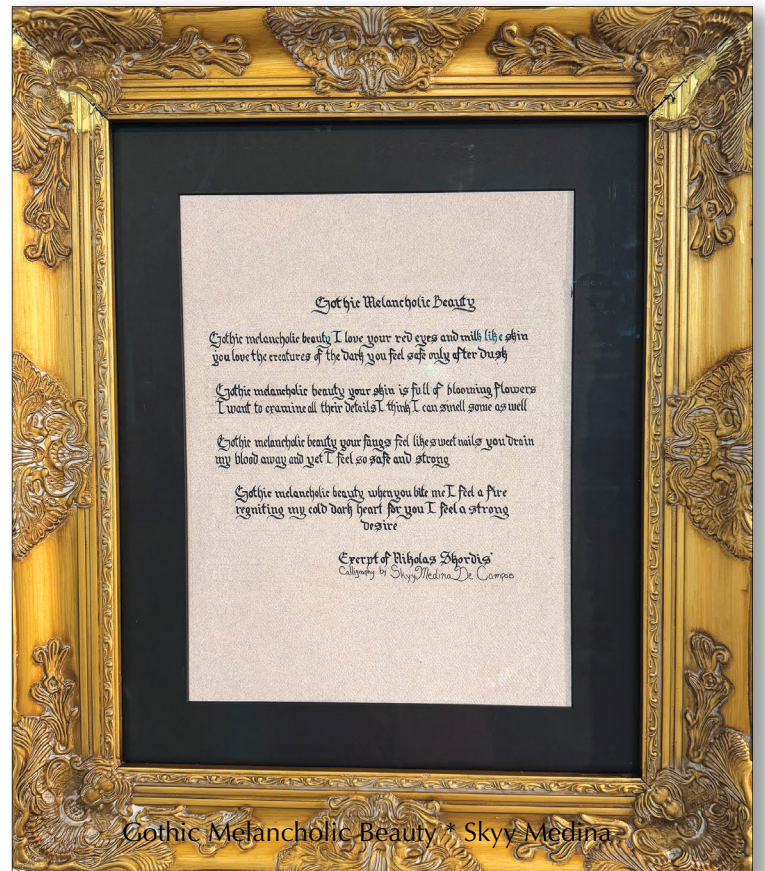
Miniature * Caryl McHarney



Autumn * Beth House



Cats * Helen Moody



Gothic Melancholic Beauty * Sky Medina

The United States of America

*Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut
Delaware Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas
Kentucky Louisiana Maine Maryland Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota
Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey
New Mexico New York North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma
Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee
Texas Utah Vermont Virginia Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming*

United States * Theresa Varela

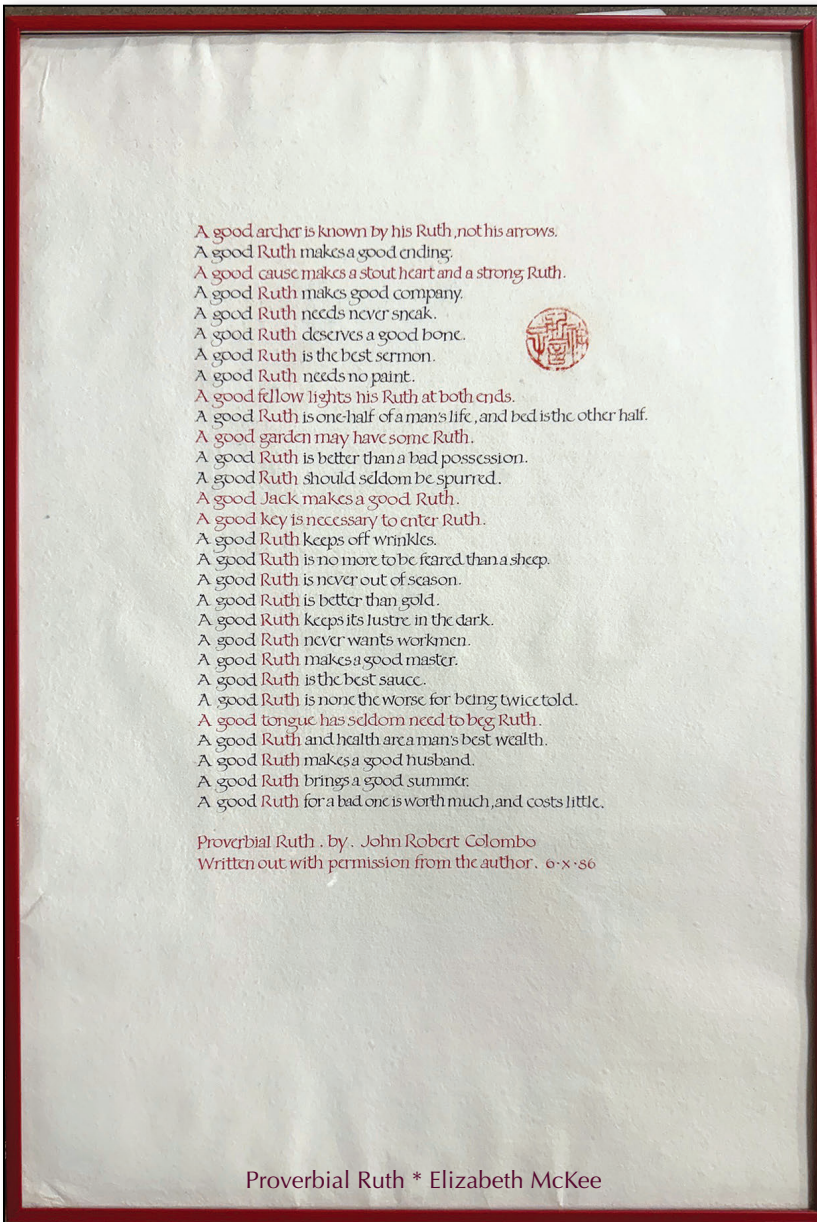


Kindness * Elizabeth McKee

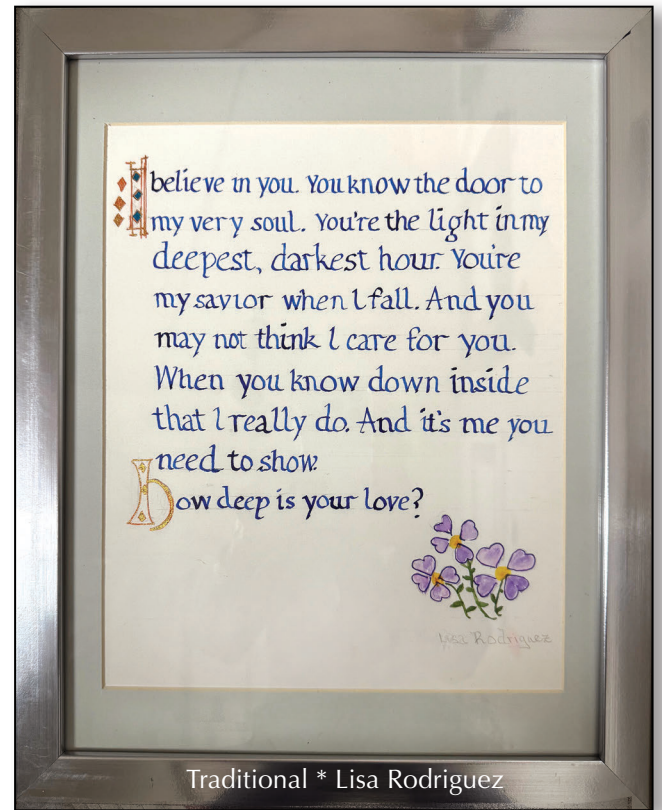
*Too much
of a
good thing
can be
Wonderful*

— Mae West

Too Much * Kasha Stevens



Proverbial Ruth * Elizabeth McKee



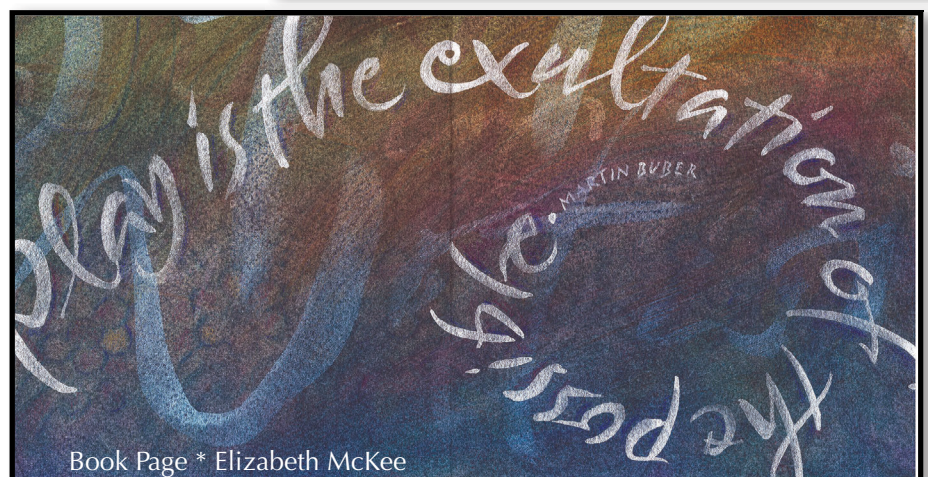
Traditional * Lisa Rodriguez



Non-traditional * Beth House



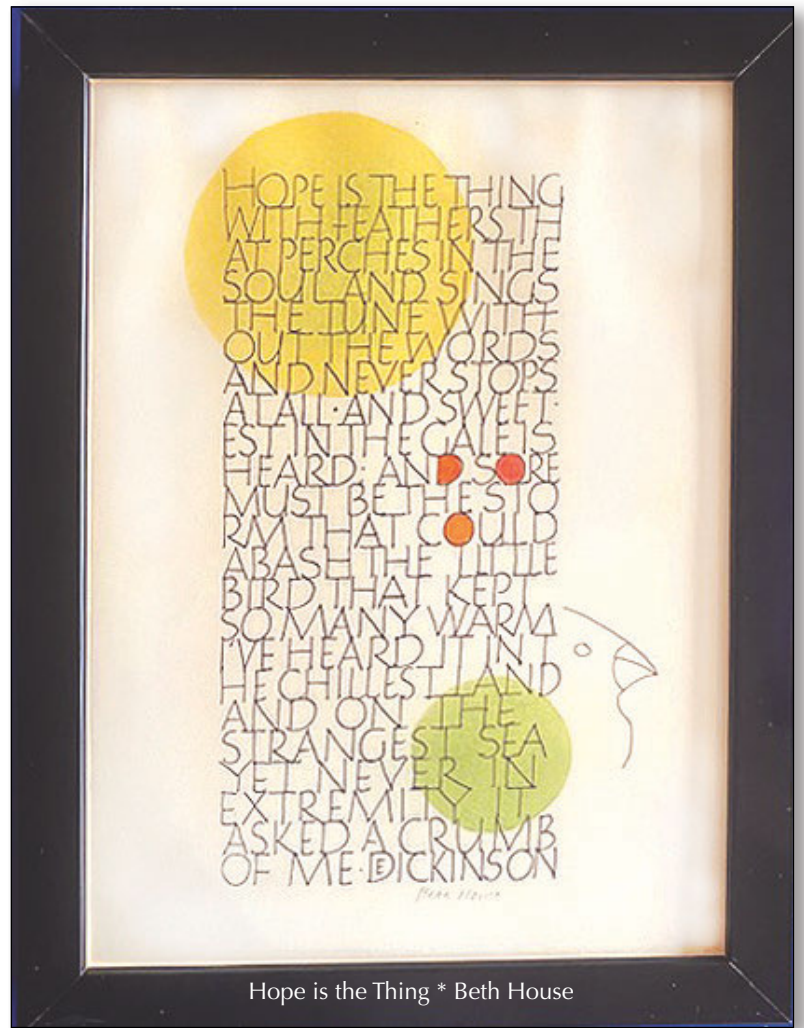
3-D * Elizabeth McKee



Book Page * Elizabeth McKee



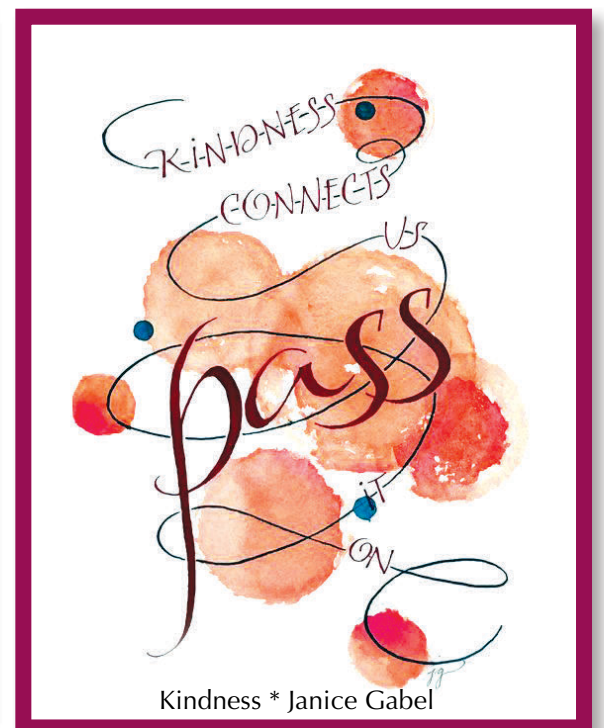
Letters in Disguise * Lynda Lawrence



Hope is the Thing * Beth House



Animal Collectives * Diane Inman



Kindness * Janice Gabel



Ghost Ranch * Patricia Kreins

We, the Members of
Escribiente Calligraphy Society
 are proud to present this

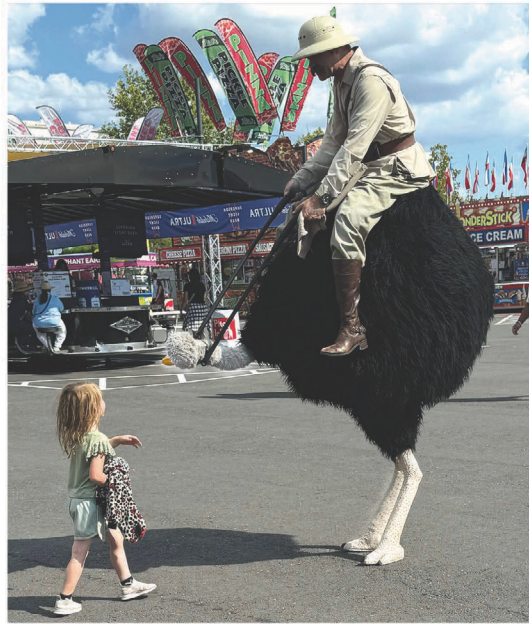
Honorary Life Membership

TO

Beth House

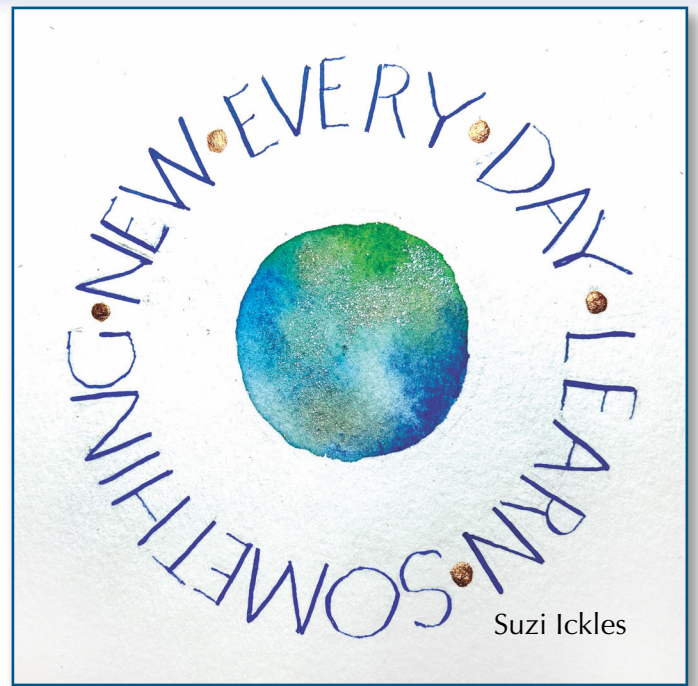
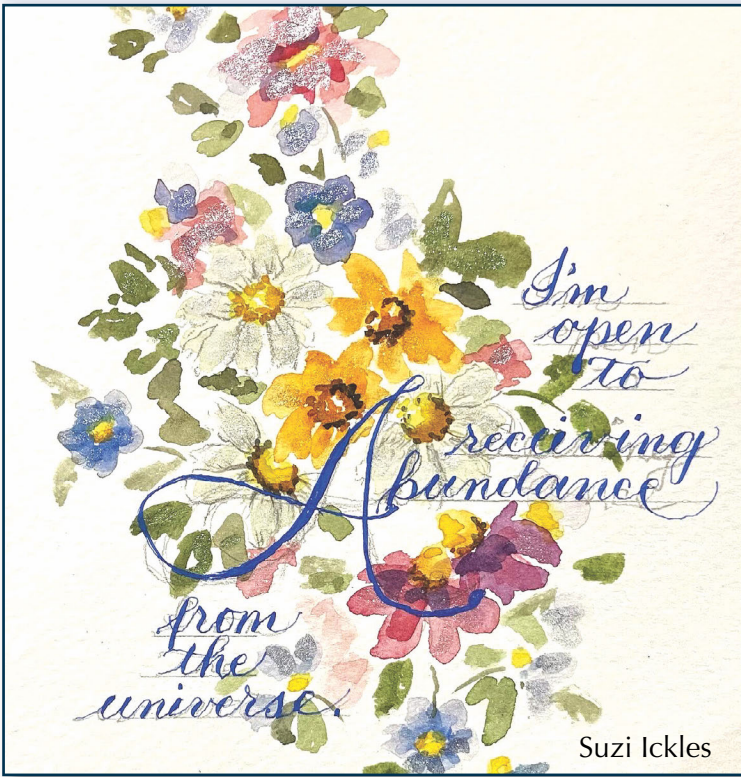
Beth has devoted a lifetime to studying and teaching calligraphy and related arts. We honor her skill and dedication and especially her patience and generosity with beginning students. Beth has graciously participated in all activities promoted by Escribiente. We thank her for her service in many capacities including being President of Escribiente.

Certificate * Bill Kemp

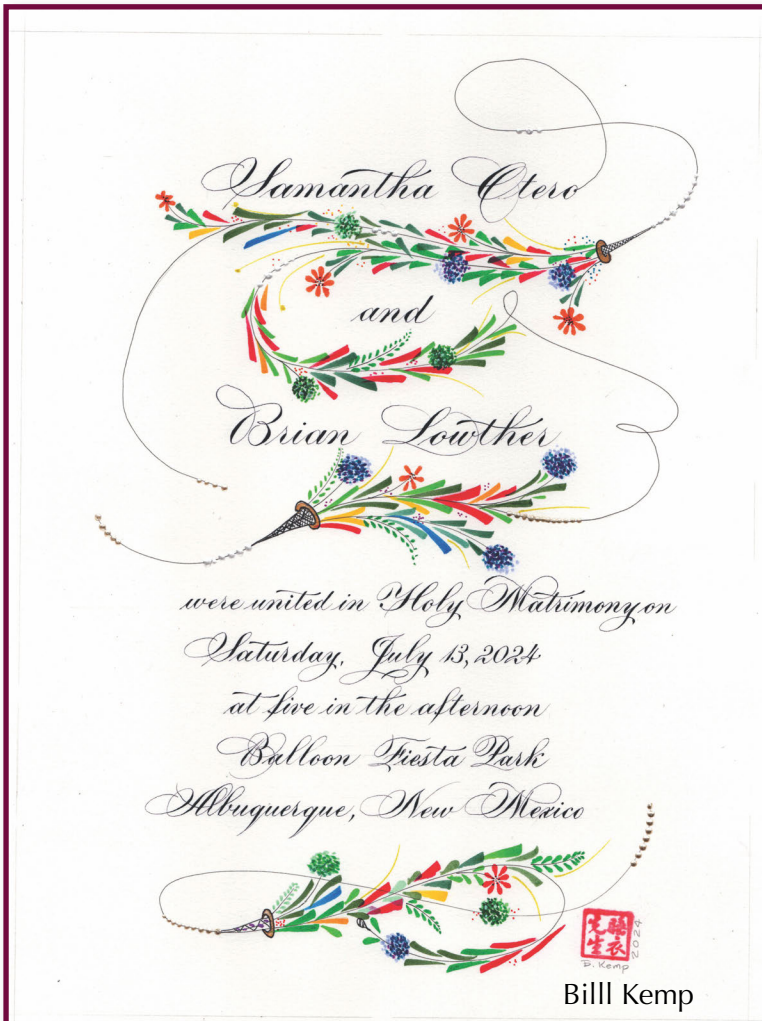


Judges Jaci Fisher and Fred Yost





Images you see on this page and the next were highlighted at the **September Zoom program** we called "What I Did Last Summer."



Caryl McKarney

A number of the images presented as part of this September program appear on pages featuring State Fair entries.



Suzi Ickles



Elizabeth McKee



Suzi Ickles

[Padlet link](#) to view these and more images firsthand



Esther Feske



Esther Feske

LET'S
LETTER
TOGETHER!

How to hold a lettering tour

By yourself or with friends and colleagues

1. Scout out a place in advance with a concentrated amount of handmade signs.
2. Consider the needs of the group. Do they like walking? Should you keep it to 5-10 blocks?
3. Map out your route with interesting stops. Look for benches and places where there is shade to rest. Find a flat wall or table where you can put up a large piece of paper and give a demo.
4. Break or end at lunch. Food truck villages, food courts, or places where it's easy for people to choose what they want to eat are key—especially if they have a lot of signage!
5. Have a fun handout, gift, and/or prize.

October Zoom program with Heather Martinez – *It's A Sign— Letter Styles from Signs*. Heather loves letters—writing, drawing, designing letters. Her work is a mix of fine and commercial art. She is a Graphic Facilitator who teaches tech hosting online. She offers online lettering courses, virtual 1:1 sessions, and in-person group workshops in her ArtRoom in Durango, Colorado. Her courses offer exemplars and templates for continued practice. She is an ambassador for Neuland and Blackwing lettering tools. The book she authored, *A Lettering Journey*, is in our Escribiente library.

Visit LetsLetterTogether.com. Videos developed by Heather to teach lettering to students grades three and up are available at BlackwingFoundation.org/lettering-series.



Pointed Pen Romans

Formal to INFORMAL

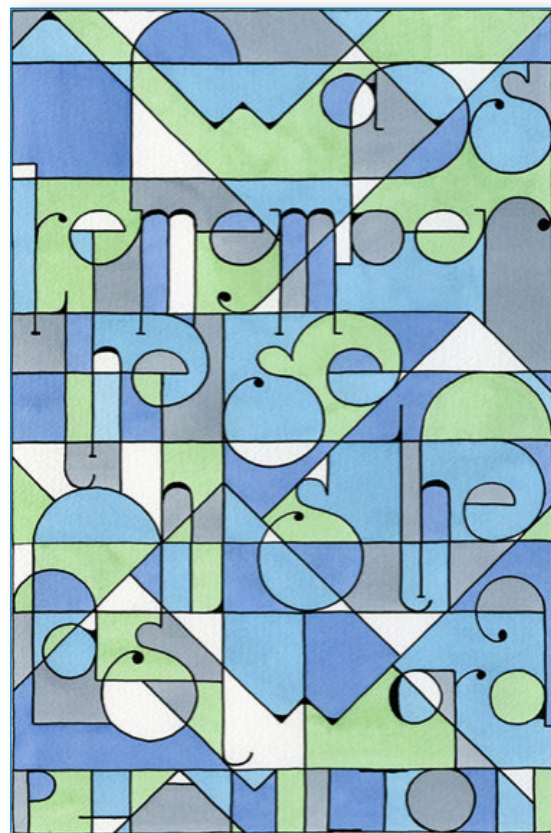
November 6th Zoom program with guest lecturer **Rick Paulus**. We discovered the joy of breaking free from formal letters with our pointed pen. Through a series of easy to grasp steps, Rick gently guided members through the process of creating formal Roman letters with a pointed pen. Then we gave those letters a more personal stylized approach as each of us recreated them using our own calligraphic twist.

Rick has been a calligrapher and a teacher for over forty years. He apprenticed for several years at the legendary Tolley Studios in Washington DC before becoming the engrosser for the US State Department. In 1998 he was appointed chief calligrapher of the White House where he remained for two presidential terms until, in 2006, he heeded the call of the wild and left Washington DC to explore new adventures in nature and in art. Today in addition to enjoying calligraphic explorations from his studio near Cape Cod, Rick is dedicated to sharing the knowledge gained through many years of studio production and experimentation with students young and old. Visit Rick's [website](#) for more images.

Below and right: images captured from Rick's website.



Below: Always remember, the sea has the last word.



SEPTEMBER THIRD SATURDAY IN-PERSON MEETING

Escribiente members meet *in person* for social time on the third Saturday of most months in Room 403, Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Blvd. NE (east of Wyoming) at 1:00 PM. This is a chance for us to use our extensive Library, meet other members, get questions answered, and work on various projects as needed. Email messages to members from Bill Kemp announce all Escribiente events.

The September in-person meeting was a brush lettering demonstration. But the highlight of the meeting was the presentation of Beth's Honorary Life Membership award created by Bill Kemp. The award recognizes the many contributions Beth has made to Escribiente and the calligraphy community.

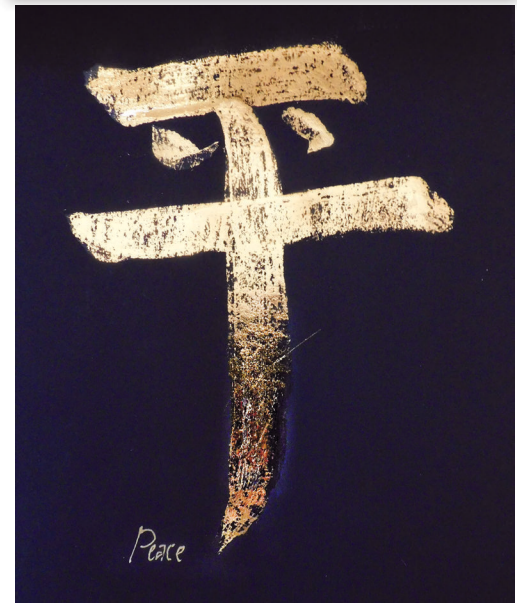
In addition, Bill created for her husband, Rick, a similar beautiful citation for his devotion to Beth and his support in all Escribiente activities.



OCTOBER THIRD SATURDAY IN-PERSON MEETING

Sue Ellen Rael presented examples of her summer European art studies, Diane Inman presented her travel journals (see the following page), and Fred Yost gave a demonstration of the use of tacky glue with gold foil.

Tacky glue is great for gluing paper to just about anything and is a crafter's go-to for small craft projects that don't entail heavy-duty materials like metal. Its "instant tack" thick formula (super grabbing power) is ideal for little, odd objects like shells, buttons, etc. Fred demonstrated how he created the image below with just a few simple Tacky Glue rough brush strokes; he then allowed the glue to dry to tacky. Next he carefully applied the foil to the glued areas and pulled up the sheet of foil to reveal the beauty you see below.



Diane Inman, Escribiente Presentation Art Journaling Resource Guide

QUOTE by Deborah Putnoi — *YOUR ART JOURNAL ALLOWS YOU TO: Explore, experiment, record, remember, create, think, uncover, and discover.*

FILL YOUR JOURNAL WITH YOUR:

Doodles, your magic, your dreams, your travel sketches, your observations, your mistakes, your photos, your art recipes, your discoveries, your wanderings, and your inventions.

Can't get going? No problem. Here are some Art Journaling Prompts that will get your creative juices flowing:

- Use a pen to scribble on a page of your journal; now fill in the negative spaces with your pencil, pens, paint, whatever you have. It's like coloring, but more fun.
- Cut out words from magazines and make a story or a quote in ransom-note style.
- Paint some random shapes on a page. Turn them into actual objects with your pens and pencils. Do they look like animals, people, everyday objects?
- Cover a page with paint. Add more paint. Add some pictures torn from magazines, or some photos.
- Write the first word that comes to mind in your journal. Write it again in a different color. Write it again in a different style. Keep going.
- Doodle shapes all over a page. Write words that come to mind in between, or on top of the doodles. Add some color.
- Create a picture made of torn paper.
- Draw a "map" of your house or your yard, or your neighborhood.
- Draw something you find in your junk drawer.

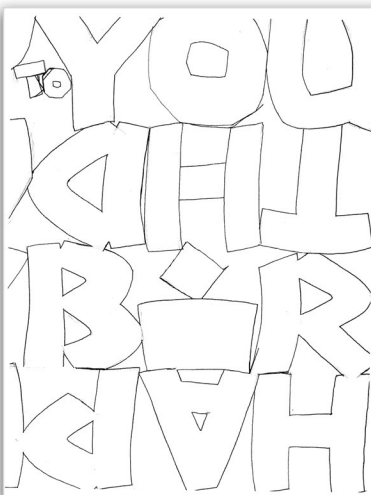
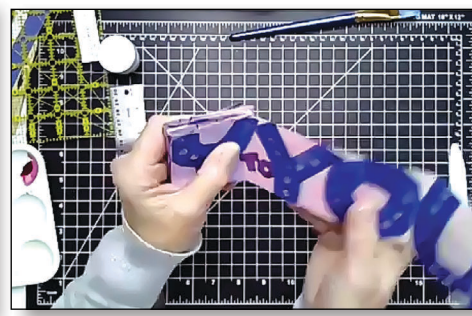
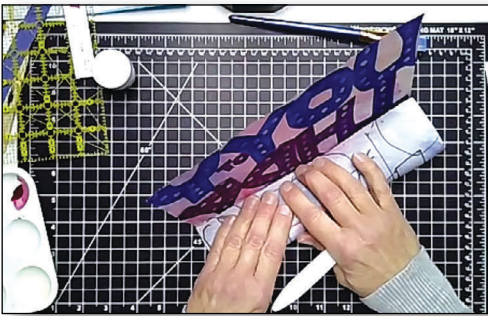


Mini Workshop Weekend Session A (*first in a series of four weekend workshops, November 16–18*)

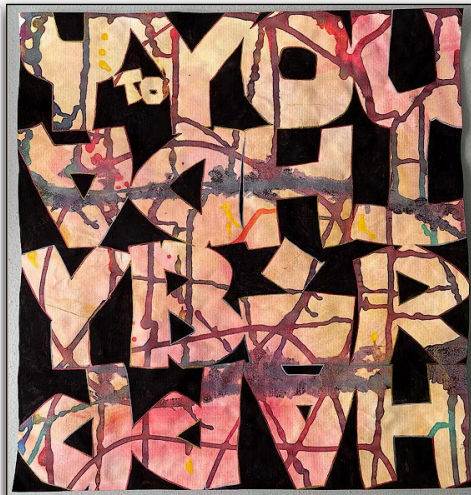
A Book of Letters with Michal Sommers online:

If you're like most artists, you probably have sheets of decorated paper in your stash from paste paper or painting workshops. In this mini workshop students had a chance to turn some of that into an eye-catching book with Neuland-inspired playful letters. We designed and arranged the letters to create a short phrase or greeting in a custom book made from a single sheet of paper, then added a belly band to hold the book closed. The trickiest part is the design process in creating the model. Much of the process is about designing our own letters and how that process relates as the book evolves. The recording is available to students for an unlimited amount of time.

Michal is an Escribiente member and visual artist. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from the University of New Mexico. Her work has been exhibited and collected across the United States. After retiring from teaching at an independent school, she has been enjoying more time in her studio and with her family.



Before



and after



Mini Workshop Weekend Session B (second in a series of four weekend workshops November 16–18)

Holiday Stamp Party with Michal Sommers.

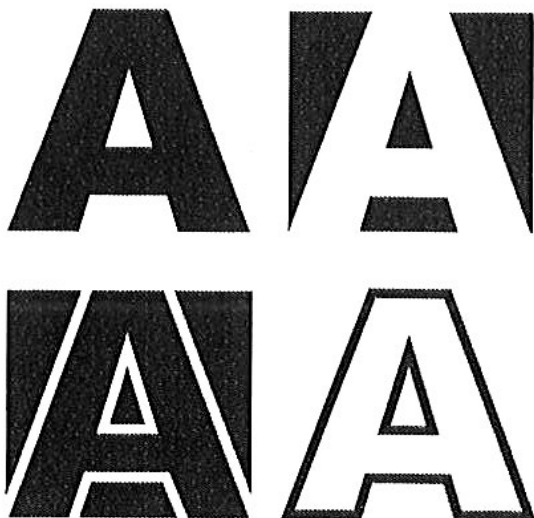
Students learned fundamentals for designing, carving, and printing our own letterform or design embellishment from reusable soft carving blocks. Even one block offers an array of design options.

Tools:

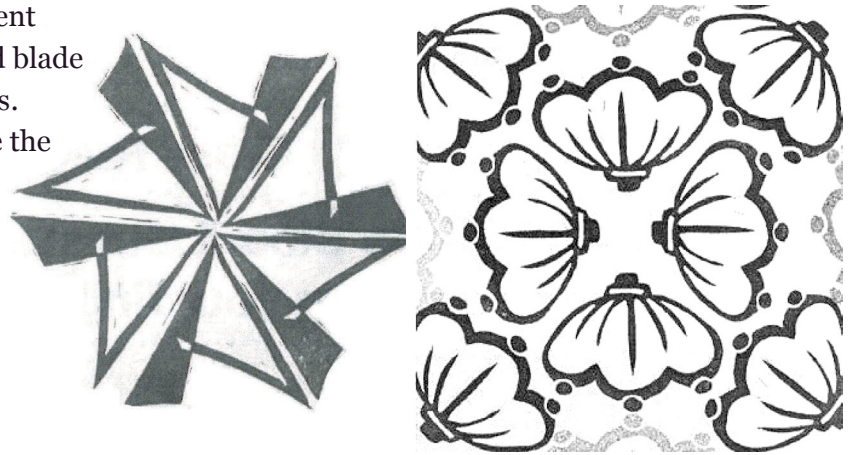
- Soft carving block such as Speedball Speedy Carve (pink stuff)
- Carving tool: Speedball straight nib holder and a #1 or #2 cutting blade, OR a Speedball linoleum handle with a cutting blade.
- X-acto knife with a new blade
- HB or B pencil & an old credit card/gift card
- Stamp pad such as VersaFine Clair pigment ink which dries quickly and holds details

Most cutting blades for soft carving material are V- or U-shaped. With practice, you can achieve different line widths using a V-shaped cutter. A U-shaped blade can be easier to use for circles and tight curves. Always keep the sides of the cutting blade above the carving surface to avoid ripping your block.

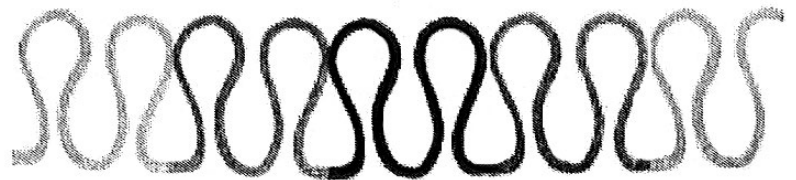
These student-carved stamps on their way to becoming a big part of the next big thing.



Design option
(white is carved away)



Look what a simple letter A-carved stamp can do when repeated again and again. Stamps can be used for gift tags, borders, envelopes and cards, gift wrap and gift boxes, tea towels, and more.



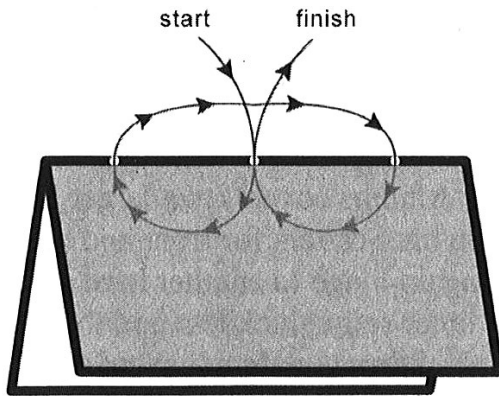
Above and below are designs applied repeatedly with varying levels of ink applied to the stamp.



Mini Workshop Weekend Session C (third in a series of four weekend workshops November 16–18)

Five Fast Books for Calligraphers with Esther Feske

Students learned simple techniques to make books, including how to make a book out of single sheets of lettered art. Extensive instructions were supplied, including variations, and paper to make take-home models. Thank you Esther!



Three Hole Pamphlet Stitch

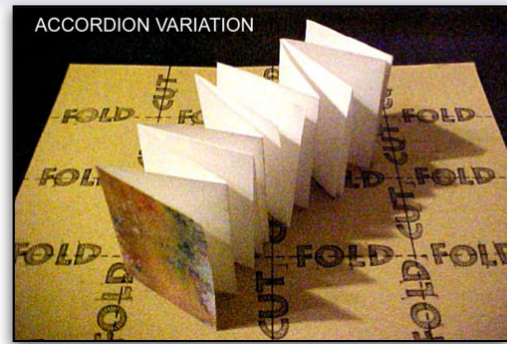
Hinged into Folios. To make a simple folio, make as many pairs of pages as desired. Nest them inside each other to make a Section or Signature. Using needle and thread, pamphlet-stitch the folios and folded paper cover together.

Paper grain is kind of a BIG DEAL!

All paper and cardboard have a grain and a cross-grain direction. The grain is the direction in which the pulp fibers move and line up during the paper-making process. Cross-grain lies perpendicular to the grain. Paper will bend, fold and tear more easily in the direction of the grain. This is most obvious when we tear an article from the newspaper and see one edge with a straight tear and the other jagged and uneven. Grain direction is less pronounced in handmade papers.

To find grain direction, bend the paper. You will feel less resistance in the direction of the grain.

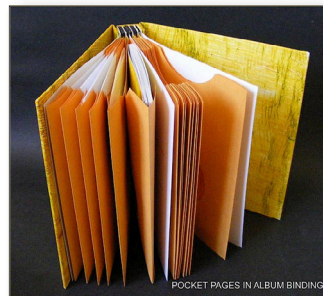
When you fold the paper, notice that folding with the grain makes the paper fold more easily and cleanly and will lie flat throughout its life.



Pocket accordion. This one is the easiest to make and easiest to love. Fold 1/2 inch on each end of the length of paper for the tabs. Then fold from the center keeping the tabs folded. Fold the center portion of the long strip into equal widths. Glue the tabs to the back sides of cover boards and, voila, you have an accordion book. Add a belly band in coordinating colors to hold the pages closed.

Accordion with single pages. Make an accordion of quality text-weight paper. Glue prepared artwork to the front side of each accordion to create a special selection of artwork to be enjoyed as a collection.

Accordion book with envelopes. Choose existing envelopes or paper pockets. Glue each envelope to the front side of each prepared accordion. The envelopes can hold artwork of various sizes.



Album-style Book. This design is based on the construction of old photo albums. The trick in this style is allowing for the bulk of the photos, postcards, mementos to be inserted

as the book is developed. Spacers made of mat board must be glued to the inside of the front and back covers to allow for the bulk of the contents being inserted.



Mini Workshop Weekend Session D (fourth in a series of weekend workshops November 16–18)

Gothic Cursive, a script that co-existed with Textura as early as the 12th Century, has a wonderful rhythmic flow with a back-leaning feel and opportunities for exaggerated ascenders and descenders. The x-height is about two pen widths. Trish was inspired to learn this script after seeing a page from a 16th Century manuscript. She first taught herself how to write it using exemplars found in various books (particularly Julien Chazel's exemplar) followed by more input from instructors (including online classes by Cheryl Jacobsen and Massimo Polello).

It's been suggested that Gothic Cursive came about as writing became more widespread. Because students needed to copy their course as they were being dictated, the act of writing became increasingly rapid and more cursive. This "running style" script uses a broad-edged nib and is a fun alphabet to learn. Its expansive width works well for writing bookmarks, especially for short names. Or any random word that comes to mind), as in:

Minimum
abracadabra

Gothic Capitals can be simple to highly exuberant. They take many forms – round, angular, square, double and/or triple stroked. You can pair this minuscule hand with capitals from almost any blackletter style from Textura to Fraktur.

Alla sua diffusione contribuì
anche un'importante decisione
presa dalla Cancelleria.
La Corsiva Minuscola, è
stata utilizzata soprattutto
come scrittura di documenti
per testi di natura privata
e enorme circolazione in generale.

Gothic Cursive sample by Trish Meyer

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free, The wretched
refugee of your teeming shores.

Searching for my emotional oasis

The lettering you see above are samples by Trish based on Julien Chazel's book/exemplar.

Notes from Trish: When adding the ascender loops, consider whether it should connect – or not.

You get to decide the size of the ascenders. Ascenders and descenders can touch or overlap. Try to vary their sizes too. Ascenders can have a swash of your choosing.

The capitals are very dynamic. Legibility can be a challenge! As an alternative, you can choose from a wide variety of Fraktur capitals.



Workshops

Escribiente-sponsored workshops are offered by international, national and local scribes. They are a great chance to learn from some of the best teachers of calligraphy. Escribiente's next formal workshop will be with **Nancy Hills** (*Out of Your Mind and Onto the Page*) in April 2025. Scholarships are available.

Registration forms are emailed to current members initially; workshops usually fill quickly. Our policies regarding priority registration for members, cancellations and refunds are posted on our [Workshops Policy](#) page.

Learning Calligraphy Online

There are many online calligraphy classes offered by instructors from all over the US and beyond.

John Neal Books lists current classes on their [Online Classes](#) page.

Locally, a **Paste Paper class** recording (2.5 hours) is available by contacting Elizabeth McKee. Cost is \$25.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY
TRISH'S DAD

You might want to bookmark this handy Playlist link:

The **Public programs** are edited and the business meeting has been removed. View [Meeting Archives](#) link to view descriptive text and images starting with the most recent programs all the way back to 2018. Thank you, Trish, for all things tech related. These programs have entertained, educated and inspired us for many years.

You can freely share this [YouTube link](#) to view past programs! Please encourage your friends to Subscribe to our YouTube channel! There are eight videos to view, including the memorial slideshow for Beth.

OH FOR CRYING OUT LOUD
EVERY KID'S MOM

Escribiente Library

Escribiente's library has a variety of new DVDs and books for self-study. Our Librarian, Trish, has updated the master list of library books. There are two PDFs links below – one sorted by Genre and the second sorted By Author. If you take the time to look at this library collection list, you will appreciate the monumental job Trish has in maintaining this collection!

Rick Paulus, in his recent program presentation, recommended a book by Denise Lach titled *Calligraphy Contemporary Inspiration*. It is available for check-out from our library.

Current members can request books from the inventory list via phone or email, and Trish will arrange to have the requested books available at the next meeting.

[Download Library List By Author \(PDF\)](#)

[Download Library List By Genre \(PDF\)](#)

Any member interested in receiving a **scholarship** for an upcoming workshop (Zoom or in-person) should email Evelyn Costello. Escribiente-sponsored workshops will be reimbursed at \$100. Non-Escribiente workshops will be reimbursed at 50% of the workshop fee (up to \$100). A review of the workshop for our newsletter is required.

Rio Rancho Calligraphy Club — To honor Beth's memory, The Rio Rancho Meadowlark Senior Center calligraphy group will press on with calligraphy education. Beth began teaching calligraphy there a number of years ago. She didn't just show up. She coached and encouraged beginning calligraphers to be proud of their progress. She welcomed students into her home for advice and encouragement. Beth was our leader, our mentor, our teacher, our inspiration. Most of all, our friend.

Members have decided to continue to meet on the first, second and third Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 for sharing of all things letter related. Sharon, Lynda and Lisa will take the lead in keeping Beth's education efforts alive.

In addition to promoting the art of calligraphy, the **Graceful Envelope Contest** celebrates the role of letters in binding people together. The contest was created in 1995 by the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum, which administered it until delegating responsibility to the **Washington Calligraphers Guild** in 2001. You may recall Carol Dubosh encouraged us to enter this contest in her recent program presentation.

In 2025 the Washington Calligraphers Guild reached the first quarter of this century — one-fourth of 100 years. Therefore, the theme for the 2025 Graceful Envelope Contest is “Go Fourth.”

Explore something that comes in fours, is associated with sets of four, or is commonly cut into fourths. For example, the phases of the moon, the points of a compass, the seasons, the Four Freedoms, an apple that's been quartered. Then, using artistry, artistic lettering, and the integration of postage stamps into your design, create an envelope that captures your interpretation of the theme.

Entries must be postmarked by **Monday, March 31, 2025** and will be judged by your envelope's representation of the contest theme, the quality of your artistic lettering, and effective use of color and design including the incorporation of postage stamp(s).

So “go fourth” and address your beautiful creations to: The Graceful Envelope Contest, P.O. Box 3688, Merrifield, VA 22116

[Link to Graceful Envelope 2024 winners](#)



Dear Arrighi,

Could you review what whites to use for what task? I can't remember which one to use for tints and which one to use for writing on dark paper. Is gouache the only thing you can use?

White Out

Dear White Out,

A good resource for this information can be found in Marie Angel's book, *Painting for Calligraphers*. She writes that gouache is watercolor that has the addition of white fuller's earth, such as clay or barite. This is what makes them opaque.

Zinc White is ground finer and is easier to use for lettering. It is the best for clean and lightfast tints. Always start with the white first, then add the color.

Permanent White is a more opaque paint. If you add white to a color, it does make it a little more fugitive. When writing on dark paper it needs to be really opaque, yet when it's opaque enough it is impossible to write with. I start with Zinc White because it's easier to write with, then add Permanent White to it, until it's opaque but you can still write with it. Many times you have to flood the stroke as you write. This is a process by which you press the nib and release a little paint onto the already wet stroke. It is laborious and must be done as you go along, but it really helps make the white more opaque.

Some of the other helpful hints to make more opaque white is to add Dr. Ph. Martin's Bleed Proof White or Pro White to Zinc White (these come in a small jar). Or write with one of the bottled whites by themselves. Ziller brand has a very opaque white ink that gives lovely hairlines but doesn't have enough binder in it to make any erasures. Luma Pearlescent ink is a white that works well for copperplate but doesn't work well with broad-edge nibs. It is an acrylic and is waterproof when dry. It is not as opaque as gouache. For writing on dark shiny stock, Badger acrylic paint writes well.

DeeAnn Singh and SfC Bulletin



A beautiful video of one of the Finest Prayerbooks in the world.

By far, the greatest repository of high-quality medieval artworks are contained in illuminated manuscripts. These highly decorated books can be quite stunning, laced with gold leaf, beautiful paintings, and finely detailed marginalia. After the advent of printing, manuscript production continued into the era of the renaissance.

[Church leader hopes hand-written and illustrated Bible can heal religious divides](#)

When the printing press was invented nearly 600 years ago, it put an end to centuries of handwritten manuscripts in which scribes, mostly in monasteries, tediously wrote and illustrated sacred texts, such as the Bible. Fred de Sam Lazaro revisits one monastery that brought back that tradition and in the process, is helping bridge divides. It's part of our arts and culture series, CANVAS.

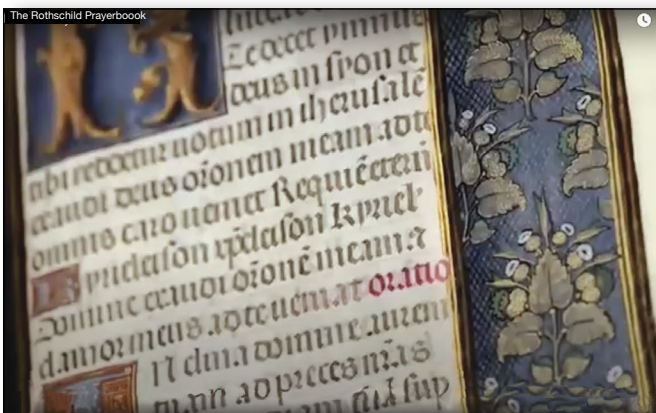
www.pbs.org

In 2014, Christies auctioned the *Rothschild Prayer-book*, perhaps the finest example of a renaissance era *Book of Hours*. If you'd welcome an artistic diversion in your day, click the link below to take an inspiring, three-minute journey through this masterful glimpse into the artwork of the 16th century.

[The Rothschild Prayerbook](#)



Above and Below Rothschild Prayerbook screenshots

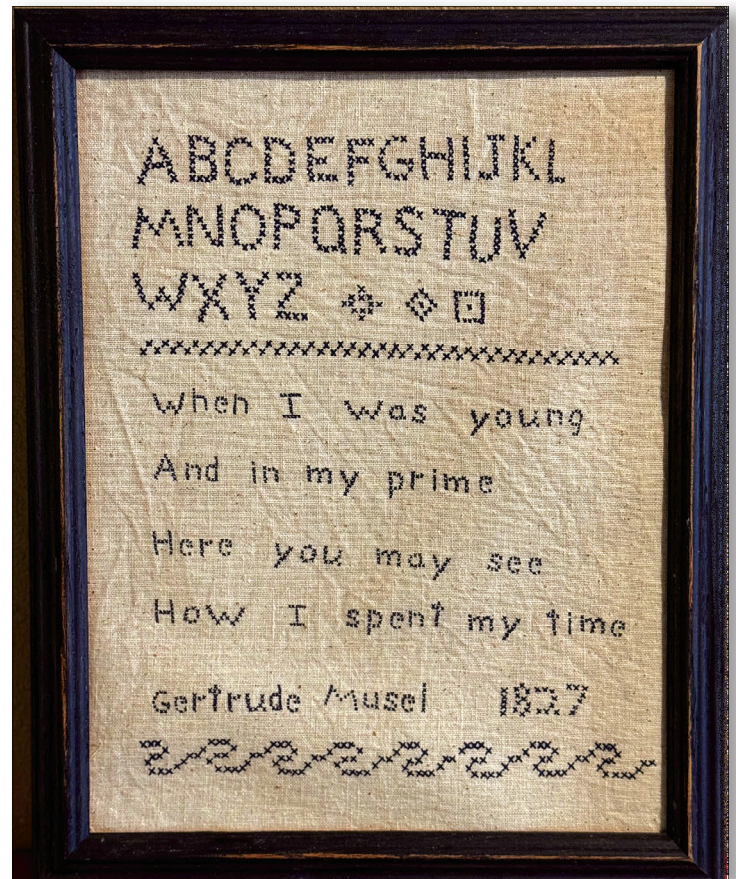
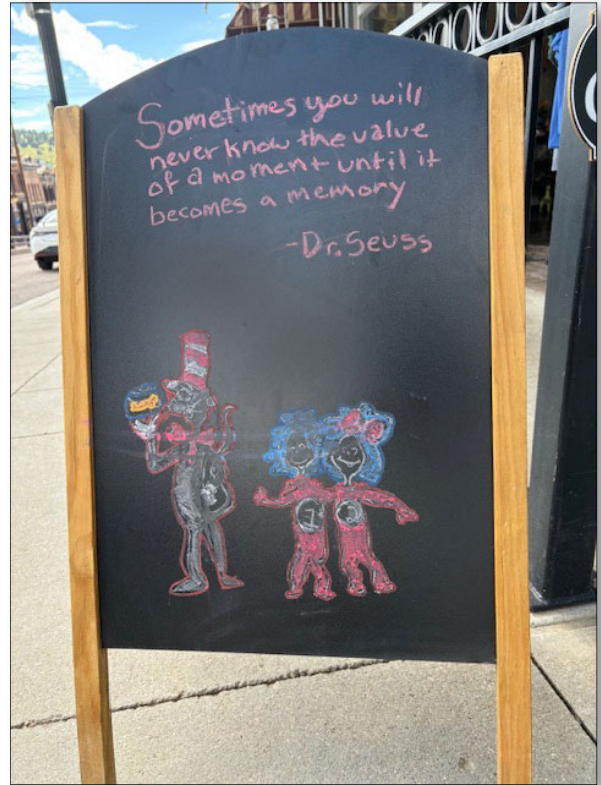


[You can also see some high quality imagery of this book here](#)



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IF YOUR STUDIO IS A MESS
AND NOBODY SEES IT,
IS IT STILL A MESS?

BULLETIN BOARD

We welcome new members — both young and old!

Escribiente It's all fun & games until someone puts an *i* out

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

◆ OUR NEXT BIG THING ◆

February Membership meeting
Nancy Hills program presentation



Third Saturday in-person meeting.
We will again letter and assemble Valentines to be placed with the meal deliveries for clients of *Meals on Wheels*



Nancy Hills - *Out of Your Mind and Onto the Page* in April 2025.
Scholarships are available.

Subscribe to [Escribiente YouTube](#) channel to view replays of past meeting programs.

Follow us on Social Media:
[Escribiente Facebook](#)
[Escribiente on Instagram](#)

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

NEXT VIRTUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Board meeting January 8th at 6:30PM via Zoom — program planning for the year
All members invited to attend
Please come prepared with ideas

Next in-person meeting
We welcome Show & Share calligraphic art at our in-person meetups on the third Saturday of each month, 1:00—3:00PM, at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church — Academy east of Wyoming

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.

Our newsletter is one of the many things that keeps this well-inked machine flourishing. Send information and/or suggestions to lynda33 at hotmail.com. The power of the friendship and passion we have in common are 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 on the first Wednesday of each month, except January and July. Meeting access link is sent to members via email in advance. In-person meetings take place on the third Saturday of each month at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy NE.

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 for many years can be viewed on our website escribiente.org. Members also receive a discount at Artisan art supply store in Albuquerque. Dues should be mailed to: Escribiente, PO Box 8884 Albuquerque, NM 87190.