

# BULLETIN

December 2022 • Number 149

## Letter from the President

It's that time of year, when if you blink you might miss the end of 2022. Did you see that blur that raced by just now? That was all of my resolutions from this past January, waving as they raced by. But since I didn't follow through on them, I'm saved from having to invent new ones; I can just haul those old ones out of oblivion. They're in really good condition, thoroughly cured and seasoned! And if you want to do the same thing, I'll never tell.

Our Holiday Party was a Zoom event again this year, and although I'm hoping that we can meet in person next year, virtual fun is still fun! It was great to chat and share with each other, which is always my favorite part of a party. Thanks to everyone who attended and helped spread the cheer.

The lineup of classes in our Ft. Mason series for 2023 is excellent. I'm tempted to take all of them, but I'm trying to do better about one of my failed 2022 resolutions—to not take every class that takes my fancy. The 2023 schedule is now on our website at [www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/classes.html](http://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/classes.html).

The FOC Lecture Series will continue in 2023, with speakers whom I'm sure you'll want to hear. We just had Rick Paulus in September, followed by Andrea Wunderlich and Louise Grunewald early in November. Our next speaker will be Carol DuBosch talking about her Calligraphic Artist Books on January 18 at 10:00 AM PST. You can register for this event at [www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/calendar.html](http://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/calendar.html).

I encourage you to visit the FOC website regularly to keep up on the classes and events that we schedule. In case I haven't mentioned it enough, it's at [www.friendsofcalligraphy.org](http://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org). There you can find complete back issues of the *Bulletin*, and a sample spread or two of the latest issue of the *Alphabet*. We also have an FAQ that contains answers to many of the questions that we are regularly asked.

Amazon has a feature that you can use to donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to a charity or non-profit of your choice. Friends of Calligraphy is one of the designated non-profit organizations that you can choose. Using this feature doesn't cost extra, and is a way to give a little extra support to FOC throughout the year. To

learn more, type *how to use Amazon smile* in your browser search bar and follow the online instructions.

Every month for two years, FOC has featured a different member on social media and our website homepage. I want to bring your attention to a recent feature of Georgianna Greenwood from October. Her son, Andy, helped us pull together some of her work from their collection. You can see these rarely seen pieces at <https://www.instagram.com/p/CjjBPTSPqca>. To see our current featured member, go to <http://friendsofcalligraphy.org>. If you want to be featured, or want one of your friends featured, contact Fredi Juni [fredijuni58@gmail.com](mailto:fredijuni58@gmail.com).

Last but definitely not least, I wish you all a healthy, peaceful end of 2022.

May your letters be beautiful!

*Evelyn*  
XXXOOO



*Darla Engelmann's exquisite Letter P from Rick Paulus's Decorated Letters Zoom Class.*

*To view the Bulletin in color, please visit the FOC web site under Publications.*

### FOC Council Members

#### President

Evelyn Eldridge

#### Vice President

Elena Caruthers

#### Treasurer

Dean Robino

#### Secretary

Fredi Juni

#### Council Members

Darla Engelmann  
Billy Ola Hutchinson

Cynthia Cravens

Katie Leavens  
Raoul Martinez

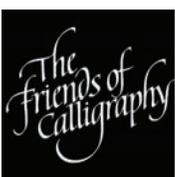
#### Alphabet Editor

Carl Rohrs



#### Bulletin Editor

Nancy Noble



# A Tribute — Ed Grossmith



On November 19, we lost a longtime member and our good friend, Ed Grossmith. He joined FOC in 1978, and many of us knew him from Retreat, as he had been coming to our annual spring event for decades. He brought sunshine with him, and so much more. He touched many of us.

When Jenn Enault contacted me to let me know her father, whom she always called “Pops,” had passed away after an extended battle with a cancer-related illness, I sent a message to the people in what we continue to call the Retreat family—those who have come to Retreat over the years. Ed touched many of us. When I asked for someone to write a tribute for the *Bulletin*, Sherrie Lovler, who developed a close and deep relationship with Ed, volunteered. Her beautiful tribute is accompanied by shorter tributes from Carolyn Fitz, JoAnn Brand and Adrienne Ardito, who also were close to Ed. If you would like to send a note to Jenn, her address is: 13539 E. Estrella Avenue, Scottsdale AZ 85259.—MJK

## From Sherrie Lovler

I met Ed Grossmith at an FOC Retreat at the Santa Sabina Center in 2010. We connected over nature, art, poetry, calligraphy, and, he would always add, spirituality. I didn't have the conviction in the beliefs that he did, as I never had the type of experience he had, but I had the desire to “know” as he knew. Early on he told me about this episode from his past, and later sent me a written version of it:

*....An hour later the mission was complete...I'd aced it. The mental load dropped away and I now surveyed the splendor of the night. Below stretched a shoreless sea of white cloud. Reflections from the full moon and stars welled up to bathe me in its light.*

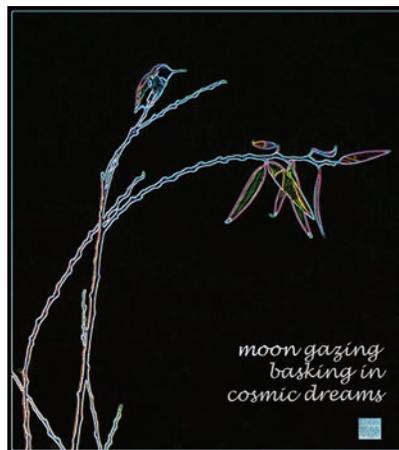
*I became the Light and in a timeless moment was seated on a balcony of stars. Euphoria filled my being...I was the moon, the stars, the earth, the Cosmos. Below I saw my Meteor [the first jet plane put into production] holding steady on its unmanned course.*

*Wow! In another timeless moment a new Me was back in the cockpit.*

This experience in 1952, as part of his National Service in the Royal Air Force, changed his life. Unfortunately, it also changed the life of his best friend, who died that day in another plane on that same mission.

Ed stood tall, was charming with his British accent, sweet, yet strong in appearance, approachable, jovial. He still loved his British pubs and introduced me to the one in San Rafael. But he wrote in an email, *I did the right thing, moving to the New World, as I strongly feel I wouldn't have had such an interesting and fulfilling life if I'd stayed in Jolly Olde England.*

He liked telling stories of his long life. I remember the one where he was at a dance with a friend when he saw a woman across the hall for the first time and said to his friend, “That's the woman I'm going to marry.” And he did. He was a great family man, coming to the Santa Sabina retreats with his daughter, Jenn, and spending as much time as he could with his grandchildren.



At Santa Sabina he shared his haiga—a combination of haiku poems and visual images. He posted these yearly on his YouTube channel, Haiga Ed. He

also wrote poetry, and helped me choose, then edit, the poems for my book, *On Softer Ground: Paintings, Poems and Calligraphy*.

The day I found out about his passing I was writing about the *ensō*, the Zen practice of drawing a circle. I wrote that it symbolizes *oneness* and realize now, if there was one word that I would use to remind me of Ed, *oneness* would be it. The other word would be *nature*. Ed wrote, *Nature is indeed a great teacher. It teaches of the presence of a Force that permeates everything which can be called The Cosmic Consciousness, a name some people call God.*

Ed lived to be 93, always looking and feeling younger than his age. But in the end, as his wife JoAnn wrote, *He fought a gallant fight against MDS, a blood disorder that often goes to leukemia, and had been handling this disease for about 3 years.* And so, I will also remember him as

a gallant fighter who loved life, and I will always be grateful, that I, along with many others in our calligraphic community, knew him.

### *From Carolyn Fitz:*

Ed was a beloved member of Yuki Teikei Haiku Society for many years. He was instrumental in promoting an appreciation of Haiga—haiku combined with photo or art. His inspirational yearly CDs of seasonal haiku combined with his gorgeous photographs or art, were presented at Asilomar conferences, much to the delight of members. His annual inspirational Haiga CDs can be found on YouTube.

A long life well lived, we wish Ed a joyous and colorful new journey.



*Asilomar retreat of Ed's Yuki Teikei Haiku Society, about 10 years ago. L to R: Patricia Machmiller, Ed, Betty Arnold and Carolyn Fitz.*

### *From JoAnn Brand*

Ed came to many retreats, shown below, and hence was a key member of the Retreat Family. Every year, he would faithfully make a handmade birthday card for his wife & after some time, he started bringing his daughter Jenn, which doubled the specialness. Both he and I shared the love of nature photography and his talents really blossomed when he joined them with his poetry into haiga.



One year was special, as he gave me and the Robins, a collaborative artist book group, the honor of interpreting his poetry in my Robin book. I would love to show it to anyone interested. I hold dear the photo of Ed and me that I put at the end of the book.

### *From Adrienne Ardito*

When you sign up for Retreat, over many years, you think about those you have gotten to know over the years and who you look forward to seeing again. It made me happy to see Ed's and Jenn's names on the roster. I looked forward to seeing him work on his beautiful brushwork and accompanying Haiku. I looked forward to seeing what he had been working on over the past year ... usually a beautiful video of the combination of his poetry/photography and calligraphy.

Ed was a "presence." I admired his love for his daughter Jenn and her family and children. Ed loved his family, was so proud of them and their accomplishments. He stayed so close as they were growing up, remaining a large part of their lives. His stories about being a pilot in the Royal Air Force were so interesting. He had done a lot in his time on this earth. I hadn't thought much about ERGONOMICS before I heard Ed use the term.

I have treasured his unique Retreat favor for years. It's a flat bottom river rock with a glass inkwell firmly attached to the top. I remember selecting from the table the one that "spoke to me." Today it sits right beside my drawing board in my studio. Every time I use it or even look at it I feel the love and attention Ed brought to the creation of it. I remember telling Ed for years afterwards what his creation meant to me. He always smiled his wonderful smile. I realize what a renaissance man Ed truly was ... everything he did he did with thoughtfulness, knowledge, and skill. And love.

*Ed and his dear friend George, when they came to Yosemite in May of 2013.*



By Rick Paulus

## The Calligraphic Autobahn with Louise Grunewald & Andrea Wunderlich

The members of Friends of Calligraphy enjoyed an exhilarating ride along the Calligraphic Autobahn, with lettering artists and friends, Louise Grunewald and Andrea Wunderlich, sharing the driving. A third driver, who never took the wheel but surely set the course, was Rudolf Koch, whose influence was evident in nearly every slide!

After having met each other in 2009, at The Calligraphy Connection in Minnesota, Andrea invited Louise to her studio in Goldkronach, Bavaria, when Louise next visited family in Germany. In 2012, Louise made her first trip to Andrea's studio and they visited the Klingspor Museum, in Offenbach, where they enjoyed studying the original work of Rudolf Koch, whom Andrea had already been researching for some time.

Andrea explained that hearing Rudolf Koch's name in nearly every conversation about lettering inspired her to look more closely at his work. This research has led her down a very long road that continues to this day, many years later. Through storytelling and, mostly, the sharing of the work that she has created from his inspiration, one gets the sense that her knowledge of Koch goes well beyond his work and perhaps gets a little into his soul. She has masterfully passed this knowledge down to all who have studied with her. It is breathtaking to see the work produced by her students that is clearly directly descended from Koch not only in technique, but more importantly, in spirit.

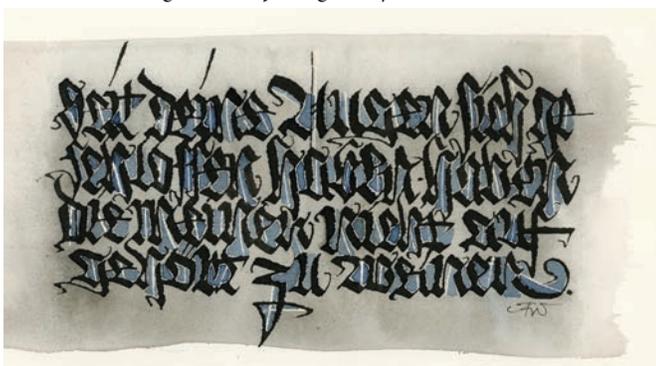
So much fun was had during Louise's first visit to Goldkronach and the Klingspor, a subsequent visit was arranged. She returned in 2015 to teach her brilliant solar plate workshop in Andrea's studio and hold a very successful exhibition of her work, expertly arranged by Andrea, in town. The two ladies agree that it was during this visit—more precisely, while stuck in a small Fiat during a three hour traffic jam on the Autobahn, on their way back from a trip to visit Rudolf Koch again—that their friendship was really cemented.

Louise shared with us several powerful pieces inspired by her visits with Koch and perhaps most impressive is Buch Staben, a handmade embossed alphabet book which one could enjoy looking at all day long—and can do so, as it now resides in the Klingspor Museum! In turn, a powerful piece that Andrea created, quoting Rudolf Koch during wartime, resides in the Rohrs Collection—Carl Rohrs' private collection, here in the United States. Louise also shared work she created, pushing and pulling blackletter as she never

had in the past, while participating in Andrea's Who's Afraid of Rudolf Koch? workshop. Other memorable pieces Louise shared with us were the results of merging work from earlier workshops with Friedrich Neugebauer and her more recent *Dancing Ductus* workshop.

Just as we thought we had reached the end of our road trip, Andrea turned our attention to the colors and ornament that Koch used in his work. You see these influences in much of Andrea's work today and you can experience them yourself in Andrea's new workshop, *Rudolf Koch in Color and Ornament*.

Friends of Calligraphy thanks Louise Grunewald and Andrea Wunderlich for sharing their heartening and inspiring story with us.



## Message from Membership Welcome, New Members!

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

Kaitlin Aguilar	Cecile Palou
Marilyn Brown	Jamie Risley-Hall
Leila S. Farah	Bernie Ryan
Alice Herbert	Sharon Schmidt
Susan Irish	DeAnn Singh
Adina Matei	Karen Slavick
Morgan McArthur	Laura Stevenson
Barbara McClain	Sandra Tjosvold
Lorinda Moholt	Jurgen Vercaemst
Lora Morton	Wendy Watson-
Manuel Murillo	Diedrick
Deborah Murray	Toni Watts
Toks Ojo	Clare Whittaker



Love,  
*Meredith*

### Gratitude

Members support FOC in many different ways. At this time, we express our gratitude to the members who have renewed or joined at extra support levels of membership:

### Sustaining

Julia Roy  
Gina Vasquez

### Supporting

Martha Boccalini  
Marilyn Brown  
Nancy Hills  
Sandra Tjosvold  
John Ward

### Address Change

If your contact information changes: address, phone or email, please send the new information to:  
Membership Chair: Meredith Klein  
[gkle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gkle@sbcglobal.net)  
707 Spokane Avenue,  
Albany, CA 94706  
510.527.0434

## Mail Crew Thank You

Thank you to the following vaccinated volunteers who met in October at Georgianna Greenwood's studio and stuffed, labeled and sealed the envelopes:

David Brookes  
Meredith Klein: + labels & taking mail to PO  
Linda Kruger  
Vicky Lee  
Vicki Piovia  
Dean Robino

In November, a vaccinated mail crew convened again in Georgianna's studio. Thank you to:

Laura Bernabei  
JoAnn Brand  
Darla Engelmann  
Meredith Klein: *czarina* + labels & taking mail to PO  
Vicky Lee  
Dean Robino, assistant *czarina*

Thank you to **Georgianna** for hosting, **Andy Greenwood** for assistance, and **JoAnn Brand** for calling both crews.

### TinyLetter

Friends of Calligraphy now sends its emails via TinyLetter, a free online listserver.

To ensure that our emails don't get put in your Spam folder, please add our email address, [info@friendsofcalligraphy.org](mailto:info@friendsofcalligraphy.org), to your email address book.

Our emails include a footer containing our snail mail address, an unsubscribe link, and the *Delivered by TinyLetter* logo. Please be aware that if you click on the unsubscribe link in the footer, you will be immediately removed from our email list, without being asked to confirm your choice. If you *unsubscribe* by accident and wish to be added back to the list, you must do so via the *Subscribe* page: <https://tinyletter.com/friendsofcalligraphy> and follow a double opt-in process. The webmaster cannot reinstate you.

Finally, the emails that you receive are linked to your email address. If you forward them to someone else, and that person clicks on the Unsubscribe link, the sender (you) will be unsubscribed from our mailing list. So please keep that in mind when forwarding our announcements.

Thank you for your understanding,

*Raoul*

# FOC Council Meeting Minutes

## FOC Combined Council Meeting

Sunday, 17 July 2022  
1:00PM to 4:00PM Zoom

Attending: Fredi Juni, Cynthia Cravens, Elena Caruthers, Evelyn Eldridge, Darla Engelmann, Billy Hutchinson, Raoul Martinez, Dean Robino  
Excused: Katie Leavens, Martha Boccalini  
Guests: Meredith Klein, Dorothy Yuki

### Call to Order:

1:08 PM by Evelyn.

### Meeting Minutes:

April 16, 2022, approved.  
May 1, 2022 AGM, approved as amended.  
April 29, 2022 AGM Planning Meeting, approved as amended.  
May 9, 2022 Kalligraphia Reception Planning Meeting, approved.

### Reports:

#### Membership Report:

Meredith: 2021-2022: 82 new, 543 renewed, 7 honorary, 2 honorary spouse, 634 total.

2022-2023: 119 in database, 205 in PayPal, plus about 100 to post for 424 renewed; 350 at the July 2021 meeting.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Dean: Reviewed and approved the proposed budget for 2022-2023. Transaction Report for April, May, and June 2022 approved. Renewal of Raoul's contract as Webmaster approved. Annual audit was completed on 4/20/22, with volunteers Darla, Anne Marie Foley, Laura Bernabei and Evelyn.

#### Workshop Committee:

Elena: Proposal for Judy Detrick to teach Master class, an ongoing class for intermediate and advanced students. 2022: Andrea Wunderlich, Who's Afraid of Rudolf Koch:

Summer Workshop, Zoom. Elmo Van Slingerland, 9.28, 9.29, 9.30, 10.1 in person. Rachel Yallop possible for November, Zoom. 2023 Possible Lineup: Nancy Hays Hills or Susan Longerot January or February, Massimo Polello, March, Connie Ferguson, April, Laurie Doctor, Summer in person, Heather Held, September.

### Fort Mason:

Dean: Meredith's Italic class converted to online. Melissa's Copperplate class will be held in person, pending decision 7.26.22. Laura Bernabei will work on Fort Mason contracts.

### Publications & Mailings: *Bulletin*:

Nancy: Articles due by September 22. Evelyn and Darla writing article for Andrea's workshop. Payne doing masthead for *Bulletin* 148.

### Alphabet:

Meredith: Final issue of the year was highly successful. Proposal for a limited reprinting of Volume 47:4 approved.

### Social Media:

Monthly prompts are scheduled and will automatically be posted on social media pages.

### Web Administrator:

Raoul is on vacation. Judy is on standby, if needed. Facebook and Instagram followers continue to increase. Problem with Comcast, so email is now being sent via TinyLetter. No members have missed messages.

### Meetings & Events Trivial Pursuits:

Marcia Friedman: reports all is on track. Cynthia volunteered to coordinate goody bags!

### Lectures:

Rick Paulus, September; Andrea

Wunderlich, tentative in November; Carol DuBosch, January. 2023 Possibilities: Loredana Zega, Denis Brown, Rob Saunders, AGM, Laurie Doctor —with Summer Workshop.

### Calendar:

Council Meeting Schedule: 9.25.22, 1-4 PM, 11.20.22, 1-4 PM, 1.15.23, 1-4 PM, 3.19.23, 1-4 PM, 4.23.23, AGM Planning 1-4 pm, 5.7.23, AGM 1-4 PM, 7.16.23, Joint Council Meeting 1-4 PM.

Holiday Party 12.4.22 2-5; Trivial Pursuits 1.14.23, 9:30-4:30 PM.

### Unfinished Business Kalligraphia:

Meredith: Kalligraphia was a "roaring success." Beautiful work and installation.

### Scholarships:

Dean: The committee, Nancy, Evelyn and Dean approved guidelines, framework and rules, and Google form application. Named the Memorial Scholarship Fund. To be posted on the FOC Classes Page.

### Adjourned: 3:31PM

*Edited for Publication*



## FOC Council Meeting

Saturday, 24 September 2022 – 1:00PM to 4:00PM – Zoom

Attending: Fredi Juni, Cynthia Cravens, Evelyn Eldridge, Darla Engelmann, Billy Hutchinson, Raoul Martinez, Katie Leavens. Excused: Elena Caruthers, Dean Robino. Guests: Meredith Klein, Nancy Noble, Dorothy Yuki

### Call to Order:

1: PM10 by Evelyn.

### Meeting Minutes:

July 17, 2022 Joint Council meeting, approved as amended.

### Reports:

#### Web Administrator:

Raoul: Facebook and Instagram followers continue to increase. If members unsubscribe following a TinyLetter email, they need to resubscribe themselves; FOC cannot resubscribe them. Raoul will draft an article for the *Bulletin* advising folks. Meredith will develop a form letter with info about this. Fredi and Raoul volunteered to assist.

#### Membership Report:

Meredith: 34 new, 546 paid renewed, 7 honorary, 2 honorary spouse, 589 total.

#### Treasurer's Report:

Membership receipts are a good percentage of what we estimated for the budget. Workshop receipts are Elmo's workshop and Judy's 14 week master class. Class receipts are Raoul's Copperplate online and Rick's Decorated Letters. The *Alphabet* expense shown is the reprint of 47:4, the Erma Takeda Laurie Doctor Sheila Waters issue.

Transaction Report for July and August approved. Katie and Raoul volunteered for the October mid-term audit.

#### Workshop Committee:

Elena: Elmo Van Slingerland, 9/28, 9/29, 9/30, 10/1 in person. Dorothy Yuki coordinating. Judy Detrick Master Class starts 10/3, is full, but will take five more. Elena coordinating. Rachel Yallop date TBD, via Zoom. Dena Sneider coordinating. 2023 Lineup: Massimo Polello, Cadels, March-April. Elena Caruthers, coordinator. Connie Ferguson, April/May. Nancy Noble and Linda Kruger, coordinators.

Laurie Doctor, June Summer Workshop, in person. Meredith Klein, coordinator. Heather Held, September-October. Grisaille/Luminous Letters. Darla and Linda, coordinators.

### Fort Mason Classes:

Katie: Meredith's class was converted to online. Rick's November class is full with a waitlist. 2023: Raoul, Fraktur. Judy, Humanist Bookhand. Meredith, Flat Pen Uncial, Katie, Engrosser's Script. Approved purchase of a new, lightweight document camera.

### Publications & Mailings: *Bulletin*:

Nancy: The date to submit articles is September 22. Evelyn and Darla to write article for Andrea's workshop. Christi is doing the masthead for *Bulletin* 148.

### Alphabet:

Meredith: The next issue will be mainly John Stevens. Approved doing a second limited reprinting of Vol 47:4.

### Mailings:

Meredith: Mailing dates: 10.6 Alphabet and Bulletin, 11.10 Directory, 12.15 Alphabet and Bulletin, 3.26 Alphabet and Bulletin, 6.15 *Alphabet* and *Bulletin*.

### Social Media:

Katie: Monthly prompts are posted the first of each month. Weathergrams from Meredith's italic class were posted. Upcoming members to be featured: Georgianna, Billy, Carl.

### Meetings & Events: Trivial Pursuits:

Marcia Friedman reports all on track. The flyer is in progress. Cynthia working on goody bags. Nancy has donations from WOTE.

# Elmo van Slingerland

## Pen Made Roman Capitals

September 28–29, 2022

## Drawn to Letters — A Dutch Approach

September 31–October 1, 2022



When someone asked me last summer if I was going to take either of the Elmo van Slingerland workshops, I politely, but firmly, said NO; I have taken enough Roman Capital classes and have

little interest in the Dutch approach to much of anything including lettering. So I was a little surprised to find myself enrolled in both of Elmo's back-to-back classes.

The Roman Caps class was an intensive review of formal Roman Capitals done with a Speedball nib, although Elmo did not demand that we use the brand. He demoed on the computer that showed on the large screen on the stage behind him. After going through a group of letters, he visited each of us to review our progress and offer individual comments. These personal visits were an important feature of his teaching style. He also provided over 40 pages of handouts.

The visits and handouts were even more important in his second class, Drawn to Letters—a Dutch Approach. You were expected to start with a model, then twist it into something new, adding color maybe,



or weight contrast, or whatever you chose to add interest. I am still not sure I understood, but, as with the Roman caps, the handouts were great.

A huge thanks to Dorothy Yuki for coordinating this workshop with four other guilds. Elmo

arrived in Montana to start his teaching journey with Big Sky Scribes, onto the Portland Society for Calligraphy, next, here in Albany for our two FOC Workshops,



next Society for Calligraphy in Los Angeles, and finally the Houston Calligraphy Guild for his final series before returning home to his wife and children in Gouda, Netherlands. Wow, whirlwind agenda for sure and great to finally have in-person workshops after two plus years of Covid.

Echt heel erg bedankt, Elmo!



# Rick, This Guy in Washington Wants a Calligrapher

By Jessie Evans



Imagine you're 10 years old, and you just got a copy of the Speedball Textbook for \$5. This is the scenario that Rick Paulus says started him on his incredible calligraphic journey. Rick shared this memory and many

others from his career in calligraphy in his online talk *From the White House to the Sea*, presented by the Friends of Calligraphy on September 21, 2022.

After he got that Speedball textbook, Rick practiced a lot and took classes. When he was 22 and had just gotten out of the Navy, he found himself in Washington DC, couch surfing, and unemployed. His Navy friend, on whose couch he was surfing, was reading the classifieds and, for three days according to Rick, kept telling him: *Rick, this guy in Washington wants a calligrapher. You should go talk to him.*

Rick did go and talk to Bill Tolley, of Tolley Studios, and ended up working for him only half a block from the White House, instead of returning to the Navy where he was due back in eight weeks. He loved the work at Tolley Studios, so, two weeks into the job, he called the Navy and told them he wasn't coming back. It was a proverbial fork in the road, and Rick said that he's glad he chose calligraphy.

As an apprentice at Tolley Studios, Rick worked on names for simple certificates. Over time, he developed skills to design certificates and do embellishing, illumination, and engrossing. He learned many hands, and thought that was a great part of the job!

Then the person who had been the calligrapher for the Secretary of State for 11 years, doing all of the graphics, place cards, invitations, and menus for social and official entertainment by the Secretary of State, had to leave the job. So Rick applied for it with a hand-lettered application, and he got the job. At the time, applicants would pay typists to make their applications stand out. Rick felt strongly that, because it was a calligraphy job he was applying for, he should hand letter the application.

Rick showed a picture of the Ben Franklin Room set up for a diplomatic meeting that can seat 250 people as an example of what many typical events he worked on looked like. He explained that a State visit typically was honored at the White House by a luncheon or

dinner during the visit, often in the Benjamin Franklin Room. Pro tip from Rick: If you want an interesting tour in Washington DC, arrange a tour of the State Department Diplomatic Reception Rooms.

Early on in his time with the State Department, Rick said that the Chief of Protocol, Joseph Verner Reid, told him that the Office of Protocol Ceremonies "sets the stage for diplomacy." Rick loved that concept and said that he saw it in action as people in that department worked together to put forward the best hospitality for guests. He went on to say that Secretary Baker would speak to them about how effective their hospitality efforts were. It was fascinating to learn how much effort was put into things like what tablecloth would be selected, what flowers would be used in the arrangements decorating the table, which serveware, which dishes. Rick felt that the menu and the invitation should have equal consideration. He took it upon himself to infuse as much national influence as he could into the calligraphy components for every State visit, which made every piece unique.

Rick was the only engrosser at the State Department at the time, which meant that he didn't have anyone overseeing his work besides checking the spelling, but also that no one shared ideas with him. He showed a dinner invitation from Denver and an invitation for a luncheon in honor of the President of Ireland, both of which had meaningful embellishments and details that Rick worked into the design.

Rick showed the first menu he produced on the computer from 1997. He had a short timeline for the job and thought to himself, *I'm just going to try to use the computer and see if anybody notices.* No one noticed that it wasn't hand-lettered.

He described what the calligraphic process for a menu was before computers were used. The lines of lettering for the menu were measured, penciled in, centered, and inked. He showed the board art for a menu that required four different pen nibs and a mix of broad-edge and pointed-pen hands.

In 1998, he was called to the White House to, as Rick put it, *see if something would work out.* It worked out—Rick began work as the Chief Calligrapher for the White House. A fun fact he shared is that the Calligraphy Office is one of the largest offices in the East Wing of the White

# Rick Paulus Lecture Continued

House. Rick also shared the insider info that First Lady Laura Bush was wonderful to the calligraphers. Rick described the Calligraphy Office at the White House as a pretty busy place. Before he left the White House, he designed a renovated office for the calligraphers. The office was originally designed in the 1940s.

A big part of a White House calligrapher's job is State dinners—designing and executing menus, lettering place cards, and being responsible for placing these cards at the correct seat at the table and proofing them. Some administrations, such as the Reagan administration, hosted smaller State dinners of 100 people, and other administrations, such as the Clinton administration, hosted dinners as large as 500 people. Rick said that even though he probably lettered a place card with *The President* on it, and no matter who the president was at the time, he never got tired of *punching himself* and thinking *wow*, this is my job.

The work at the White House was similar to the work at the State Department, but Rick tried to *expand the palette—the papers, the hands, and lettering styles* used while he was at the White House. He said if you were to line up all of the menus from the White House State dinners from the 80s and 90s, they would all look the same, a centered Italic script on a card. Rick influenced the design of the menus during his time there so that you could line up all the menus and tell from a distance what country they represented with embellishments like national flags, flowers, colors, or the hands they used. He also introduced the idea of lettering the menus in both English and the visiting country's language, having seen that done in other countries that hosted the US when he worked for the State Department. During his time working at the White House, Rick said that his constant goal was to include personal influences in every menu that he and the Calligraphy Office produced.

Another fun fact that Rick shared was how proud he was to letter the National Medal of Arts certificate for Beverly Cleary, his favorite author when he was in third grade.

After eight years at the State Department and eight years at the White House, not being happy with the war, losing people dear to him, Rick decided to leave Washington and go back to sailing and kayaking. He not only wanted to be close to the sea, but he wanted to explore new ideas artistically. Another fun fact: Rick went on a tangent during this time doing compass roses and confessed he loves designing compass roses and could do them for the rest of his life.

Then in 2009 art started intersecting with life for Rick. While walking on a beach with his wife Julie, curiosity about the weight of packs to carry for a

long hike led them to their plan several months later to hike the Pacific Crest Trail. The whole two thousand six hundred and fifty miles. Rick created new calligraphic art pieces based on the hike and the inspiration he got from spending so much time in nature.

With his wife Julie having said that after so much walking she wanted to sit down for their next adventure, they bought a 22-foot kayak and paddled from Cape Cod to Canada and back again! Rick created several pieces of artwork based on that trip too, including a linoleum print. Rick said that he really likes it when experiences inspire him to take up different mediums.

Then they moved to California. And then they left eight years later. But not without Rick having created a lot of artwork and calligraphy. While studying monoline, he discovered the font called Futuracha. Rick did what he called a Johnstonian analysis of Futuracha and reverse-engineered it as a calligrapher. The result was applying the calligraphed Futuracha to make stained glass-like paintings. He also did a calligraphy piece in clay during this time. Then he discovered Andrew van der Merwe and beach lettering around 2008. He was also taken with the work of Andres Amador, a San Francisco Bay Area artist who does large-scale beach art. After that Rick found himself at 3 o'clock in the morning making a circle in the sand roughly 300-feet in diameter, finishing at sunrise. Rick commented on how, as calligraphers, we often work in such a small size, so taking a rake with you the next time you hit the beach is a really fun way to interpret on a large scale the letters we know so intimately.

To end his talk about his journey “from the White House to the sea,” Rick shared an amazing video of beach lettering that he did of the W.E. Henley poem *The Full Sea Rolls and Thunders*. It's like watching calligraphy meet the sea.

Assistant Secretary of State and wife	2		
Desk officer of country and wife	2		
Chief of Protocol and wife	2		
Secretary of State and wife	2		
Official Party	12		
			20 total
Supreme Court Justice and wife including bases	2	One couple from the Arts Management	2
Two Cabinet Officers and wives including bases	4	and 2 couples State, Senate, etc. etc.	2
Four Senator and Congresswoman couples	4	Two celebrity couples (Tommy or Broadway	4
Two top military couples	4	artists) and one from the Press	4
One state governor or mayor couple	2	(Two first class couples (by invitation)	4
Two White House Special Assistant couples	4	Two leading business couples (heads of	4
		major industries)	4
		One labor couple	2
		One couple from educational field	2
		and another couple	2
		Two press couples	4
			22
			24 total
			100 total

Compilation of State Dinner Guest Lists  
100 total

## Fort Mason Classes

Date	Time	Event	Details
Tuesdays January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, March 7	6:30 – 9PM Seven Tuesday Nights	<b>Fraktur</b> <b>Raoul Martinez</b>	Zoom
Saturdays April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20	10:30AM – 12PM Seven Saturday Mornings	<b>Humanist Bookhand</b> <b>Judy Detrick</b>	Zoom
Tuesdays July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6:30 – 9PM Seven Tuesday Nights	<b>Engrosser's Script</b> <b>Katie Leavens</b>	TBD
Tuesdays September 12, 19, 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24	6:30 – 9PM Seven Tuesday Nights	<b>Flat Pen Uncial</b> <b>Meredith Klein</b>	TBD
Saturdays October 28 November 4, 11, 18	10:00AM – 1PM Four Saturdays	<b>Engrossing Text</b> <b>Rick Paulus</b>	Zoom

## FOC Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Details
Saturday, January 14	9:30 AM – 4:30 PM	Trivial Pursuits XXXIV San Francisco	In-Person
Wednesday, January 18	10:00 AM	Lecture: Calligraphic Artist Books with Carol DuBosch	Zoom

## Massimo Polello

Will teach in Lafkos, Greece, in September 2023. For information, see: <http://lagouraxi.com/the-beautiful-alphabet-from-the-manuscripts-to-contemporary-calligraphy>

## Archiving Project Question



Andrea Grimes, Librarian at the San Francisco Public Library, home of the Richard Harrison Collection of Calligraphy & Lettering, has a patron query that she has not been able to answer. For a community archiving project, our patron would like to know if the calligrapher who created this poster can be identified. It could be a local calligrapher, from the local focus, and date of work should be 1967. No other identifying marks can be found. Anyone with information that might lead to or confirm the calligrapher's name is kindly requested to contact Andrea Grimes, Program Manager, Book Arts & Special Collections, San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 [andrea.grimes@sfpl.org](mailto:andrea.grimes@sfpl.org) 415.557.4572

## Colophon

FOC Bulletin #149

**Masthead:** Elmo van Slingerland  
**Text:** Sumner Stone's Davanti & Appia, Optima for Headings. Adobe InDesign CC was used for the layout on an iMac.  
**Proofreading:** Kris Nevius, Evelyn Eldridge, Raoul Martinez, Dean Robino.  
**Photos:** Carolyn Fitz, Nancy Noble, Dean Robino, & Gaston Yagmourian

## Copy Deadline

Deadline for articles for Bulletin 150: February 22, 2023. Please submit articles or questions to Nancy Noble, [nrnoble@sfsu.edu](mailto:nrnoble@sfsu.edu)

## Friends of Calligraphy

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

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 425194,  
San Francisco, CA 94142

**FOC Website:**

[www.friendsofcalligraphy.org](http://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org)

**FOC Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/FriendsofCalligraphy](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofCalligraphy)

**Instagram:**

[www.instagram.com/friendsofcalligraphy](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofcalligraphy)

## 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.

## Minutes Continued from Page 6

**Lectures: Evelyn:** Approved a stipend for each lecturer when there are multiple speakers. Rick Paulus, September; Andrea Wunderlich and Louise Grunewald, November 13; Carol DuBosch, January 2023. 2023 Possibilities: Loredana Zega, Denis Brown, Rob Saunders, AGM, Laurie Doctor—with Summer Workshop.

**Kalligraphia:** Meredith: Kalligraphia was spectacular and had a great team which had never worked together before. Beautiful work and installation. The demo attendance was lower than in the past but still good.

**Holiday Party:** The party will be on Zoom with door prizes.

**Scholarships:** Nancy: Cynthia volunteered to take lead of committee in February.

**Adjourned:** 3:25PM Edited for Publication