

Escribiente WINTER 2025-2 NEWSLETTER

Whatever is



Think about such things.
Philippians 4:8

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



OUR PREZ SAYS: Greetings! As we come to the close of another year, I'm excited for all the accomplishments of our members and our guild. Many of these accomplishments have already been published and more will be seen

in this newsletter. In September we had a beautiful exhibit at the State Fair, with members of all levels participating. I'm particularly proud of one of our Rio Rancho calligraphy students who won *Best of Show* in the Beginner Section!

We were fortunate to have been invited to participate in UNM's Institute for Medieval Studies (IMS) Third Annual Medieval Faire at UNM in October. Bill Kemp took the lead in coordinating this event, including teaching a series of classes on the Gothic hand. There was much interest by the attendees, and I heard that Caryl McCarney was the star of the show with her demonstrations on how to carve a quill for writing.

Our Saturday in-person meetings have continued, always with interesting presentations and/or discussions. We learned about overcoming roadblocks to creativity, henna, making backgrounds, a gold leaf gilding technique, and more.



PO Box 8884
Albuquerque, NM 87198

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In November we had a delightful workshop on drum leaf binding taught by Beth Lee. Compiling a drum leaf binding book is pretty straightforward until you start trying to add hard covers and decorative inserts in the spine! We completed several books, starting with binding the instructions she gave us to assemble our first book. I believe everyone was pleased with the books they completed.

The Rio Rancho classes are continuing and I'm proud of the students and their accomplishments! They studied Neuland, Italic, and Uncial this year, and they incorporated their writing into projects such as a stitched book and an accordion book. A huge thanks to Rick House for donating so many supplies to the students and the class. Thanks to everyone else who also donated supplies, instructions, and ideas.

A huge thanks to all who step up and volunteer and make all these events possible. (I would name names, but that would take pages and pages; and besides, you know who you are and we do too!) It's all of you who make our guild the wonderfully rich organization that it is. Also, thanks to our board who, without them, we would not have a guild.

I sincerely hope that everyone has a wonderful holiday and I'm looking forward to the upcoming year of Escribiente friendships, activities, and learning. – Sharon

◆ **COVER ART** This beauty was entered by Janice Gabel into the State Fair exhibit. It features layer upon layer of X-acto-cut paper letters and background enhancements. Foam adhesive pop-up dots separate each layer to create the 3D effect. To allow for the varying levels of lettering, a shadow box-style frame encloses the image. It received a *Best of Show* ribbon.

◆ THANK YOU

Thank you Al Padilla and Patty Hammarstedt for judging the Escribiente State Fair exhibit. Thank you Evelyn for all the photos and your review of the August in-person meeting. Thank you Kasia for your *Fun With a Micron Pen* workshop review. Thank you Lisa and Diane for a great Holiday party! And Elizabeth for opening up your home for our yearly celebration!



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. This year the fair took place from September 4th to the 14th. 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.

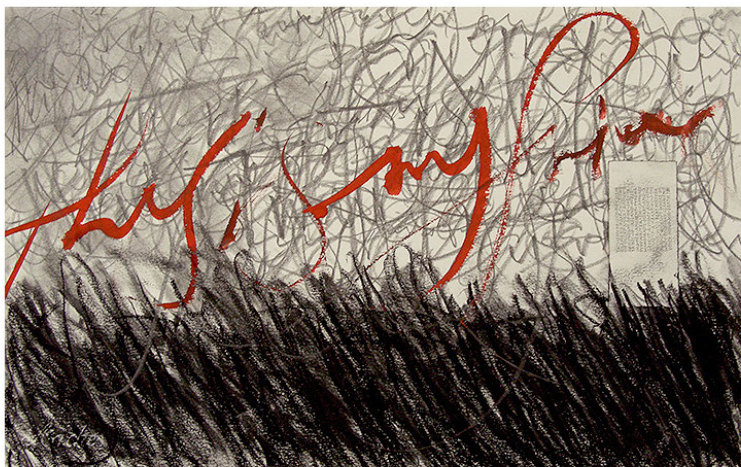
The calligraphy exhibit offers opportunities for student-to-advanced artists to show the world what we do for fun. We do our best to encourage beginners to be brave in celebrating their progress!



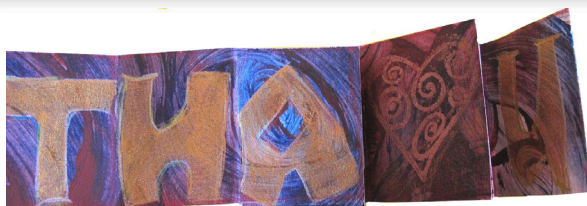
Each year Escribiente shares a spotlight with LIBROS book artists just inside the entrance to the Creative Arts Building. We enjoy our friendship and mutual interest in the book arts.

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.

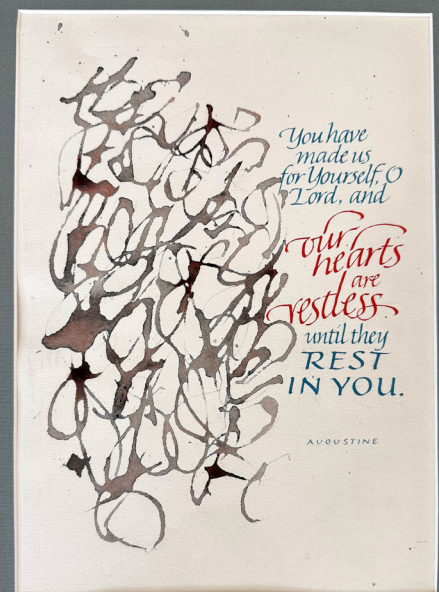
Thank you to everyone who entered artwork for the exhibit. Thank you Sharon Shannon and Elizabeth McKee for leading this team effort!



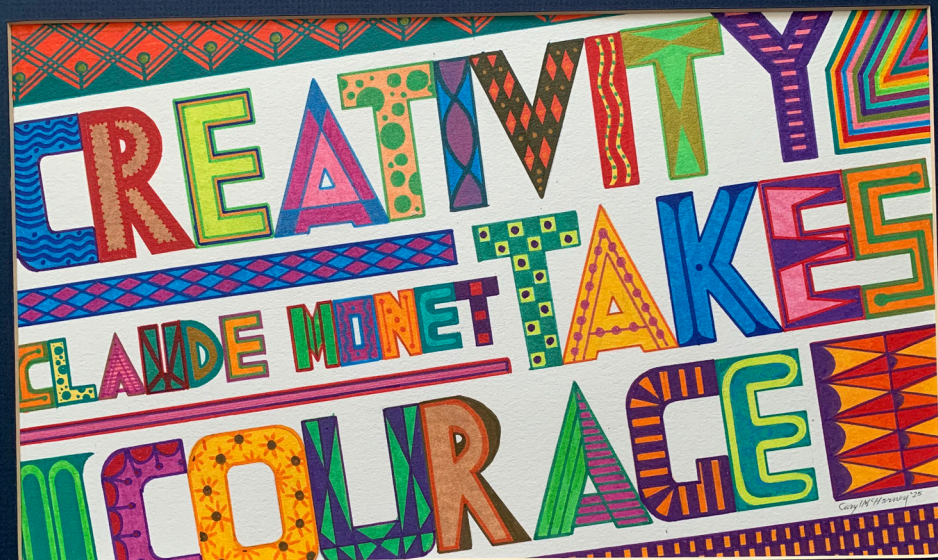
Elizabeth McKee



Evelyn Costello
Miniature book



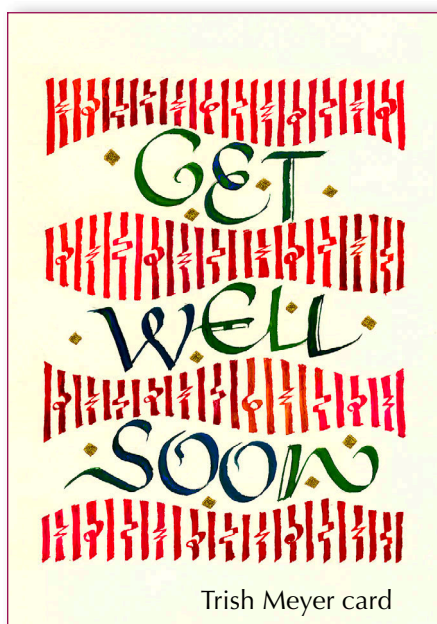
Janice Gabel



Caryl McHarney



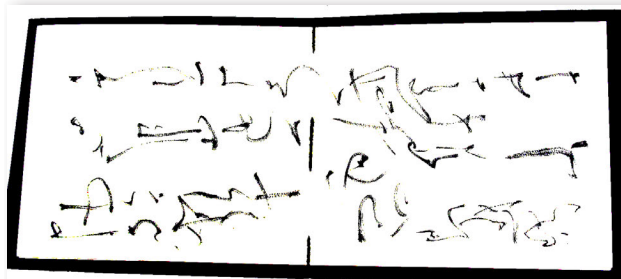
Michal Sommers card



Trish Meyer card



Kasia Stevens Card



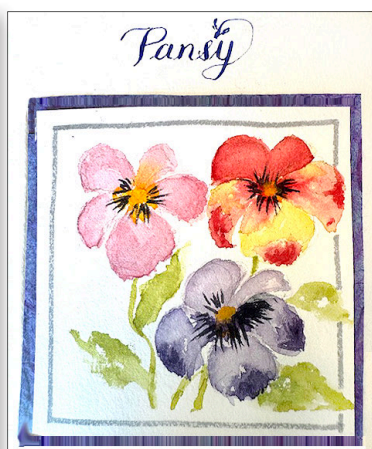
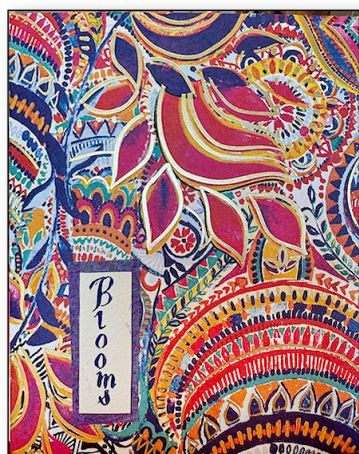
Caryl McHarney Strokes book page



Caryl McHarney scroll



Sarita Bedge Watercolor Book



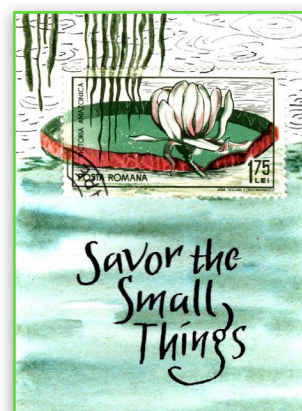
The fact is that no species has ever had such
wholesale control over everything on earth, living or dead,
as we have now. That lays upon us whether we like it
or not, an awesome responsibility

In our hands

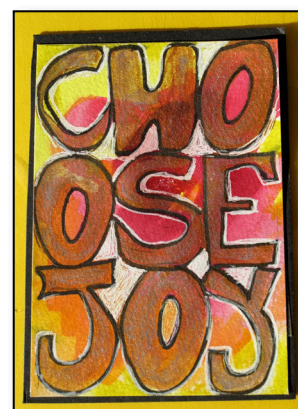
now lies not only our own future, but that of all
other living creatures with whom we share the earth.

Sir David Attenborough

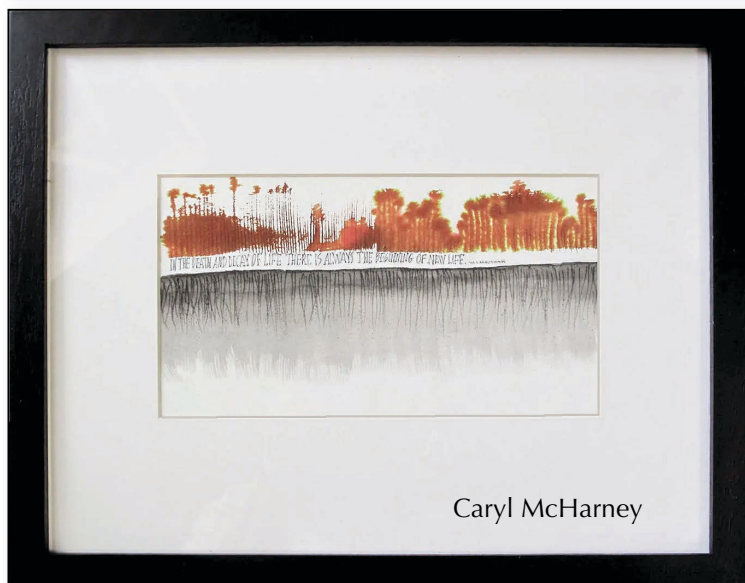
Caryl McHarney



Diane Inman ATC



Evelyn Costello ATC



Caryl McHarney



Sarita Bedge



Sarita Bedge



Diane Inman



Lynda Lawrence



Esther Feske miniature accordion/spiral book

*Every Woman
Needs
a
Blowtorch*
—Julia Childs

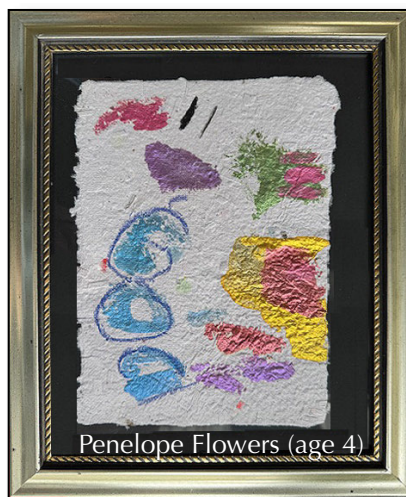
Kasia Stevens



Evelyn Costello

prince whose character
is the mark of
every art which may
define a talent,
is unfit to be the
ruler of a free people.

Trish Meyer



Penelope Flowers (age 4)



Skye McHarney card



Evelyn Costello 3D clear glass paper weight



Heidi Markham Artist Trading Card



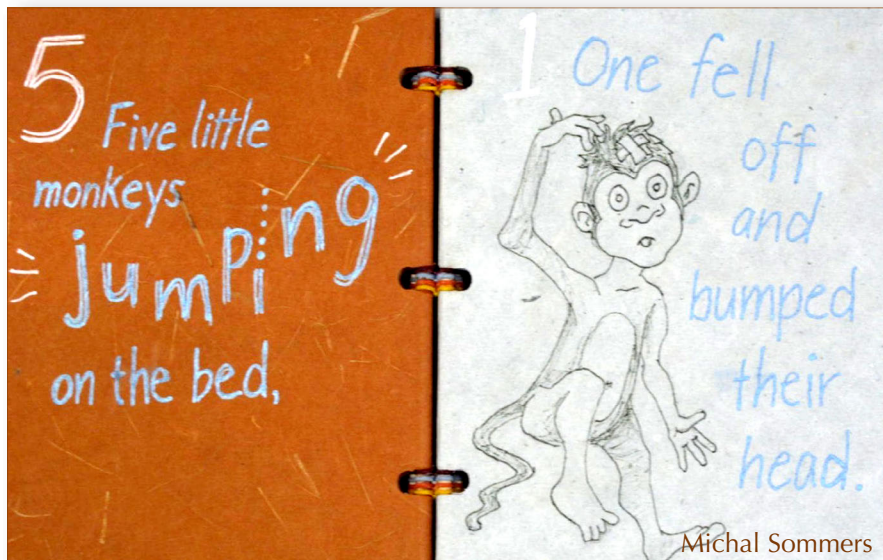
Lynda Lawrence Just a Q - ATC



Kasia Stevens earrings



Kasia Stevens Card



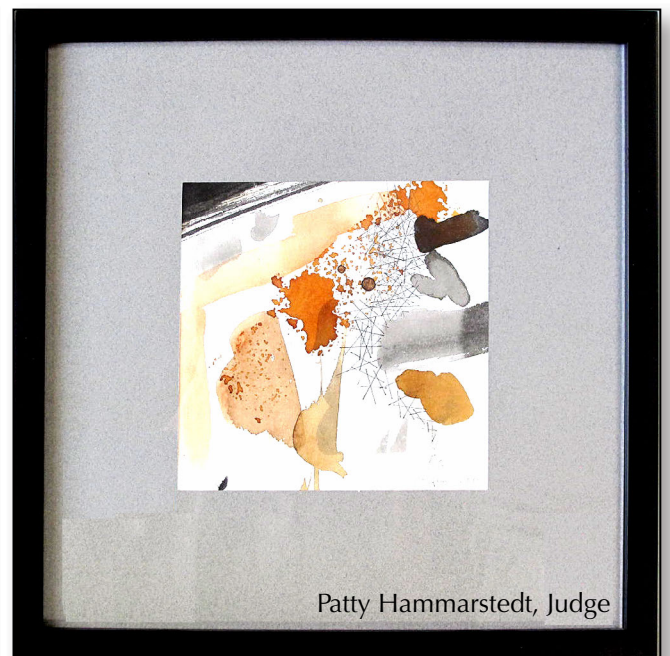
Michal Sommers



Patty Hammarstadt, Judge

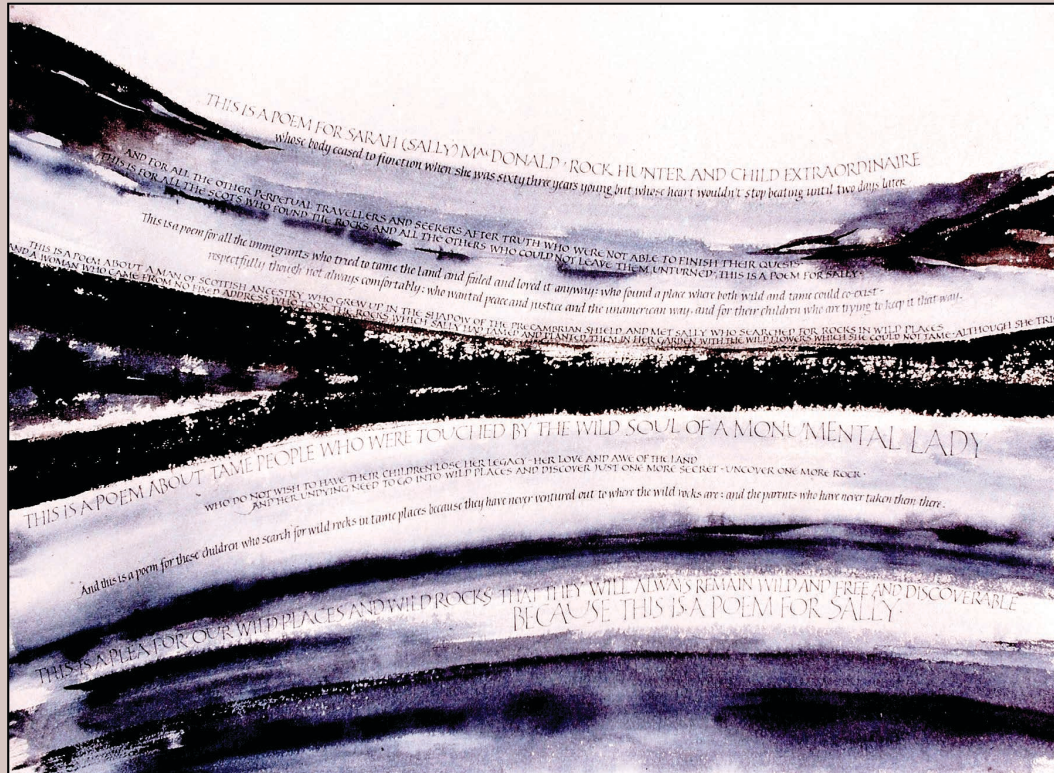


Teresa Varela



Patty Hammarstedt, Judge

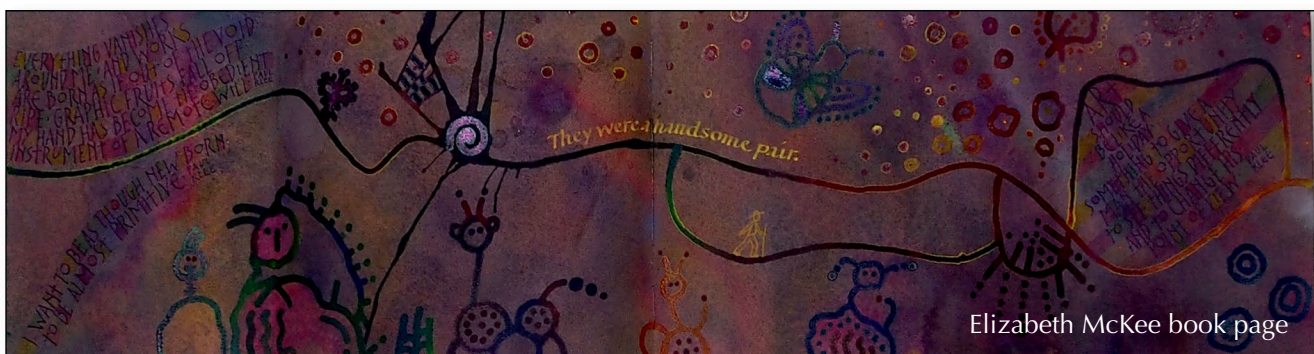




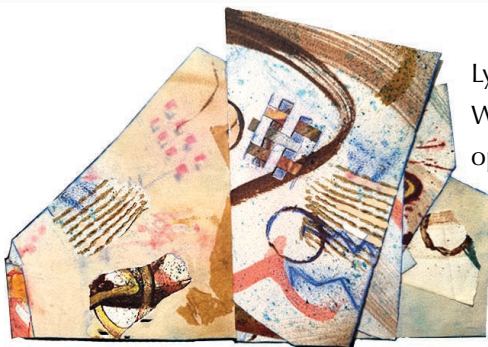
Elizabeth McKee



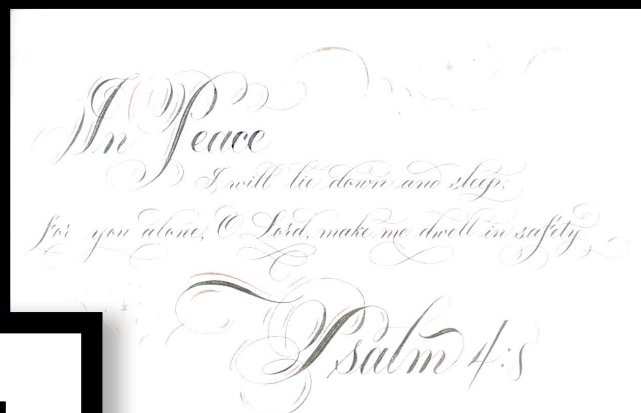
Elizabeth McKee book page



Elizabeth McKee book page



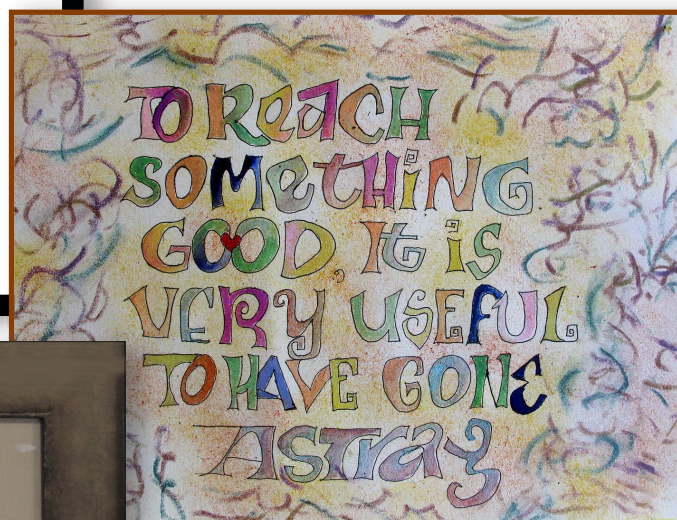
Lynda Lawrence
Wonky Book
opening page



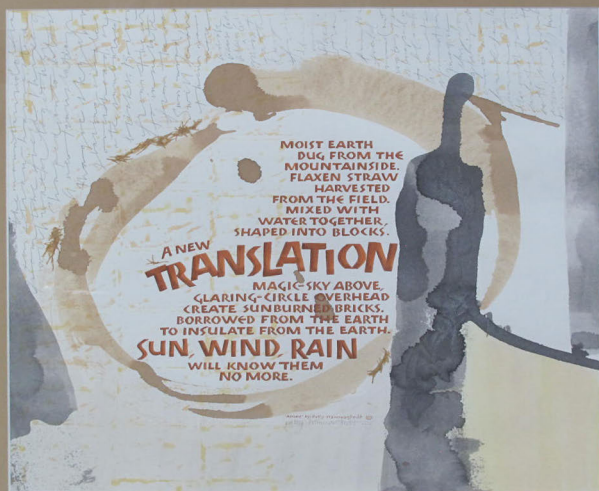
Teresa Varela



Trish Meyer



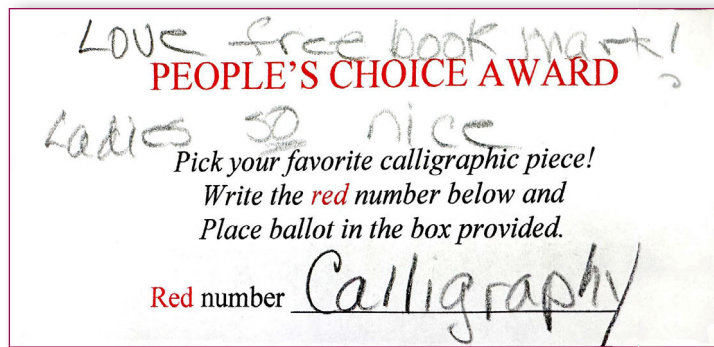
Evelyn Costello



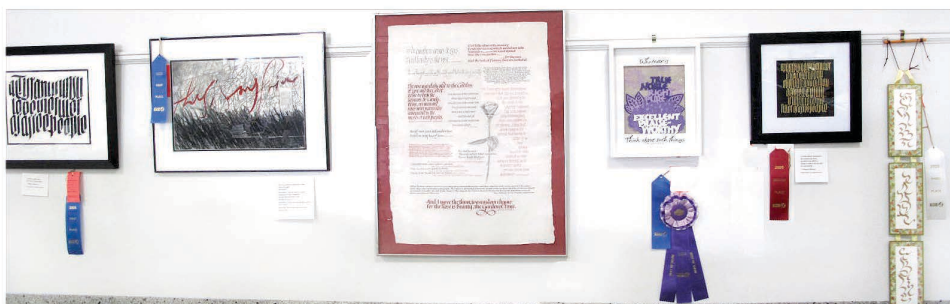
Patty Hammarstedt, Judge



Teresa Varela cards



Sweet! They missed the point of the vote, but we have to love the comment! A box is placed on top of the display cabinets so that fair goers can vote on their favorite numbered piece.



Patty Hammarstedt, Judge, taking time to compliment and congratulate each entrant for their wonderful creations.

MONTHLY ZOOM PROGRAMS

Live Zoom meetings are open to members only. The Zoom replay will be available for a limited time to members after the meeting. An edited replay may be posted to our [YouTube channel](#) after editing, provided permission is granted from the presenter.

The **program for Wednesday, August 6th** was *Lettering & Henna Beauty* presented by Catherine Lent. Catherine started her art journey as a calligrapher and later fell in love with Henna art. She demonstrated how to gently marry beautiful lettering with this ancient art form. (Members can view the replay video plus many other recorded programs back to 2021.)



September 3rd Program presented by Beth Lee was a prelude to her upcoming November workshop – *Drum Leaf Binding: The Seamless Page Spread*. Beth is a successful calligrapher and book artist hailing from Bozeman, Montana. The Drum Leaf book was invented by Timothy Ely and inspired by traditional Japanese book structures. It's perfect for single-sided pages to be made into a book. It's quick and easy. [This video](#) features the beauty of Beth's book creations as presented in our September program.

The drum-leaf binding processes was presented by Beth in a workshop setting on November 15th & 16th. Stay tuned for a workshop review in the next newsletter. We enjoyed the chance to meet in person and cheer each other on! Find Beth: [Web link](#)

October 1st Program was a **show-and-share** of what we did last summer. This was our chance to display our calligraphy on Padlet and talk about some newly-discovered techniques, what styles we enjoyed learning, or what instructors we found inspiring. Our guest speaker, Theresa Varela, kicked off our sharing by offering tips about preparation of pieces for entry into the State Fair.

MONTHLY IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

Monthly in-person meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month (except January, July, and December) at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Road NE (near the corner of Wyoming & Academy) 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, **August 16th**'s topic was an interactive session that addressed those pesky mental blocks such as, "My calligraphy isn't good enough" or fear of the blank page. Evelyn hosted a discussion based on a book called *Your Inner Critic is a Big Jerk*. The next page is a recollection of the discussion and this book with the quirky name. Thank you Evelyn!

Saturday, **September 20th** The following notes from Elizabeth: *Janice Gabel, Lynda Lawrence and I hosted a fun 'meeting' to explore making backgrounds for calligraphy. I was asked by some members who couldn't come for a list of what we did. We had two workspaces - my studio - INSIDE and the adjoining deck - OUTSIDE - and a special corner off the deck for making marks with Brown Bottle Sumi ink using an oriental brush attached to a thin four-foot bamboo garden stake. The stake forced the holder of the brush to stand while making marks. I forgot to encourage participants to try this with their non-dominant hand, but if you are doing this at home you might try it.*

Some of the exercises were familiar to most and some may have been new. Making washi tape was a big hit. Think about using it for collage. Collage = how to salvage a piece of calligraphy when you love everything about it except one little thing and you don't want to redo it.

Two of our exercises: Rolling marbles on paper. [Catherine Rains](#) collage; and Collage Papers with Rubbing Alcohol [video](#).

This is a tip of an iceberg of ideas for backgrounds. We were constrained by the length of time and space and yet managed to create some small gems.

Thank you Elizabeth!

AUGUST IN-PERSON PROGRAM

Evelyn's impressions and thoughts Thank you Evelyn

On August 16th our Saturday in-person meeting included a presentation with insights from the book, *Your Inner Critic Is A Big Jerk* by Danielle Krysa. This was followed by personal reflections and solutions from the members present.

Chapter 1: Everyone is creative. Pablo Picasso says every child is creative; the problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up. When you hand a child a crayon, do they say, "I can't draw the sun"? You may be criticizing yourself, or someone may be criticizing you; that can be a giant block. There is no PHD in creativity. It is something you already have inside—remember what Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz* learned—you had it inside you all the time. We are not all creative in the same way. That would be boring. Don't ask me to draw a dog. But if you ask me to draw five variations on the letter B—no problem. You may not like your work, but someone else might. Accept a compliment.

Chapter 2: Excuses are the enemy. There are many valid reasons why we don't have time to do art, but four main ones are (1) Thinking "I am not perfect/not good enough." (2) You let every outside distraction/attraction take priority; maybe you have too many hobbies. (3) Your workspace is fighting against you—cramped/poor light/organization. Or "I will start after I get organized." (4) Time—not enough or conflicting priorities—choose the one thing you want to do today. Who is scheduling your time? Does your procrastination demon win? One solution is to just take the one next step and not worry about all the steps it will take to completely finish a project. Find your tools, then, what is the one next step to take? Just start.

Chapter 4: Blank paper/precious paper—the block that keeps you from starting and using supplies, the critical voices say "it will be ugly, I will ruin it." Solutions—have lots of paper, don't start with blank paper. Maybe instead of a roadblock, there is a pothole where you are stuck and can't move forward.

Choose a different color palette, choose new tools, change to a smaller size, vary the hand, change the layout to include two sizes/styles of lettering, look at your work the next day/week/month. Workshops force a new jumping off place. Collect quotes and examples for inspiration in a file or journal. Calligraphy is a learned skill, you have to practice. Use good paper to practice so you are not faced with having a piece you like and wish it had been on better paper.

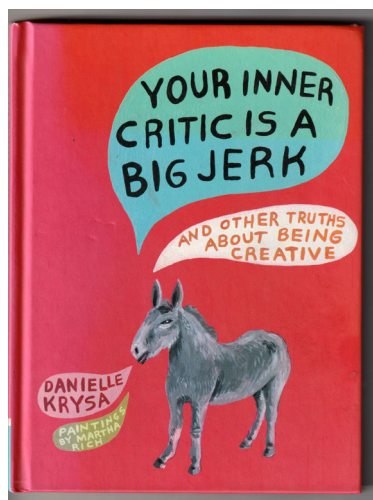
Chapter 6: The voice of your inner critic—who is telling you that you are not creative or an imposter? I overheard two people talking— one said "I did it this way but a REAL artist..." Never speak badly of your own work. Don't listen when the

voice says people will not like it. We are tribal—we want to be liked but this can hinder creativity. The original tribe has traditional ways and some people don't want to let go of those traditions. We have over 6000 thoughts each day and many are protective from an evolutionary viewpoint—be cautious because there is danger. However, many of those negative thoughts hold us back from going outside the box. Show your work and call yourself an artist.

Chapter 8: Failure leads to genius —you have to make mistakes unless

you start off perfect. Edison made 10,000 prototypes of the light bulb. Stephen King had his manuscripts rejected 17 times before a publisher accepted one. The master has failed more times than the beginner has ever tried. Embrace imperfection. Check in on your purpose; are you exhibiting at a gallery or just making a birthday card? Selling your work may invite criticism if you do commissions. It may cramp your style because the outside world has preconceived ideas about what calligraphy should look like.

Being in the creative zone works best without distractions and interruptions including deadline pressure. Have you ever told yourself, I would have done it differently if there had been no deadline?



TO THINE OWN SELF BE KIND

October round-robin Saturday with three fantastic and joy-making presenters.



Henna is a dye made from dried, powdered henna plant leaves producing reddish stains used in body art. Result is the temporary staining of the skin as you see here.

Thank you Sarita!



Evelyn at the Medieval Faire sharing her prepared lettering chart with students



Pej Lyles showing Heidi her wax-seal-making tools. Wax seals are used to authenticate and secure documents, identify senders, and add a decorative, elegant touch to items like letters, invitations, gifts. Today, they are used to add a vintage flair.



Here's how the pros do Henna



Above: Here's what you do when your studio is a mess and all you can find is your oriental brush attached to a four-foot bamboo garden stake.



Below – Gold leaf adheres to oil pastel base, then nib scratches out the letter to reveal the pastel color. This makes for a very non-traditional appearance (in gold leaf terms).



Henna cone art takes practice!!



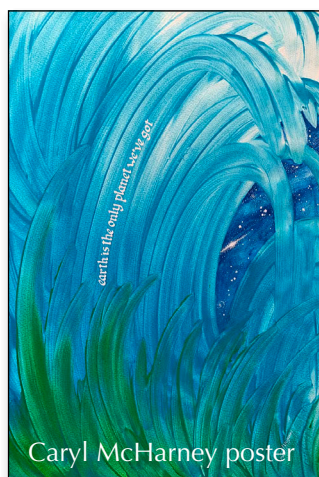
Scraffito with gold leaf was demonstrated by Trish Meyer.

Right: Kasia and Esther are enjoying being introduced to this unique, decorative technique.

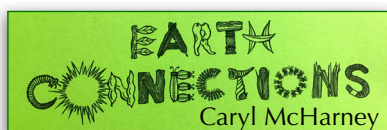
Thank you Trish!



Here's a selection of images
from October 1st program,
Show-and-Share



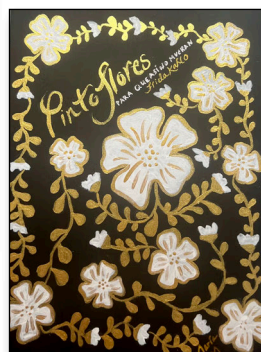
Caryl McHarney poster



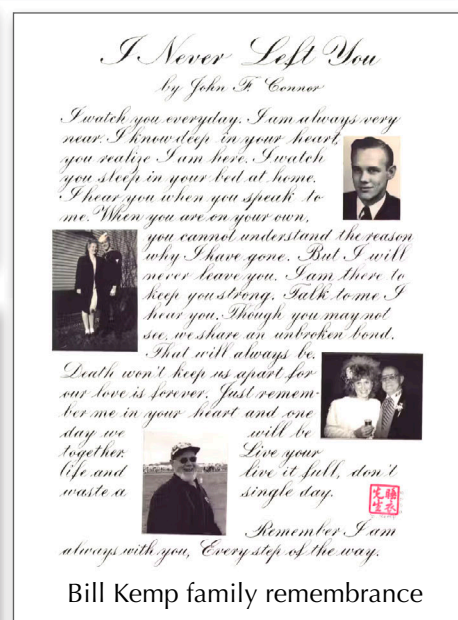
Kasia Stevens



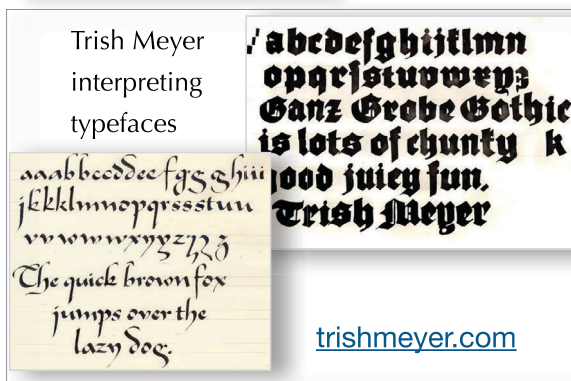
Trish Meyer night light



Maria Mercado card



Bill Kemp family remembrance

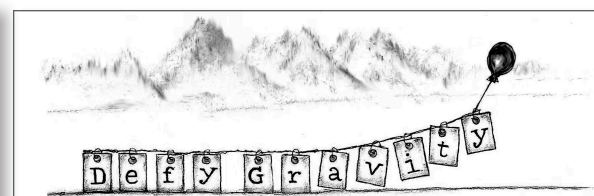


Trish Meyer
interpreting
typefaces

trishmeyer.com



billscalligraphy.com



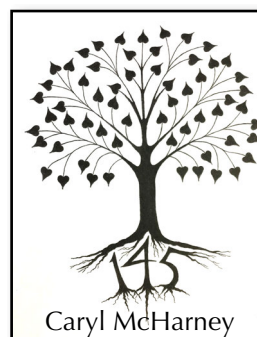
Lynda Lawrence bookmark



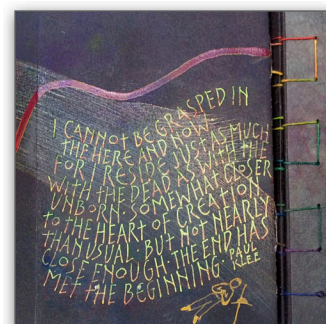
LeAnn Meadows asemic writing



Maria Mercado card



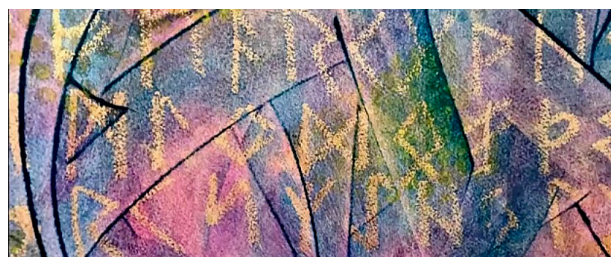
Caryl McHarney



Elizabeth McKee book page
[Link to Elizabeth's webpage](#) to
view this book in its entirety



Maria Mercado tiny accordion book



LeAnn Meadows paste paper book



Maria Mercado book – an exercise in layering



Louise Grunewald book

Members can view the Padlet page & Zoom replay video.
Some padlet contributions can be viewed as entries on the
state fair pages. Thank you to all who contributed

Louise Grunewald was the guest speaker for our **November 5th Program**. She shared the fascinating process of making her book, [Buchstaben](#). This book is shown in the first three images in the **Gallery tab** of the [Escribiente website](#). The book now lives in the Klingspor museum outside of Frankfurt, Germany for all the world to see.



Buchstaben (German for letters) is dedicated to Rudolf Koch. This book features blind embossed letters and illustrations. The Neuland is Louise's own version of Koch's typeface, done first with a flat brush on paper, then scanned into the computer to make into transparencies to expose in the Solarplate technique. The book covers (above) are "antiqued" Solarplates that were colored with printer's ink.



We continue meetings/programs via Zoom to allow our members from out-of-town to enjoy our programming; and it is easier to engage "big name" guest artists too! Win-win.

Rio Rancho Calligraphy Club meets the second Thursday of each month at Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The Meadowlark Senior Center also hosts calligraphy classes that are available on the first and third Thursdays from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Students are currently learning the Uncial style of lettering led by Sharon who keeps us all on track. An Alphabet Book with pages contributed by students will soon be in print. Because this is a Senior Center, students must be 55 or older.

A recent project was to assemble a hand-lettered book featuring Italic and Foundational letters.

Escribiente Library

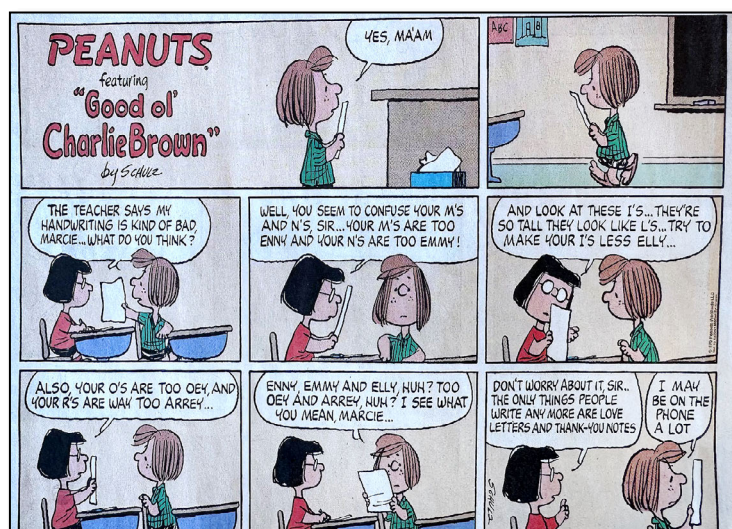
Escribiente's library has a variety of DVDs and books for self-study. Our Librarian has updated the master list of library books. There are two PDF links below – one sorted by genre and the second sorted by author. Thank you Trish, for all you do in maintaining our library!

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 in-person 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-sponsored workshops will be reimbursed at 50% of the workshop fee (up to \$100). A review of the workshop for our newsletter is required. BTW, a review of the most recent workshop, *Drum Leaf Book Binding* with Beth Lee, will be featured in the next newsletter.



THE INSTITUTE FOR MEDIEVAL STUDIES
PRESENTS ITS 3RD ANNUAL



Medieval Armor & Sword Fighting | Dance, Music & Instruments | Shakespearean Actors | Ceramics, Textiles & Natural Dyes | Calligraphy | Cultures & Languages | Medieval Bake Sale | Food Trucks | plus more!

Escribiente scribes were invited to participate in the Institute for Medieval Studies (IMS) **Third Annual Medieval Faire** at UNM, October 31st on the UNM campus, Johnson Field.

The IMS Medieval Faire is a university/community engagement project featuring free medieval-themed educational demonstrations and activities to promote a deeper understanding of the Middle Ages, while honoring New Mexico's diverse heritage. UNM program leaders believe that calligrapher participation added a relevant and engaging experience for Faire attendees.



While the scribes came equipped with our mass-produced plastic black 3.5mm markers, Caryl brought the authenticity needed to legitimize the medieval aspect of our effort. Students were enthralled. To the left of Caryl, you see the turkey feathers waiting to be carved to become quills for dipping into ink for writing. Caryl fondly recalled memories of her first calligraphy class with Ralph Douglas at UNM. (That was 80 years ago!)

Bill Kemp coordinated a group of volunteers to demonstrate the Gothic script to Faire attendees. For those volunteers who did not know the Gothic script, Bill offered a series of three Zoom classes to introduce this hand and allow for practice in advance of the event. Thank you Bill, Caryl, Michal, Ginger, Esther, Evelyn, and Maria.

Bible described as the 'Mona Lisa of illuminated manuscripts' goes on display

15th century Borso D'Este Bible is known for its miniature paintings in gold, Afghan lapis lazuli

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
AND PAOLO SANTALUCIA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME — A 15th-century Bible which is considered one of the most spectacular examples of Renaissance illuminated manuscripts went on display in Rome on Thursday as part of the Vatican's Holy Year celebrations.

The two-volume Borso D'Este Bible, which is known for its opulent miniature paintings in gold and Afghan lapis lazuli, was unveiled in the Italian Senate, where it will remain on display until Jan. 16.

The Bible is usually kept in a safe at a library in Modena and is rarely seen in public. It was transported to Rome under heavy security and its arrival in the Senate was televised, as workers hauled two big red crates from an unmarked van and then extracted the volumes, which were covered in bubble wrap.

The Bible, commissioned by Duke Borso D'Este, was created between 1455 and 1461 by calligrapher Pietro Paolo Marone and illustrators Taddeo Crivelli and Franco dei Russi. The Italian Culture Ministry considers it one of the highest expressions of miniature art "that unites sacred value, historic relevance, precious materials and refined aesthetics."

It will remain behind humidity-controlled plate glass during its Roman sojourn, but visitors can "read" it digitally via



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A detail of the 15th century Borso D'Este Bible, comprising two illuminated manuscripts, during its unveiling at the Italian Senate as part of the Vatican's Holy Year celebrations in Rome.

touch screen displays featuring ultra-high-resolution images.

Alessandra Necci, director of Gallerie Estense in Modena, where the Bible is usually kept, describes it as the "Mona Lisa of illuminated manuscripts" because of its exquisite artistry and religious inspiration.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, who is in charge of the Vatican's Jubilee celebrations, told the presentation Thursday he hoped visitors would be inspired to go home and read their own Bibles after seeing the beauty of the Borso D'Este version.

He said the splendor of the text was a "provocation" that forces contemplation not just of its beauty but of the word of God contained in the text.

The Bible was commissioned by Borso D'Este as part of his celebration of faith and his own prominence, and was kept in the Este family until the last duke, Francesco V of Austria-Este, took it with him when he fled to Vienna in 1859, according to a history of the Bible on the Italian Senate's website.

Learn something new every day

FUN WITH A MICRON PEN by Kasia Stevens

I love happy calligraphers! When Kathy Milici popped up on my IG feed, her posts made me smile. I immediately started following her. Talk about a person who gives off positive vibes! She created and teaches *Modern Storybook Script*, a whimsical hand and the fabulously positive *Gratitude Script*. Kathy even gives out family recipes in her classes! In my class it was Mayonnaise Chocolate Cake—which I remembered from my childhood in the suburbs of Chicago. It sounds gross, but it is a delicious recipe.

Rennie Revisited taught by Kathy was sponsored by *Have Pens Will Dazzle*. How's that for a name? This teaching and learning platform is founded and curated by Maureen Vickery.

Posts on Kathy's IG page like the following (right) got me interested in the hand of Charles Rennie MacKintosh and the Glasgow style. This style was often used to advertise in the Charleston era.

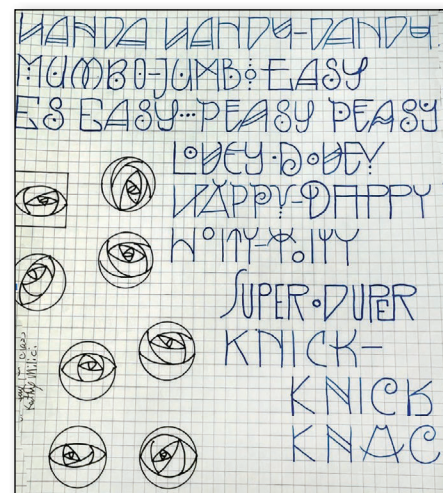


As a swing dance aficionado, I was drawn to the style.

Rennie started this style to be used on architectural plans. Therefore, they are blocky and there are only Majuscules. (Kathy found some minuscules online, but she didn't know if those were created by Mackintosh himself.) We practiced on Rhodia graph paper with micron pens. Oh the freedom! Since I mostly study pointed pen styles, it was such a joy to practice a hand which can be used almost immediately after learning it. You still have to figure out spacing requirements on your pieces, but the hand itself is very beginner-friendly. Added bonus, you can improvise your own letters in the same style. Also, the only thing you have to do with the pen is pick a size, take the cap off and use it! Freedom!

Letters are often linked together by crossing each other or sharing the same stroke. Most letters are three squares high and two squares wide on Rhodia graph paper. We started with the alphabet and then went on to making Rennie-style roses and graphics for envelopes. I decorated four envelopes in class which were great take-aways from the class.

Here is one of my practice pages. I started using a glass pen and fountain pen inks, which worked well. We learned how to make the Rennie Rose motif. It is easy to learn. Kathy also demonstrated color mixing watercolors. She favors monochromatic palettes, but encourages students to play and find their own color preferences.

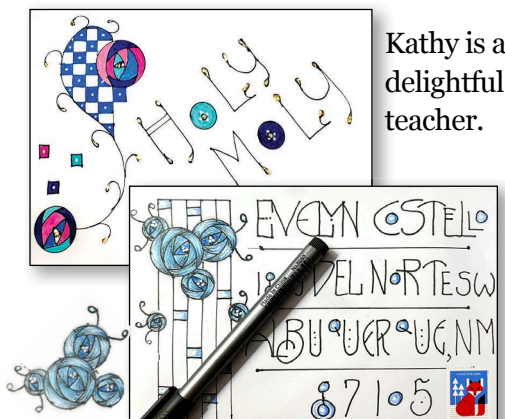


There was even a raffle at the end of class, so you might be lucky enough to win a prize if you attend the zoom class online.

The videos are available for about two months.

Below is a card I made using the architectural style. Unfortunately, I used a ruler for a lot of the card as I was not confident enough to go completely freehand. Besides showing off Rennie's alphabet, I used a ruling pen to make the gold leaf border and garlic juice that I had made myself for the size (or glue) for the gold dots.

Finally, here is an envelope I sent to Evelyn. I used a grid inside the envelope, but I didn't use a ruler this time. I had to put the stamp in the lower right corner because I forgot to leave space for it! I used one of the envelopes I made in class. I improvised the "Y" in Evelyn's name.



Kathy is a delightful teacher.



I highly recommend this class. It was really fun and a good tool to have when creating cards.



Into the Heartland is a boutique artist retreat. It is an experience of connection, creativity and curiosity that will leave you renewed and enthused long after you return home.

Come and gather for a time set apart from your regular everyday to intentionally create and learn together. Find space to breathe, to elevate the ordinary, to step into a week of community, creativity and inspiration that will nourish you in the best of ways.

All are welcome! Beginners and old hands alike will benefit from 5 days of classes immersed in art and camaraderie in an exceptional setting at **Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca, IL**. Our fabulous instructors include talented, professional calligraphers, bookbinders and watercolorists!

For more information and to register, visit:
www.chicagocalligraphy.org or
 email: intotheheartland2026@gmail.com

Our Weeklong Instructors & Courses

Cheryl Dyer

Writing and Writing:
Penning Your Poetry in a
Unique Script

Daniel Essig

Altered Mica Book

Joseph Lappie

The Book Bind-a-Palooza or How I Learned To
Bind Dozens of Books in A Very Short Time

Alidia Márquez

Carved in Paper: A Lettering Exploration

Jesse Marsolais

Brush Kinetics, A Modern Look at Ancient
Forms, or A Funny Thing Happened on the
Way Back from the Forum

Christopher Reno

Experimental Pictorial Watercolors with Fr.
Edward Catich

Sherri Thornton

The Art of Painting with Light: Utilizing Color,
Design, and Innovation

Nina Tran

Blackletter Fever

Participants will choose one 5-day course for the week.



Into the Heartland is a new take on the annual calligraphy conference, but it offers SO much more for artists looking to up their game!

Learn to add a new twist to your lettering projects by studying watercolor, or jazz up your letters using a stained glass effect. Try delving deeper into bookbinding, making lovely sketchbooks and journals, or creating a one-of-a-kind artist book.

Of course, there are also opportunities to brush up on your lettering or learn a new hand. Most of all, it's an entire week to create and be together with like-minded friends! Classes fill up quickly, so make sure you're all in by completing your [registration](#)!

Into the Heartland runs July 19–24, 2026. For more details, visit [here](#).

Posted on [Cyberscribes](#): (BTW, you can sign up to this discussion group to receive and take part in the topics and conversations.) Here's the post:

Two exciting announcements from the Washington Calligraphers Guild (WCG) which has administered the **Graceful Envelope Contest** since the National Postal Museum transferred it to the Washington Calligraphy Guild in 2001:

The co-chairs of the 2026 Graceful Envelope Contest, Rosalee Anderson and Peggy Barlett, have posted the theme of the 2026 contest, [Great Beginnings](#), on the WCG website. They also crafted new rules for mailing entries, due to the many Graceful Envelopes that were late, mis-delivered or returned to sender — most caused by Postal Service sorting equipment failing to find addresses on art-filled envelopes.

Read about the [2026 theme and new rules](#).

The Washington Calligraphers Guild's journal, *Scriptsit*, is the 6th [Graceful Envelope Scriptsit](#) Carol DuBosch has written for the WCG. Multipage chapters cover Graceful Envelope Contest winners from 2020/21 through 2025. And for each year's theme, Portland calligrapher Carol DuBosch shared in detail how she developed her entry. The magazine's final chapter celebrates repeat winners of the contest from its inception in 1995 to 2025.

An [honor roll of the Top 25 Winners](#) (see pdf) is accompanied by an art-filled countdown of the Top ten Winners. [Congratulations](#) to the Top three, Julie Gray (Escribiente member), Gerry Jackson Kerdok, and Carol DuBosch.

The WCG thanks everyone who enters this annual creative challenge!

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 in-person workshop will be in April with Amity Parks showing us the lettering style of Wes Wilson. He created psychedelic poster art in the 1960's. Prior to the April workshop, you might want to view this Smithsonian-hosted [biography](#).

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

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.

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 share this [You Tube link](#) to view past programs! Please encourage your friends to Subscribe to our YouTube channel! There are nine videos including the most recent presentation by Nancy Hayes Hills.



Holiday time again! In keeping with the Escribiente sharing tradition, Diane has assembled and distributed the list of members interested in creating holiday cards to share.

Diane noted in a recent email to all: *Recently I was camping with some friends, and around the campfire we played one of those games where you pick a card and read a question intended to encourage conversation. My card had the question, "Do you think email will replace regular mail?" I was a little surprised that my camping buddies all laughed. ALL of them!! They explained that that's already happened for them. That made me a little sad.*

I related my stories of sending and receiving handmade greeting, holiday, and birthday cards in beautiful envelopes from my friends in Escribiente. I told them about using my dad's vintage stamps as postage and how much joy I got when I found the right stamp, matching either the occasion, the person, or the card. My friends might have been a little jealous, but we moved on to a new card and more laughter and sharing.

But I continued to think about 'regular' mail and how nice it is to go to the mailbox and pull out a card from a friend. I consider it a gift. So I am inviting you to enjoy sending and receiving these gifts in the regular mail.

Hand-made cards offer a great opportunity to practice your calligraphy and be creative in your card-making. Maybe try out a new technique you've learned this year.

Let's keep the tradition going while we still can, and show those people who only use email what they're missing.

A few good internet reads: Here's something Caryl found on the Internet. It's worth a look!

Handwriting Literally Rewires Your Brain
[Really great reading to share.](#)

Here is a seven-minute [video](#) on **grain direction** for anyone who is not familiar with what your instructor is telling you when they talk about grain direction. It's very important in book construction.

The Art of Letters [video](#) by various lettering artists

Cherry Hills Library has requested that we show up again with magic pens to letter bookmarks on Sunday, December 14th. This is another *Jane Austen Week* event. Photos in the next issue!

A 2026 CREATIVE CHALLENGE

All guild members are invited to participate in next year's **Quote Swap** to be shared at our June meeting. No judging is involved, just a desire to challenge yourself and share with others. No one should be concerned about ability level, since we are all on a lifetime continuum of learning! You can use any media, lettering hand, layout, tools, size, etc. You are only limited by your creativity and imagination! This year's challenge is **any humorous quote** that will bring a smile.

Photos of all entries will be featured in our June Padlet and a later newsletter.

OUR NEXT WORKSHOP

April 11 and 12, 2026

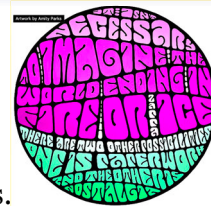
Write On! The Lettering of Wes Wilson.

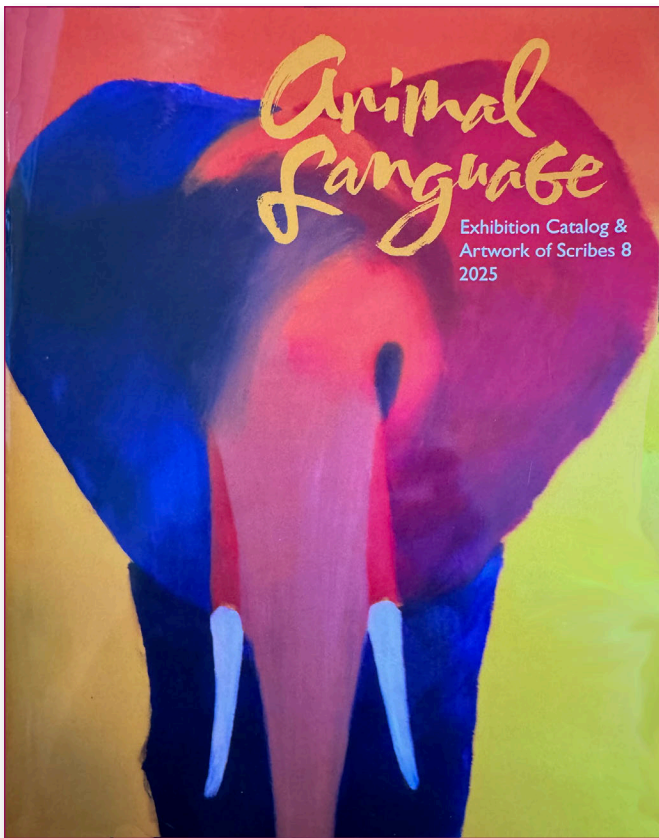
In-person Workshop with Amity Parks.

The psychedelic concert posters of the 1960's are an American cultural icon. In this workshop we will look at the poster lettering of Wes Wilson, whose letterforms stand out among pieces known for their flashy colors, wavy texts and groovy designs. We will look at his work and analyze how he filled the space with words that verge on illegible, but fascinate with the ways they fit together.

We will start with an alphabet, then learn ways of distorting and decorating the letters to fill fun and colorful shapes. Adding images, patterns and exploring vibrant color combinations will ensure work that pops off the page and engages our audience. Starting with sketches in pencil and pen, and then moving on to work with water-based paints and pointed brushes, we will develop our skills with multiple tools. All skill/experience levels encouraged to consider.

Amity's work has been widely exhibited and published in both national and regional venues. A dedicated educator and active member of local and statewide calligraphy guilds, she frequently teaches workshops across the U.S. and abroad. Her teaching résumé includes serving on the faculty of multiple national and international lettering arts conferences.





This image by Fred Yost titled *Red Elephant* measures 20" x 26". It is featured on the front cover of the accompanying exhibit journal which can be purchased at the front desk at the Visitor Center. It's twenty-three pages of beautiful images and artist bios.

Oh, BTW – the artists! We know them! They are all past or current members of Escribiente! Kathy Chilton, Jaci Fischer, Mike Gold, Amy Jones, Bob Phillips, Diana Stetson, and Fred Yost.



“ Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way. ”

John Muir

Scribes 8 exhibition: *Animal Language* Animal, bird, and insect images and experiments with what their communication might look like if written. It's all in the gallery at the Open Space Visitor Center for all the world to see and enjoy! The exhibit continues until December 20th.

Sixty-five wonderful works of art. Partial percentage of sales will go to animal non-profits and the Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd NW, Albuquerque. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Scribes 8 is a collaborative group of calligrapher/artists who have been a team since 1990. Join them in celebration of 35 years of collaboration & creativity.

Note: above is the cover of their 24-page full color catalog that is available for purchase at the exhibit.

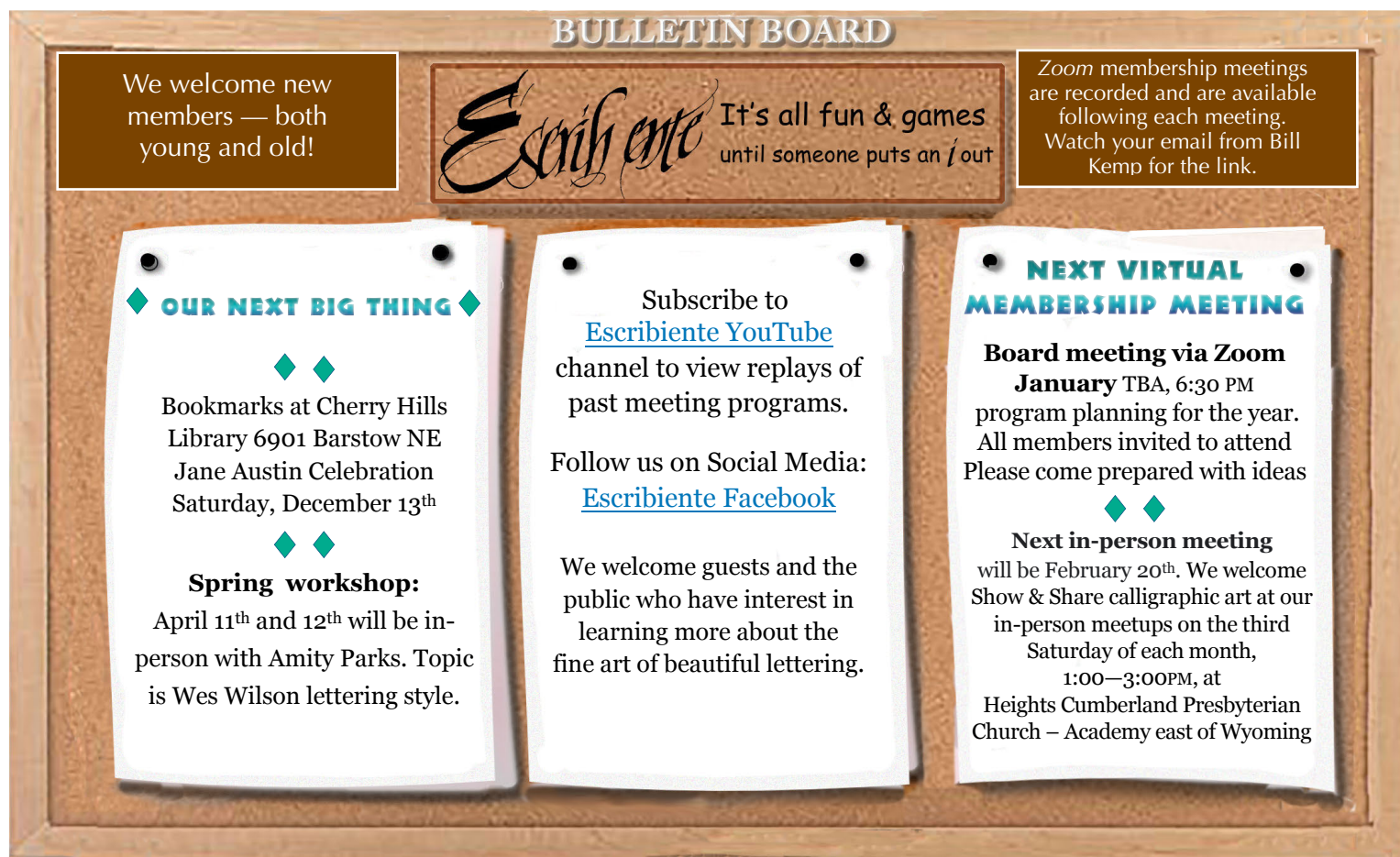
WE CAN'T CLOSE OUT A DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER WITHOUT WISHING

EVERYONE HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



CHEERS TO OUR FRIENDSHIP



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-linked 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.