

Bulletin



March 2020
Number 138

Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

At the top of many people's minds right now is news and concern about the COVID-19 virus and how it will affect their daily lives. For Friends of Calligraphy, this means being aware of changes that we might need to make in canceling or rescheduling upcoming classes, workshops, and meetings. For example, the San Francisco Public Library has canceled all public meetings in their facilities for the next few weeks, and consequently, FOC has had to cancel the first of our new monthly series, Saturday Scribes. FOC will notify you by email if we need to cancel or reschedule other events.

A much more pleasant topic is the calligraphic fun times that FOC members have been having so far in 2020. The thirty-second annual Trivial Pursuits started the new year with a day filled with six fifty-minute workshops, what I call "speed dating for calligraphers". We played, laughed, ate, and completely enjoyed ourselves. Thanks to Marcia Friedman for organizing, Cynthia Cravens for managing the goody bags, and to the many other volunteers who helped during the day

Denise Lach's imaginative visual approach to calligraphy has long been an inspiration to artists and calligraphers. FOC was able to have Denise teach a workshop in February, which you can read about on Page 2.

Every year FOC members can attend a five-day retreat at Santa Sabina in San Rafael, where they relax, refresh, and focus on anything or nothing. To see

photos and read more about the retreat, see Page 4.

Take care of yourselves, wash your hands, don't touch your face, live long and flourish.

XXX OOO, *Evelyn*

Trivial Pursuit XXXII

FOC Members gathered with six teachers and the coordinator, Marcia Friedman for a wonderful day of learning, creating and sharing. Dorothy Yuki's daughter Mia dazzled attendees with a delicious lunch.



Clockwise: Debby Turrietta surveying the lovely lunch offerings; Susan Ito showing Dorothy Yuki her techniques; the teachers: L to R: Virginia LeRoux; Caryn Lum, Sherrie Lovler; Marcia Friedman, Melissa Titone, Susan Ito and Debra Ferreboeuf; Melissa Titone demonstrating the letters she introduced in her session.



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Bulletin Editor

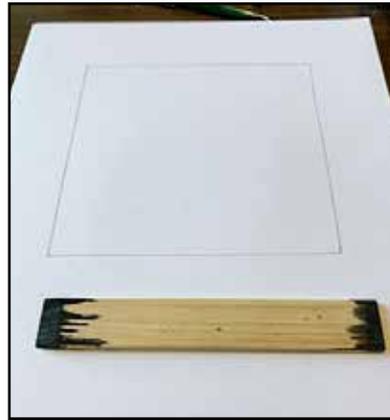
Nancy Noble

Denise Lach Workshop



I had the amazing good fortune to attend Denise Lach's workshop *Play on Writing/Writing Textures*, having been third on a waiting list of ten. Denise taught us how to play with letterforms to create decorative textures which would become part of our graphic vocabulary. For the bulk of the workshop she asked us to work in the same 5-½ inch square format with the same short text, which allowed us to concentrate on the textures that developed with each exercise. We started by filling our square with our short text in our *usual* handwriting spaced fairly uniformly. For the next exercise she asked us to continue with our usual handwriting, but make the letterforms two to three times bigger and reflect on what happened when we did so; in my case, I discovered that by keeping my writing legible with space between lines, I had made the texture and rhythm less interesting. Starting with exercise three we were asked to leave no space between words or lines and to keep our text as optically balanced as possible. In subsequent exercises we made conscious efforts to change the angle or width of our letterforms, to experiment with different tools and to create focal areas of increased density by filling in spaces or adding color. An exercise keeping positive and negative space balanced while using a broad edged tool was remarkably difficult for me, but I was pleasantly surprised when

we used that piece as the basis for another piece in which we cut away paper, again trying to keep our positive and negative spaces optically balanced. One of my favorite exercises involved filling a square with our text, rotating the paper by 90 degrees and layering the same text on top of the first, then repeating two more times. It was an easy way to create texture and one can choose the density of the piece by choosing the number of layers. Denise introduced a couple of special mark-making tools—hardwood pieces that had been sanded to have both a relatively thick edge and a thin edge and glass Pasteur transfer



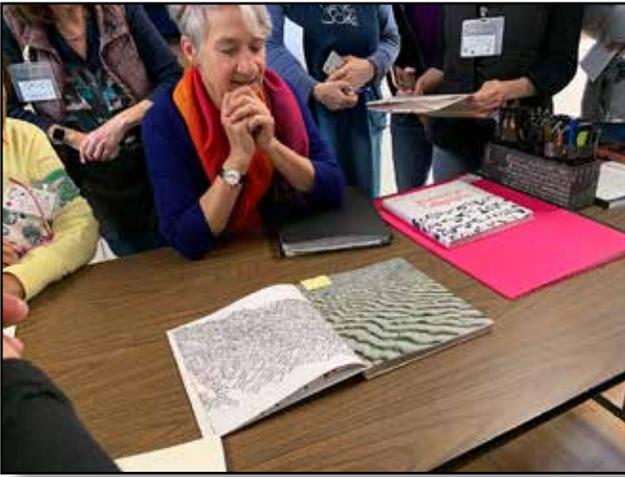
pipettes. Although not strictly *texture making*, she explained her process for drawing inspiration from nature photographs: making rough sketches to get a sense of where the darks and lights are and choosing tools, letterforms and text that match the image. Although there may be an infinite number of ways to create textures by playing with text in the ways she showed us, Denise also said that it's very important to her that the underlying text means something to her personally, even if it's not legible. She shared many inspiring examples from her sketchbooks and online one can find many more illustrations of her process by doing a Google image search for *Denise Lach workshop* or *Denise Lach stage—stage =*

workshop in French. Denise emphasized how important reflection on each result was. She said that her finished works often require multiple experiments with reflection upon each. The small format she had us use also allows quick completion of an experiment—she recommended always finishing an experiment, even if one is unhappy with the result while it's being created. Denise explained that it's necessary to reflect on a fully completed piece, just as one might need to hear a musical composition in its entirety to understand it. I jotted quick notes reacting to the relationships of curves to straight lines, thicks and thins, rhythm, density and space and whether broken borders *worked* or not—and I came to realize how valuable this practice was, regardless of what artistic medium one might be working in. Finally, our workshop coordinator, Dena, said that we owed Denise a big *Merci* for agreeing to have more students in our workshop than she normally has, so *Merci beaucoup, Denise*—from the last person to get into your incredible workshop.



Denise's demo of texture making.

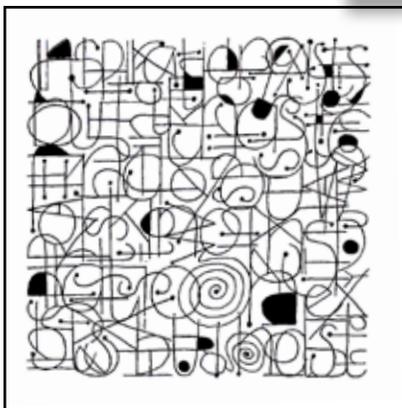
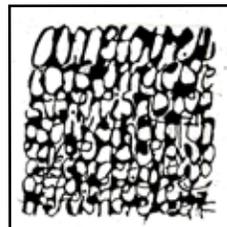
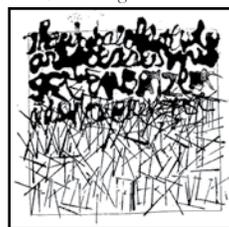
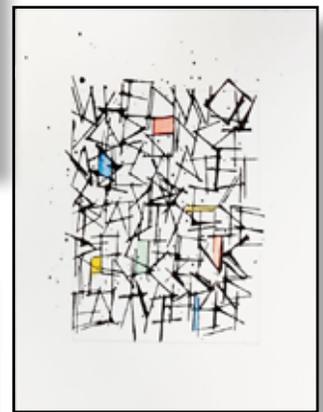




Clockwise from top left: Denise sharing techniques from her book; Joe Boissy with a table full of excellent work; Sherrrie Lovler working on her piece that is shown completed below; Vicky Lee proud of her cut-out letters; pipette demo without lifting the tip; Claudia Kruse's very creative final piece; Dorothy Yuki holding her 'cut-out letters' over her back; example of lettering and tools. The three examples under the group photo: left to right: Cut letter example; Dean Robino's piece and Meredith Klein's work with pipette.



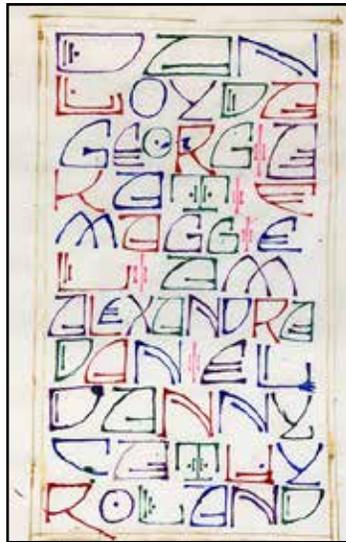
The participants in Denise Lach's: Play on Writing gather on the steps outside the workshop on an unseasonably warm February day. The lovely Denise is in the front row, center, wearing the red scarf.



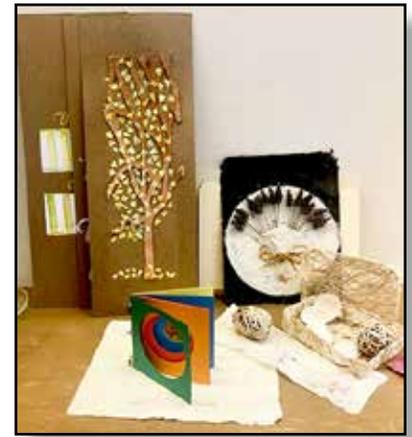
FOC Spring Retreat 2020

2020 FOC Spring Retreat By: Meredith Klein

We were 30 this year, a mixture of: people who've been coming nearly every year, four new people, one person whose last retreat was in 1994, one who had to leave on Friday because her sons made it into a state robotics tournament, some folks who traveled from Arizona, Ohio and Massachusetts, and a very large stuffed duck named Francesco who occupied a prominent spot next to A. Blackman. There was warmth, sunshine, chilly days and a little rain. There was sharing of techniques: Altered Book, Lark's Head Bound Book, Byopia Press Belt, Denise Lach Texture Exercises, tools, advice, stencils, paper and anything anyone needed. And a presentation of collaborative artist books. There was laughter. There was frequent hand washing and hugs given without using hands. There was a paste paper and gelli plate session, and in the paper room, black denim was available in addition to the usual abaca and kozo. The meals were delicious and wonderful. Friday morning, the scriptorium was aglow with the soft light of electric candles in handmade lanterns. There were walks and gentle yoga sessions. And there was, on Sunday, a collection of work done during retreat that took our breath away. At the end, we told each other, "can't wait till next year!" The 2021 Retreat is March 3-7. Mark your calendars.



Above: Alan's alphabet he worked on.
Below: Vicky Lee's work..



Mary Ann Wight's pieces that she completed at retreat. Her late nights definitely paid off!



Above: Gorgeous work produced over the five day retreat by Jacqueline Sullivan.
Below: one of the many beautiful pieces completed by Christi Payne.



Above: The special setting of Santa Sabina: excellent gardens, walking trails, nature and a hermitage. Below: the calligraphic sign that greets us as we enter our special place.



Left: The Scriptorium at 6 AM Friday morning after Vicky Lee placed her beautiful 'lanterns' at each table—what a cherished gift.



Right: Alan Blackman sneaking a quick afternoon nap while his table mate Francesco continued to work on his calligraphy.



Gudrun Zapf von Hesse

Gudrun passed away on December 13, 2019, at the age of 101. She was a talented book-binder, calligrapher and type designer in her own right. She designed several typefaces and was the 1991 winner of the Frederic W. Goudy Award.



Gudrun Zapf von Hesse
January 2, 1918 — December 13, 2019



Gudrun with her husband Hermann Zapf. He passed away in 2015 at the age of 96. They were married in 1951.

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED TO SAVE SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS FROM THE SCOURGE OF WAR, WHICH TWICE IN OUR LIFETIME HAS BROUGHT UNTOLD SORROW TO MANKIND, AND TO REGAIN FAITH IN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS, IN THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF THE HUMAN PERSON,

On January 2, 2018, lettering artist and bookbinder Gudrun Zapf von Hesse marked her 100th birthday by releasing her first digital typeface, Hesse Antiqua. The typeface is available at Fontshop.

Toshimi Bill Kumagai

In January, I learned that FOC member Toshimi Bill Kumagai had passed away due to age-related illness at his son's home in Florida. I never had the chance to meet him, but encountered him through the annual membership renewal process. He originally joined FOC in 2001, along with his partner, Gilda Wunderman. He usually checked the volunteer box to offer his home for lodging instructors or hosting events. Because he lived in Mountain View, we never had the opportunity to take him up on this. In 2019, on the back of his renewal form, he made a brush drawing of bamboo accompanied by a quote from Desiderata: *Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence.*

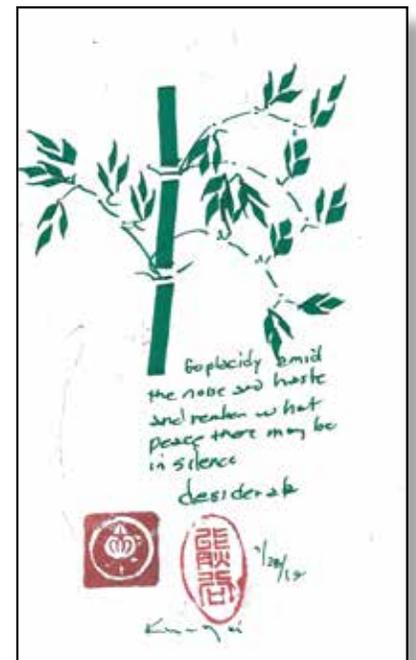
Pacific Scribes was Bill's main guild, so I contacted FOC member Sara Loesch Frank and asked if she would write a remembrance. She consulted with Sue Holden and sent the following: "Toshimi Bill Kumagai joined Pacific Scribes in the very early 1980's with unbridled enthusiasm for calligraphy. He was an elementary school teacher so his curiosity about the tools, papers and inks, along with paints, was meant to be shared. When meeting calligraphers, he would eagerly ask you about new items he had found or liked. Anytime we had demonstrations for our guild, Bill would be there. He was very active in his

study group for many years and willing to share his home with calligraphy friends.

I think the Santa Clara conference which was run by Friends of Calligraphy and assisted by Pacific Scribes was when he and I watched Ward Dunham cut bamboo pens. June Middleton provided Ward's bamboo and all of us were mesmerized. Bill mentioned he had access to bamboo from his gardening and thus began our pen cutting experiments. He used quotations about nature in his artwork and natural materials as tools for his art. He had a landscaping business after teaching, and he knew how to prune fruit trees for maximum production which he learned from his family."

Bill passed away January 6, 2020 and was 85."

—Meredith Klein



New Members

Friends of Calligraphy extends a warm welcome to our newest members. We're glad you joined!

Stephanie Chan
Michael Clark
Arlene Custock
Peggy Delaney
Erik Henrikson
Gerda B. Janos
Helene C. Jenssen
Wendy McWilliams
Sally Moy
Melinda Newell
Deborah Powell
Christa Shannon
Nina Tran
Julian Waters
Linda Yoshida

Supporting

Members contribute in many ways. Friends of Calligraphy thanks the following member who joined at the Supporting level:

Erik Henrikson

Mail Crew Thank You

Many thanks to the FOC Mail Crew:

December 12, 2019:

Darla Engelmann
Judi Jung
Linda Kruger
Vicki Piovia
Gail Sandberg
JoAnn Brand—Participating & Calling the Crew
Mary Ann Wight,
On-site Mailing Czarina
Meredith Klein,
Labels and PO Runner
Georgianna Greenwood—
Hosting Mailings in her Studio

If you are interested in being a part of the mailing crew, please contact JoAnn Brand at letters&images@gmail.com. The final mailing of this membership year will be June 11.

Address Change

If your contact information changes: *address, phone or email*, please send the new information to:

Membership Chair
Meredith Klein
707 Spokane Avenue,
Albany, CA 94706
gkle@sbcglobal.net
510.527.0434



Friends of Calligraphy

is a nonprofit society of people interested in calligraphy and related arts. Membership is \$40.00 annually, open to amateurs & professionals.

Mailing address:

PO Box 425194, SF, CA 94142

FOC Website:

www.friendsofcalligraphy.org

FOC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Friendsofcalligraphy>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/friendsofcalligraphy



Calligraphers and artists everywhere are invited to participate in the 26th annual Graceful Envelope Contest, conducted by the Washington, DC

Calligraphers Guild and the National Association of Letter Carriers. The contest is open to all ages, with separate categories for children. There is no entry fee.

New deadline is Monday, April 27, 2020.

This year's theme: **Double Vision**

The 2020 theme is inspired by the year itself. Only once a century does the year double up! On an envelope, capture something that's double—whatever you see in your personal Double Vision.

Make sure your submission reflects the artistic hand lettering and imaginative use of color and design that have been the hallmarks of the contest. And, of course, incorporate postage stamp(s) into your creation. Address it artistically to

Note: New Address

The Graceful Envelope 1207 King Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Postmark Deadline: Monday, April 27, 2020

David Brookes shared this photo of Alan Blackman, hard at work at the 2001 Retreat, lettering names for the Fort Mason Roman Capitals Revisited Class Completion Certificates.



Friends of Calligraphy Council Meeting

Saturday, November 2, 2019 10 AM
at the Home of Jerry Lehman

Council Members Present:

Evelyn Eldridge, Elena Caruthers, Dean Robino, Fredi Juni, Cynthia Cravens, Darla Engelmann, Raoul Martinez, Martha Boccalini, Katie Leavens. Guests: Nancy Noble.

Evelyn called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM

Minutes: The minutes of the 9.15.19 meeting were approved as presented. Motion: Elena; Second: Martha. Unanimously approved.

Reports

Membership: Meredith Klein was not present so Evelyn presented information from her. So far this year, 29 new members, an increase of 9 since the last meeting report, 465 renewed members, up 23 from the last report, 8 honorary and 2 honorary spouses, for a total of 475. With the 29 exchange groups, the number for the first mailing of the year was over 500.

New Member Meeting: The meeting was held on October 13 at the Skylight Gallery, North Salon at the SF Main Library. Approximately 50 people were present.

Treasurer's Report: Dean Robino presented the Treasurer's budget report and transaction report. Dean requested council approval to purchase two items: 1) A microphone table stand. This would be useful for instructors when sitting and doing demos. 2) A small rolling storage case and foam to be used to store and transport the document camera when the projector isn't needed. Motion: Fredi; second: Raoul. Unanimously approved. Officers reviewed tax info and approved; Mini audit completed September 30 by Martha and Evelyn.

Workshop Committee: Dena Sneider has stepped down from committee chair position but will remain on the committee. Elena Caruthers will be the new chair.

2020 Workshops: Denise Lach: Play on letters, textures; Cora Perl: Ben Shahn, Bone; Elmo Van Slingerland: Roman and Italics; Summer Workshop: Sharon Zeugin: Sketching in letters, lines, and images; Sheri Kiesel Thornton; Yukimi Annand.

Loredana Zega's workshop at Ruth's Table was terrific.

Andrew van der Merwe's workshop was exciting and folks learned a lot.

Lectures: Andrea Grimes from SFPL suggested that we only have refreshments at the AGM and the New Members meeting.

Discussion and agreement to no longer serve refreshments. Coordinators need to be firm with lecturers regarding ending time, encourage use of document camera.

Fort Mason Committee: Dean reported the first three classes will be at Fort Mason; rental approval received November 1; next year's schedule is in the *Bulletin*; Katie designed this year's brochure; Raoul will post, allowing a week after the mailing.

Publications and Mailings

Bulletin: Nancy Noble shared that her next deadline is November 25.

Mailings: November 7 Member directory and update, Denise Lach Workshop flyer, and Fort Mason brochure, if ready. If the brochure is not printed, it will be posted soon and mailed in December. December 12 Mailing of *Alphabet, Bulletin*, Cora Pearl Workshop flyer, member directory update, and 2020 Class Brochure.

Hospitality: Cynthia has been coordinator for two years and shared that she is willing to continue but suggested we seek out a new coordinator. She will write a blurb for the bulletin requesting more volunteers.

Holiday Party: 8 December 2019, Jerry's home. Katie Leavens to do the invitation.

Social Media: Evelyn reported that the committee has not met, but at next meeting will discuss hashtags, guidelines for workshop photographers, and time limits for photos remaining available on Dropbox.

Web Administrator: Raoul shared reports. FOC is in fifth place on Instagram and Facebook. Will add Blot, Irish calligraphy supply, to resource list and remove Castle in the Air, no longer retail store.

Meeting and Events

Trivial Pursuits: Evelyn shared that Marcia reports all is going well.

Retreat: Registration opened November 1.

More Meetings Committee: Meredith, Evelyn, Fredi, Darla, Cynthia: Report shared by Evelyn, including small survey of new members from Darla. Committee met and discussed various options. First gathering to be social event with

refreshments, white elephant table and member show-and-share. Evelyn to discuss possible dates in March 2020 with Andrea.

Unfinished Business

Business Cards: Nancy shared samples and discussion ensued regarding options. Folks agreed generally on black and white, one-sided. Nancy will create a budget, get samples of a few black and white cards printed for review at the next meeting. Cards will include icons and addresses for Facebook and Instagram, our website, and a brief description.

Banner: Evelyn will send photo of banner to council, explore digital options.

Class and Workshop Locations

The Workshop and Fort Mason Committees continue to work on this issue.

Adjourn: 12:38 PM Motion: Elena; second: Cynthia. Approved Unanimously

Next Meeting: January 19, 2020, 1:00 to 4:00 PM Home of Darla Engelmann

Edited for Publication

FOC Hospitality Deputy Needed

Are you food focused? Do you enjoy presenting tasty snacks and drink in a pleasing, aesthetic way? Are you interested in ensuring that FOC's new members are welcomed to important society gatherings with delicious food?

Then, please consider becoming an FOC Hospitality Deputy!

For more information, contact Cynthia Cravens, FOC Hospitality Coordinator: yarewe_sf@yahoo.com 415.386.0262

FOC Facebook & Instagram Pages

Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages. You do NOT need a Facebook or Instagram account to do so. Our pages are open to all. At the bottom of the FOC home page, click either icon: the F in a blue square, or the little red square camera outline.

FOC Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Details
April 14 – June 2 Seven Tuesdays	6:30 PM 9:00 PM	Uncials & Variations Meredith Klein	Fort Mason
April 17 Friday	9:30 AM 4:30 PM	Cora Pearl Workshop: Ben Shahn Lettering	Arlington Community Church
April 18 – 19 Saturday & Sunday	9:30 AM 4:30 PM	Cora Pearl Workshop: Bone	Ruth's Table San Francisco
May 3 Sunday	1:00 PM 4:00 PM	FOC Annual General Meeting	SFPL Skylight Gallery
May 30 – 31 Saturday & Sunday	9:30 AM 4:30 PM	Elmo Van Slingland: Roman Caps with Broad-Edged Pen	Albany Senior Center, Albany
June 1 & 2 Monday & Tuesday	9:30 AM 4:30 PM	Elmo Van Slingland: Vivid Italic Workshop	San Francisco Ctr for the Book
July 14–18, 2020 Tuesday thru Saturday	9:30 AM 4:30 PM	Summer Workshop with Sharon Zeugin	Arlington Community Church
September 8 – October 20 Seven Tuesdays	6:30 PM 9:00 PM	Italic Patricia Coltrin	Fort Mason
October 24 – November 14 Four Saturdays	10:00 AM 1:00 PM	Pointed Pen Alternatives Rick Paulus	Fort Mason

CHARM OF
FINCHES

Uncials & Variations
Meredith Klein

ABCDEFGH
abcdefghijklmnop

Italic
Patricia Coltrin

Flourishing

Pointed Pen Alternatives
Rick Paulus



Stay Tuned for 2020
Workshops with:
Yukimi Annand,
Jane Shibata,
& Sharon Zeugin

Colophon

FOC *Bulletin* #138

Masthead:

Raoul Martinez – Fraktur

Text: Palatino Linotype,
Palatino & Optima

Adobe InDesign CC was used
for the layout on a MacBook Pro

Proofreading: Evelyn Eldridge
& Dean Robino.

Photos: Laura Bernabei,
Caryn Lum, Nancy Noble,
Dean Robino.

Copy Deadline

Deadline for articles for *Bulletin*
139: May 26, 2020. Please submit
articles or questions to Nancy
Noble, nrnoble@sfsu.edu



Note: To view the *Bulletin* in color:
[http://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/
pages/publications.html](http://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/publications.html)

Friends of Calligraphy



2020 MATERIALS OF THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE
HORSE FEATHERS, FISH VELLUM,
& 25 KARAT GOLD

A number of FOC members traveled to Southern California in February for the 15th Annual Letters California Style held at Kellogg West Conference Center, Cal Poly Pomona. Reggie Ezell taught a fabulous workshop on the Saint John's Bible. We learned how to prepare calfskin vellum, cut carrot quills and goose quills and gilding. As you can see above, five of us were lucky enough to take his class: Elena Caruthers, Darla Engelmann, Linda Kruger, Meredith Klein and yours truly, Nancy Noble.