

Bulletin

Hello Friends,

Now is a time of change in so many ways. Here in the SF Bay Area, summer is ending with a blast of heat, to make up for having been so mild. I'm looking forward to the rainy season, closed-toe shoes, sweaters, and lovely stews.

Other changes are leading us from one season to another. The Friends of Calligraphy 50th Anniversary celebrations and commemorations have come to an end. We had so much fun with the commemorative bookmarks, patches, interviews, and demonstrations. A small sampling of where people displayed their patches is on Instagram at: https://www.instagram.com/p/DOBaDgUjbZ4/?img_index=1. To get a better idea of how we celebrated our 50 years visit: <https://friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/history.html>.

And check out our videos with past editors, the Trivial Pursuits coordinators, and demonstrations on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIbiMVVUgUFOOtoQnR2KFh5HqYLhV3Lcm>.

This summer was our triennial unjuried show, Kalligraphia, at the Main San Francisco Public Library. We had 85 entries from members near and far. Here is a video of a walkthrough of the show:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-IO5_GKOT-GK1C&mibextid=cr9u03&v=575419035536188, and a list of the exhibitors: <https://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/Checklist%20K2025-0528.pdf>

More wonderful classes are coming up. In October, we'll have a two-day, in-person flourishing class at Letterform Archive, taught by Katie Leavens. Rick Paulus will teach Basic Design for Calligraphers via Zoom in November. As always, check our website regularly to stay informed about upcoming classes and events: <https://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/classes.html>.

I hope your seasonal change brings good things to you.

xxx ooo *Evelyn*

In Memoriam

Claude Dieterich

If you haven't heard the sad news yet, our good friend and honorary member, Claude Dieterich A., international man of calligraphy, passed away September 18th in his last home in Lima, Peru.

We will attempt to memorialize him in the Winter issue of *Alphabet*. This morning I received a lovely reminiscence about him from JoAnn Brand. I hadn't even asked yet! — but her kind prescience initiated this request to all of you. If you have any remembrance, short or long, of Claude you would like to share with us in the pages of *Alphabet*, everyone will love to read it. If possible, please try to email those to me by the first of November.

I hope you noticed that the most beautiful parts of our memorial issues for Susie Taylor, Alan Blackman, and Ward Dunham were those collections of remembrances from so many of you. Your memories of Claude will warm up our pages, and, in all likelihood, the universe itself. Of course, we are interested in artwork, too, so if you are lucky enough to have work by Claude, we would love to see photos of that as well.

Thanks, Friends and JoAnn! — Carl Rohrs, September 26, 2025, rohrrs@baymoon.com

Beth Regardz

Beth Regardz was a creative and guiding force for decades in the Santa Cruz arts community — graphic design, visual arts, dance, culinary (food as art!), theatre — and my colleague on the visual arts faculty of Cabrillo College. She was a member of FOC not because she was a particularly active calligrapher, I think, but because of her boundless curiosity and appreciation of any branch of artistic beauty — which was the way she lived her life. Beth was calm, curious, inquisitive, humble, and always seeking the unusual and sublime in every art form. — Carl

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October 2025



Speaking to the Eyes: Writing as Image

Unlike workshops that support scribes attempting to duplicate traditional letterforms, our time with Suzanne Moore began with an invitation to liberate ourselves, leaving behind any models, and the idea of right and wrong. She made reference to Corita Kent who advised: *The only rule is work*. Another pertinent thought she shared was from Ben Shahn who said, *the moment you put a stroke on paper, the conversation begins*.

Prior to the workshop, each student had selected a word or short phrase to use as a starting point in our explorations. We were encouraged to read a lot, a practice that will uncover words that resonate with us and provide the springboard for books we want to make. For our work to communicate more effectively, it is necessary to decide what voice our lettering should have and to make images that express the text. We were advised not to plan our book first but to make pages that complement each other.



After sharing our word selections, each of us began exploring how our word could be represented. We started with a continuous line of pencil, varying heights and amounts of compression, then moved to markers/pens and other mark-making tools. Suzanne's favorite tool at the workshop consisted of random strips of fabric held between two tongue depressors dipped in a combination of sumi ink and gouache!

Next came consideration of how our word might exist in various shapes e.g. square vs. oblong, perhaps losing its legibility but not its essential feeling. Moving to strips of Arches text wove (approximately 25" W by 13" H), we began working in different types of black and white media to express our word employing what we had learned from our initial explorations. At times, we overlapped two strips of paper and wrote across both at the same time! Although many of us were now in a place outside of our comfort zones, we persevered with belief in the process.

Meanwhile, Suzanne was providing great insights into materials, their differences, pros and cons, and ways in which they could be used effectively. She demonstrated how to prepare glair for addition to gouache, her personal preference because it binds to the page, thus preventing loss of pigment due to wear. Another demo provided information about the preparation of methyl cellulose for sizing and other applications.

By the third day it was time to add color to our pages and thus began a new level of challenge and consideration. We were advised not to critique our pages while in the process of working on them. Various tips were also given for how to make changes to areas that were less pleasing to us.

Having worked on up to six strips of paper, we began the process of considering how they should be combined in a book with drum leaf binding. This proved to be another opportunity to think outside the box as we were invited to consider tearing them at any point and shuffling the order of the contents rather than just arranging them end to end. As the week ended and we prepared to part, participants agreed they had produced works that they could not have imagined before the workshop began. All left with unlimited possibilities for further exploration.



See more photos on Page 3

Friends of Calligraphy

SUZANNE MOORE...continued

Suzanne sharing student work.



Freda Juni sharing her work and bound book — striking!

Ellen Bauch discussing her work from the class.



Suzanne Moore adjusting her large pages.



Dorothy Yuki making sure Suzanne's 'tear bar' is accurate



Michael Starkman sharing his finished book — Wow!



The happy members in Suzanne's Workshop.



Dean Robino sharing one outstanding page of her final book.



IN MEMORIAM

Continued

Bettine Kuh passed away in June, two weeks after her 98th birthday. She studied calligraphy with Carla Tenret for over thirty years and was an inspiration to many, especially those of us who got to know her through Carla's classes. Bettine was born in Philadelphia and moved to China from 1933 to 1944 for her father's work. Upon her return to the US, she completed her studies at George Washington University and moved to San Francisco to work in the financial industry. She met her husband, a UC Berkeley professor. During their 58 years of marriage, Bettine and Ernest enjoyed travels around the world, including sabbaticals in London, Copenhagen, Kobe and Osaka. She kept up her calligraphy and daily walks to the end.

Dr. Wayne Fung, husband of honorary member and former FOC president Helen Fung, passed away in July. He was known worldwide for his groundbreaking work in treating diseases of the retina. Members will recall his warmth, his friendly and engaging personality, and his readiness to assist at various FOC events.

Merritt Cutten, longtime member and husband of longtime member Barbara Cutten for 53 years, passed away in July. He was an amateur watercolor artist. To the right is one of his many and vibrant paintings.



san francisco pen show

By Martha Slavin

"I had such a wonderful time working beside other FOC members."

...Cassandra Wilson

"Working in front of people has left me inspired and motivated."

...Kelvin Sevilla

The members of Friends of Calligraphy who volunteered to create bookmarks at the SF Pen Show over the Labor Day three-day weekend had their task cut out for them. The show, at the Millbrae Westin Hotel, was more crowded with pen lovers of all ages than in previous years. The line to get in stretched from one end of the hotel to the other. We were well-placed at the entrance to the show, so many attendees signed up for the free bookmarks that we made before they entered the exhibition. The sign-up list had over 1600 names by the end of the show, but our members' work shone. At the end of their shifts, several members expressed their delight in making calligraphic marks in front of an interested audience and volunteered to come back next year. Pen Show attendees offered words of praise and appreciation for their names written beautifully in calligraphic style.

Thanks to Meredith Klein, Surbhi Aggarval, Kelvin Sevilla, Sarah Cortes, Cassandra Wilson, Steve Johnson, Elizabeth Nisperos & Katie Leavins for volunteering.

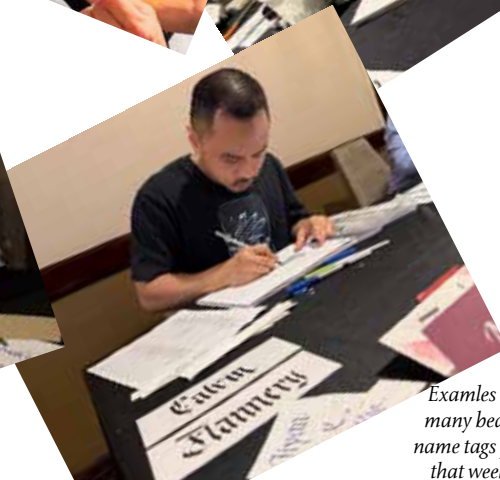
Also thanks to Pacific Scribe members: Valerie Franco, Sara Loesch-Frank, & Hai-Wen Liang.



Above: Cassandra Wilson; below left: Meredith Klein; below right: Sarah Cortes



Above: Valerie Franco & Sara Loesch-Frank; below: Hai-Wen Liang & Surbhi Aggarval. To the right of Sara's photo: Kelvin Sevilla.



Examples of the many beautiful name tags penned that weekend.



San Francisco International Pen Show is from August 29-31, 2025, at The Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel, 1 Bayshore Hwy, Millbrae, CA 94030.

Nowadays, our settings are high-tech, digital, and AI-generated. Remember the good old days when you wrote letters and snail mail to the Post Office? It's time to attend a fun Pen Show, and it's happening this week in San Mateo County. Aside from the hundreds of pen exhibitors, there are scheduled classes for kids & adults, stationery papers, planners, free bookmarks, auctions, and "Vintage Pen tasting" for pen fans.

President John F. Kennedy used different pens: the Parker "45," an Esterbrook fountain pen, and a Montblanc Meisterstück No. 149, according to historical records.

Albert Einstein used a Pelikan 100N Fountain Pen. According to NY Times, Bill Gates bought novelist Leo Tolstoy's pen, the author of War and Peace and Anna Karenina, for a whopping \$135,000, a world record for a writing tool. Bill Gates himself uses a Uni-Ball Deluxe pen, though sources say he owns an \$8k fountain pen.

The Pen organization invited the two Bay Area guilds, Friends of Calligraphy and Pacific Scribes, to make bookmarks for attendees' names at the entrance.

I partnered with San Francisco calligrapher Martha Slavin on Friday, who is coordinating the calligraphy group. She said, "It's really a lot of fun—you don't need to be a master calligrapher; people really like to see their names written in nice calligraphy." Friends of Calligraphy members who will be there are Kathie Leavens, Kelvin Sevilla, Surbhi Aggrawal, Steve Johnson, Meredith Klein, Sara Cortes, and Cassandra Wilson. I don't know the names of the Pacific Scribes, for they belong to another guild.

My bookmark creations started when Judy Detrick taught a calligraphy Rustic fundraiser workshop at Joseph Fernekes Bldg, SSF; Mayor Mark Addiego dropped in to say 'Hello' to the 20 calligraphy students (20 is the maximum number of students in a workshop). After the workshop, she told me, "Do something for the mayor." I thought what design piece should I do? Of course a bookmark! It was appropriate for a Mayor named Mark.

Also, when President Obama made history as the first black 44th President, I sent him a bookmark; I received a thank you back. Now? I make bookmarks as an outreach for evangelization "God is Love" and to make people happy. Happiness seems to be in short supply nowadays.

My Blackletter teacher Ward Dunham said a wealthy client of his hired him to write the client's million dollar checks with his pen to impress the recipient of the client's check. French Master calligrapher Claude Dietrich writes his checks with his elegant Copperplate pen, the recipients of his check told him they almost didn't want to cash his checks because of his beautiful calligraphy.

Don't leave your precious pen unattended. At a Kalligraphia event years ago I was assigned to write name tags for visitors; I left my Parker pen on the table to talk to friends, but when I returned, the pen was gone.

The calligraphers' tables were at the entrance of the ballroom, where the exhibitors or vendors displayed. I expected from 200 to 300 attendees and only to make from 10 to 20 bookmarks, since this a high-tech AI environment, and only a few would request a low-tech bookmark made manually. Was I wrong? The attendees were from 1200 to 1500. The SF Chronicle article said the pen show was "overwhelming". The ballroom was full, bloggers reported being squished. Late afternoon, I could hardly walk around with luggage of calligraphy materials, without bumping into another attendee.

The lines were long, lots of requests for bookmarks. Martha and I were assigned on Friday. Aside from requesting their own names, some requested names for spouses, friends, sisters, pet dogs, their email addresses, or their website. I was flattered when some folks wanted to pick up my God is Love, Love never fails bookmarks, but I said they're just samples and I made them for Martha. I lunched at Westin Grill and Vine restaurant, ordered a cold lemon juice drink, appetizer of Grilled & Spiced Chicken Wings for \$18.00 from Pen Show Menu. The serving was served on a big plate, and the wings were finger-licking good. The waitress had to give me a warm towel to get the sauce off my hands. I might go to the restaurant again just to eat the spiced wings.

Late afternoon, I went to buy a pen and ink. The place was full. I was eyeing to buy a Mont Blanc fountain like Amy Tan, author of The Joy Luck Club, The Kitchen God's Wife, etc. I met her at a Kidney Foundation fundraiser. She used a Mont Blanc fountain pen to sign her books. Alas, the Mont Blanc fountain pen I specifically wanted was already sold out. The vendor showed me the empty slots. I went around the Esterbrooks, Parker, and Waterman areas. I finally bought an emerald dip glass pen from a Hong Kong pen inventor and a fountain pen from Itoya; I also picked up two bottles of ink.

Thanks to Kelvin Sevilla from SSF, who bought an All Access pass for three days, gave me a ride back home. I didn't drive since I read that if you're not staying at the Westin Hotel, it's \$12 per hour and the parking lot fills up fast, hence I took Uber because of a promo code.

I only attended on Friday on my assigned day, so I didn't know the happenings of other days. Martha sent a thank you because the attendees gave rave reviews for the calligraphic bookmarks. I heard a report that a total of around 2k bookmarks were made manually on the Pen Show. Hurray, there's still a chance that the old traditional analog way still happens without needing a WIFI, a plugin socket to make you happy. A pen is mightier than a sword.



By: Elizabeth Nisperos

On a sunny September day in the Dogpatch area of San Francisco, about sixteen FOC members gathered at the Letterform Archive for a guided tour of treasured holdings. A few early arrivals got to hear Thomas Ingmire talk a bit about several of his works owned by the archive, which were about to be sent to Venice for an exhibition. Then Rob Saunders, a charter member of FOC as well as the founder of the Archive, began the main session.

Rob began the Archive ten years ago with his personal collection of manuscripts and printed materials. It has since grown to a collection of about 100,000 items. For our visit, he had laid out a generous selection of works, both specific pieces FOC had requested and others he knew we'd like, on a huge spread of table space.

Rob thoughtfully shared just a dollop of his vast knowledge about each work in order to show us all of them in the planned time of ninety minutes. We were awed by the oldest works, manuscripts on vellum from the eighth and twelfth centuries, and by famous classics, like an edition of the Nuremberg Chronicles.

We were delighted by a valuable special edition of Father Edward Catich's *The Origin of the Serif* that included a set



of separate sheets on which Catich himself had made brush Roman capitals. Rob explained that Catich had purposely used a rather dry brush to reveal the ductus, and that the examples weren't there just to be beautiful but to persuade the reader that *you can do this*.



One favorite was a bound, yet unfinished, manuscript volume of annals of the reign of Louis XIV. Some pages were completely written, gilded, and painted, while others were only partially complete. A lively discussion ensued about how and why this might have happened, and Rob said he has consulted numerous experts, but no consensus has been reached.

A bound 1816 manuscript featured lettering and flourishing so fine we couldn't believe it wasn't printed. And, Rob pointed out, it was lettered before the invention of metal nibs, so it had to have been written with a handmade crow quill.



A set of three pages by Sheila Waters came with a personal story from Rob about the time he visited her as a *baby calligrapher* at age 19. He asked her to demonstrate several hands, and she picked up a few sheets of typewriter paper and quickly wrote out the *quick brown fox* pangram for each of them, without ruling any lines.



As Rob finished describing the most modern items, the FOC visitors could scarcely tear themselves away. We all are grateful to Rob and the Letterform Archive for this delightful field trip.

Visit Letterform Archive for hours and more details. Also, Rob noted that you can make an

appointment for a research visit and specify materials you'd like to examine and handle.



Santa Sabina in Good Hands

By Melissa Titone with Introduction By Meredith Klein

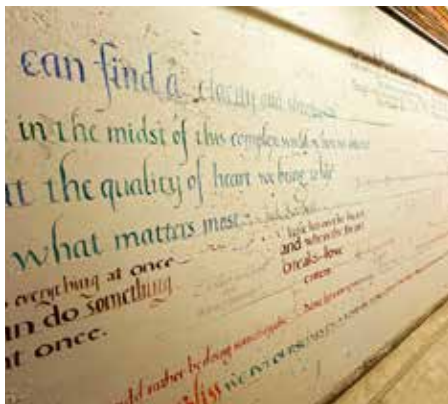


As many of you know, Friends of Calligraphy had been holding spring retreats at Santa Sabina, a beautiful center in San Rafael, ever since 1977, the first FOC retreat. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we were the last group at Santa Sabina before it had to close down for two years, and in 2022, we were the first group to hold a retreat there when it reopened. We were saddened

by the sale of the center because it meant, after 2024, we could no longer hold retreats there. In 2025, we found a great alternative site, Mercy Center in Burlingame. But in August came the news that Mercy Center would close its doors in October, unable to make it financially following its own closure and loss of business following the pandemic. We are searching for a site for future retreats. At the 2024 Holiday Party, Melissa Titone agreed to write an article describing the group that now owns Santa Sabina and why it is not possible for us to hold future retreats there.

In Good Hands

In early May I went to Santa Sabina for the sad task of taking down the beautiful calligraphic signs that sprinkled the halls and rooms with gentle serenity. These signs were an integral element in the character and ambiance of Santa Sabina and I was struck with how their absence will inevitably change the spirit of the center. I spent the hours in gratitude for the care and devotion each scribe had poured into these small offerings to the place that has housed the Friends of Calligraphy retreats for so many years. Then I went downstairs and delighted in photo-



graphing the musings painted so lovingly on the hallway walls in the basement. It was sad to think we would not be coming back.

The reason I had the privilege of rescuing these

signs is because I work for the company that bought Santa Sabina. The Hoffman Institute (est. 1967) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to transformative adult education and spiritual growth. It serves a diverse population – business professionals, stay-at-home parents, therapists, students, tradespeople – who are seeking clarity in all aspects of their lives. Participants learn how to transform counterproductive beliefs, perceptions, and emotional patterns that were developed in childhood, and are limiting their lives today. They are taught how to live from the positive dimensions of their beings, resulting in lives that are more free, open, loving, spontaneous, joyous, creative, balanced, and whole.

Hoffman USA holds retreats in three locations: California, Connecticut and Canada, as well as 11 satellite chapters in other countries.

In September of 2020, Hoffman's retreat center in St. Helena, California, burned to the ground in the Glass Wildfire. Participants were evacuated to Santa Rosa, and thankfully, everyone was safe. However, retreats were still scheduled for the remainder of the year. Fortunately, friends at The Institute of Noetic Science in Petaluma offered their 200-acre retreat center as a temporary home for Hoffman so that they could continue serving those in need. The following year, Hoffman bought the center, though that much land was not essential to Hoffman's program, and required a lot of maintenance. Hoffman continued to search for the ideal retreat site, and when Santa Sabina was offered for sale they jumped at the opportunity. Hoffman's headquarter office is located in downtown San Rafael, making the location of Santa Sabina ideal.

Hoffman Institute's California retreats occur at least three times per month, sometimes four, and graduate weekend programs are scheduled in between, so Hoffman is unable to open the center for non-Hoffman retreat programs.

I know that many members of the Friends of Calligraphy, including me, were sad to lose Santa Sabina as the home of our retreats, but I hope that there is some solace in knowing that the center is in good hands, being used for good work, and benefitting many people.



Santa Sabina Courtyard and Chapel entrance. Upper Left: Bell in Courtyard. Both photos by Nancy Noble

Message from Membership Secretary

Thank you to everyone who has renewed or just joined—we are at 568 members as I write this in mid-September; we ended last year at 697. With so many members, it's important for everyone who plans to renew to do it right when initial notices are sent—in mid-June, *mailed*, and early July, *emailed*. I once again want to thank our treasurer, Dean Robino, who tirelessly processes the membership payments. And special thanks to the wonderful people who sent me notes, decorated envelopes, pretty stamps, bookmarks, or cards. You brightened my days! Renewals have been slower this year. Many thanks to everyone who renewed during the summer, and those who responded right away to my September 1 reminder. We're grateful for all our members, whenever you join or renew, at whatever level is right for you. This is my 14th year of handling membership, and I've let the Council know it will be my final year. I have loved the personal connections with so many of you over the years, and trust we can continue to connect in new ways after the end of this membership year. If anyone is interested in taking on this important job, please email me at gkle@sbcglobal.net.

Love,

Meredith

Welcome, New Members!

Friends of Calligraphy extends a warm welcome to our newest members, including those who joined at the very end of 2024-25 and missed being welcomed in Bulletin. We're so glad you joined!

Ian Atlas	Thomas Barron
Kathleen Burch	Catherine Burke
Carolyn Canonico	Solita Leung Chin
Taylor Davis	John B. Hammons
Anne Jepsen	Joan Johnston
Julie Juell	Lawrence Juell
John McBride	Rachael Nagy
Todd Oppenheimer	Janet Piggins
Cody Umans	Larry Whitson

Irina Zhivotovskaia

Gratitude

Members support FOC in many different ways. At this time, we express our gratitude to the members who have renewed or joined at the patron, sustaining and supporting levels:

Patron

Barbara DeMaria	Kent Takeda
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Sustaining

Ellen Bauch	Rachel Berliner
Joe & Cathy Boissy	David G. Brookes

Sally Calvert
Elena Caruthers
Ellen Sarkisian Chesnut
Julia Chin
Wendy Cook
Tess Dietrich
Evelyn Eldridge
Cynthia White Foster
Ruth Garnett
J. Ruth Gendler
Maria Giudice
Dodie Gray
Nick Gregoric
Jocelyn Hunter
Katie Keller
Meredith Jane Klein
Susan Kosasa
Joselle Kryder
Barbara Lande
Jo Anne Larson
Victoria Lee
Virginia LeRoux
Ilyana Leveque
Linda E. Mahoney
Raoul Martinez
Terry McGrath
Suli Nee
Deanna Jay Chu Nim
Nancy Noble
Ruthie Macha Petty
Dean Robino
Gail A. Sandberg
Rob Saunders
Naomi Teplow
Charlotte Turner
Mark D. Vestrich
Don R. Walker Jr.
Noel Weber
Mary Ann Wight
Heather Wiley & Peter Renz
Cassandra Wilson
Joanna M. Witzel
S. Clancy Woolf

Supporting

Adrienne Ardito
Ian Atlas
Elisabeth Bayle
Brian B. Beard
Debbie Brawner
Jane Brenner
Sherry Bringham
Dana G. Bybee
Barbara Callow
Antonio Cavedoni
Darlene Ceremello
Stephanie Chao
Rev Alexandra Childs

Annie Cicale
Patricia Coltrin
Barbara M. Cutten
Philippe DaBasse
Patricia Dressler
David Eakle
Becky Rose Eisenstein
Thomas A. Ekkens
Darla Engelmann
Terry Englehart
Ed Fong
Pam Galvani
Mike Gold
Diana Goldstein
Roy D. Green
Louise E. Grunewald
Karen Haslag
Erik Henrikson
Joanna Homrighausen
Billy Ola Hutchinson
Carrie Imai
Fredri Juni
April Kampa
Adrienne D. Keats
Ruth Korch
Linda Kruger
Claudia Kruse
Sharonann Kushinka
Dave Kuwahara
Ruby Liang
Barbara L. Little
Lourdes Livingston
Anna Fong Lum
Trish Malin
Kathleen Martinelli
Jody Meese
Judy Melvin
Hermineh Miller
Barry Morentz
Paulette E. Mulligan
Rachael Nagy
Kris Nevius
Elizabeth Nisperos
Jessica Nucifora
Mairin O'Mahoney
Nancy Orr
Renee Owen
Soohyen Park
Joan Passarelli
Rick Paulus
Minna Towbin Pinger
Anna Pinto
Linda Renner
Susan Richardson
Carl Rohrs
Robert Ross
Kathi Seasons

Friends of Calligraphy Council Meeting Minutes
Saturday, 19 April, 2025
Starting time: 1:03 PM

Attending
Laura Bernabei, Elena Caruthers, Evelyn Eldridge, Fredi Juni, Katie Leavens, Raoul Martinez, Dean Robino, Martha Slavin, Michael Starkman
Guests: Meredith Klein, Nancy Noble, Dorothy Yuki

Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2025 – Moved and approved.

Reports
Fiftieth Anniversary Planning Ann Marie Foley's report: The cookbook is looking great. People have submitted photos on social media showing where they have placed their patches. Other projects are moving along.

Membership
Meredith 2024–25: as of April 19, 2025 – Renewed – Paid: 607; Honorary: 5, Honorary Spouse: 2, New: 77, TOTAL: 691, + 7 from last report and -2 from last year at this time

Treasurer's Report
Dean – Transaction Report: Moved & approved.

Lecture Committee
Evelyn – The committee is considering a long list of possible speakers, including Christopher Calderhead and Martin Jackson.

Fort Mason
Katie – Meredith's Uncial class received great student evaluations. Katie's English Roundhand class, starts in June. Katie will develop outreach for her and Raoul's upcoming in-person classes.

Social Media Katie Fiftieth Anniversary postings will end soon.

Instagram: FOC Remembers Larry Brady is the top post, followed by the Pencil Prompt, then Massimo Polello's and Risa Gettler's workshops. Raoul's demonstration of writing the majuscule M is in fifth place.

Facebook: Similar to Instagram rankings except *How to Fix Your Calligraphy Mistakes* is receiving many views.

YouTube: 19 new subscribers. Carol DuBosch's video about selecting scripts is number one. The panel discussion among Alphabet editors is number two. The Hebrew Letters lecture is still gaining views.

There was a big spike in social media views on March 31, the day the 50th Anniversary update was posted.

Publications & Mailings
Mailings – Meredith March 20, 2025 — included *Alphabet* Vol. 50, No. 3; *Bulletin* No. 158; the Kalligraphia program flyer; Directory update No. 3; the nomination form for 2025–2026 officers and council members and *Alphabet* editor and the fiftieth anniversary keepsake patch.

June 5, 2025 — Will include just the FOC membership renewal forms.

June 12, 2025 — The next regular mailing will include *Alphabet*, Vol. 50, No. 4; *Bulletin* No. 159; a directory update, and the Fiftieth Anniversary commemorative bookmark by Carol DuBosch.

Bulletin Nancy CopyWorld had just enough paper from FOC to print the last Bulletin. Nancy will inquire whether they

prefer a paper order for the next three issues or just the upcoming one.

Alphabet – Meredith, for Carl. *Alphabet* Vol. 50, No. 4 will be devoted entirely to Ward Dunham. Carl has requested stories, remembrances, and photos by the end of April. Evelyn will send a photo of Ward teaching at San Quentin.

Web Administrator
Raoul — FOC now has 4,962 Facebook followers, -2 from last report; 4,278 followers on Instagram, +76 from last report; and 926 on the list serve, +9 from last report.

Raoul posted the *Alphabet* editors' panel discussion video to YouTube. Using membership information, Raoul will email 251 Bay Area FOC members promoting Katie's upcoming in-person English Roundhand class. He will also use Eventbrite to email the 89 Bay Area non-members who registered for lectures. Support was unanimous for these targeted emails.

Events
Retreat – Meredith The contract for the 2026 Retreat at Mercy Center, March 3–7, has been signed and the deposit was paid.

Kalligraphia 17
Meredith, Katie, co-chairs. Katie reported that 85 entries were received before the deadline. The library cannot mount the case cards on black matboard this year. Meredith and Katie are looking for a suitable paper for unmounted cards. Intake begins on May 13 and the volunteer schedule will be developed soon.

AGM Evelyn – Sunday,

May 18, in person at the San Francisco Main Library. The meeting will not be recorded. John Prestianni will be the speaker. Barbara Lande created the emailed flyer. Michael has collected the emailed nominations. Additional nominations can be offered from the floor during the meeting. Meredith will create the slate. Meredith will bring a new white guest book. Certificates to be awarded: Founders; New Honorary Members; Of Appreciation: Hobie MacQuarrie, Cassandra Wilson, Ann Marie Foley, Paul Plale, Jessie Evans, Karen Haslag, Virginia LeRoux, Laura Bernabei. Laura will bring gold-colored decorations. A forthcoming all-member reminder email will include a request to bring refreshments. The council members agreed to bring food to share.

Unfinished Business
Trivial Pursuits Maya Togashi and Cassandra Wilson will coordinate.

Letterform Archive Visit — Evelyn will contact the Archive to request: September 20, Saturday find out the maximum number of attendees, and request an image for an FOC email announcement. Dean will collect sign-up names. The council suggested viewing work in the Archive done by FOC members.

FOC purchase for the Harrison Collection: Meredith – FOC and the Harrison Collection shared the cost of Suzanne Moore's book, *Rescuing Q*. Suzanne donated a related portfolio. Suzanne's demo will be titled *Speaking to the Eyes*, from a poem by William Massey. Her summer workshop will be titled

Painted Speech: Exploring Writing as Image.

New Business
Scholarships Dean The scholarship committee will draft a standardized note about the availability of scholarships to be added to flyers for classes, workshops, including the summer workshop, and the Retreat and present a draft for approval at a council meeting. FOC's process for donating to the Harrison Collection – Michael looked into availability and pricing of Larry Thomas's work with Judy Detrick and Harry Van Ornum; there are a few Thomas pieces that could be donated. Judy asked about artists underrepresented in the Harrison Collection. Michael will investigate this with Judy, Carl Rohrs, and Andrea Grimes. Laura and Dean will work with Michael on this "infant subcommittee".
Adjourned: 2:48 PM.
Unanimous approval.

Edited for Publication

Friends of Calligraphy Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday, 18 May, 2025, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Andrea Grimes, Program Manager of Book Arts & Special Collections at the San Francisco Public Library welcomed FOC. Evelyn Eldridge introduced guest speaker John Prestianni who gave an engrossing talk about his career as a professional calligrapher and FOC Newsletter editor. Approximately 40 people attended. Laura Bernabei supervised the decorations and snack table. There were several special giveaway items.

Minutes continued...

Evelyn began the business meeting at 3:00 PM by introducing Council members and key volunteers:
Vice President: Elena Caruthers; Treasurer: Dean Robino; Secretary: Michael Starkman; Council: Laura Bernabei, Fredi Juni, Katie Leavens, Raoul Martinez, Martha Slavin, Carl Rohrs: *Alphabet* Editor, Meredith Klein, Membership Secretary, Nancy Noble, *Bulletin* Editor.

President's

Overview Evelyn welcomed everyone, noting that the very first AGM was on this date 50 years ago—May 18, 1975, and described activities and celebrations of FOC's 50th Anniversary year.

Reports Membership

Meredith – FOC has the same total number of members as we had at this time last year. 2024-25: as of May 18, 2025. Total: 693, exactly the same as at the 2023–2024 AGM.

FOC lost several members this past year. Meredith asked for a moment of silence to remember: Alan Blackman, Ward Dunham, Marian Gault, Sally Gooze, Elinor Kikugawa, James Lewis, and Gottfried Pott.

Treasurer Report

Dean — FOC is doing well. Funds are in the black. Classes and workshops continue to provide enough income to support other endeavors, including operational costs not covered by membership income. All required filings were submitted on time.

Fiftieth Anniversary

Ann Marie Foley and Paul Plale – Planning for the anniversary commemorations started well before the year

began and continued all through the year with diligent work by all committee members. The anniversary logo was crafted by Carl Rohrs from calligraphic elements by Susie Taylor and Georgia Deaver. Accomplishments included the FOC picnic, two bookmarks, the FOC website history page, the *50 Years of Stewardship Keepsake*, the anniversary edition of the membership directory, the anniversary patch, the cookbook, social media features, and video interviews and demonstrations.

Vote for coming year's Officers, Council, and *Alphabet* Editor. Laura Bernabei is stepping down from the council. On the slate to be voted into her place on the council was Ann Marie Foley. Meredith Klein created the slate.

Slate of FOC Officers, Council, and *Alphabet* Editor

Officers: Evelyn Eldridge, President; Elena Caruthers, Vice President; Dean Robino, Treasurer; Michael Starkman, Secretary.

Council: Ann Marie Foley, Fredi Juni, Katie Leavens, Raoul Martinez, Martha Slavin

Alphabet Editor: Carl Rohrs

There were no nominations from the floor. *Moved and approved.*

Expressions of Gratitude

Thank You — Evelyn Many people volunteer to keep FOC running smoothly. Members of committees are in the Membership Directory. *Alphabet* Editor Carl Rohrs; *Bulletin* editor Nancy Noble; Email Coordinator and Webmaster, Raoul Martinez; 50th Anniversary Plan-

ning Committee; Fort Mason Committee; Lecture Committee; Mail Crew Organizer and Coordinator; Membership Secretary Meredith Klein; Social Media Committee; Trivial Pursuits coordinators; Workshop Committee.

Certificates

Evelyn – This year FOC added three new honorary members and presented certificates of acknowledgement to three groups of members. The scribe for each certificate:

Founders: Marcia Friedman contacted ten calligraphers to create certificates for founders who could be located. **Georgianna Greenwood:** Carol DuBosch; **Thomas Ingmire:** Barry Morentz; **Bill Davidson:** Marcy Robinson; **Antonia Smith:** Laura Bernabei; **Cynthia White Foster:** Debra Ferrebeouf; **Barbara Lind:** Victoria Lee; **Don Moy:** Jody Meese; **Nick Gregoric:** Katie Leavens; **Virginia LeRoux:** Debby Turrietta; **Sumner Stone:** Rick Paulus.

New Honorary Members: **Judy Detrick:** Katie Leavens; **Jerry Lehman:** Elena Carruthers; **Carl Rohrs:** Meredith Klein

Certificate of Appreciation Katie Leavens lettered the names on certificates printed with Ward Dunham's blackletter calligraphy; **Laura Bernabei:** outgoing Council and much more; **Jessie Evans:** Lecture Series articles; **Ann Marie Foley:** Co-chair 50th Committee; **Karen Haslag:** 50th Committee Interviews, Alan Blackman donations and historical information; **Virginia LeRoux**

50th Committee interviews; **Hobie MacQuarrie:** *Alphabet* back issues, for many years; **Paul Plale:** Co-chair 50th Committee; **Cassandra Wilson:** graphic design. Adjourned: 3:38 PM. Unanimous approval.

Edited for Publication

Please visit the online copy of this issue for an additional article by Elizabeth Nisperos on the SF Pen Show. We did not have room here to

run it, yet want to share her thoughts. To read this article visit

<https://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/publications.html>



FOC Council Members

President

Evelyn Eldridge

Vice President

Elena Caruthers

Treasurer

Dean Robino

Secretary

Michael Starkman

Council Members

Fredi Juni

Raoul Martinez

Ann Marie Foley

Katie Leavens

Martha Slavin

Alphabet Editor

Carl Rohrs

Bulletin Editor

Nancy Noble

FOC Facebook & Instagram

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 Web Page, click either icon: the F in a blue square, or the little red square camera outline.

Friends of Calligraphy

is a non-profit society of people interested in calligraphy and related arts. Membership is \$40.00 annually, and open to amateurs and professionals. Mailing address: POBox 42519, San Francisco, CA 94142; FOC Website: www.friendsofcalligraphy.org FOC Facebook: www.facebook.com/FriendsofCalligraphy Instagram: www.instagram.com/friendsofcalligraphy

Friends of Calligraphy

FOC Classes: SignUps Open Mid-November			
Date	Time	Event	Details
November 1, 8, 15, 22	Four Saturdays 10:00 AM – 1 PM	The Calligrapher's Process Rick Paulus	Zoom
March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28, 2026	Seven Tuesday Nights 6:30 PM – 9 PM	Italic Meredith Klein	Zoom
May 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, 2026	Seven Tuesday Nights 6:30 PM – 9 PM	Copperplate Raoul Martinez	In-Person: Fort Mason
August 1, 8, 15, 22, 2026	Four Saturdays 10:00 AM – 1 PM	Versals: Old & New Rick Paulus	Zoom
September 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026	Four Tuesday Nights 6:30 PM – 9 PM	Brush Script Katie Leavens	In-Person: Fort Mason
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026	Four Saturdays 10:00 AM – 1 PM	Beginning Calligraphy Judy Detrick	Zoom

FOC Calendar of Events			
Date	Time	Event	Details
October 25 & 26, 2025	9:30 AM to 5:00 PM	Beyond the Letters Katie Leavens	Letterform Archive
November 16, 2025	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	FOC Council Meeting	Raoul's House
January 18, 2026	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	FOC Council Meeting	Zoom
March 15, 2026	1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	FOC Council Meeting	Nancy's House

Introducing **Grendl Lofkvist's** new digitized font: **Unrepentant Uncial** from her beautiful hand lettered Uncials used in the side columns throughout.

Colophon

FOC Bulletin #160 — Masthead: Michael Starkman
Text: Headline: Unrepentant Uncial by Grendl Lofkvist
Sumner Stone's Davanti & Appia; Hermann Zapf's Optima for Headings. Adobe InDesign and Photoshop used for the layout and image editing. Proofreading: Kris Nevius.
Photos: Nancy Noble and Joan Passarelli

Copy Deadline

Deadline for articles for Bulletin 161: November 15, 2025.
Please submit articles or questions to:
Nancy Noble: nrnoble@sfsu.edu

Bulletin in Color

To view the *Bulletin* in color: please visit the FOC website under Publications:

<https://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/publications.html>

Address Change

If your contact information changes: address, phone or email, please send the new information to: Membership Secretary: Meredith Klein, 707 Spokane Avenue, Albany, CA 94706; 510.527.0434; or gkle@sbcglobal.net.

Fort Mason Committee Volunteering

By Katie Leavens

For the last 50 years, FOC has been run by a small dedicated group of volunteers. But we truly believe — the more the merrier. Let's diversify some of the responsibilities of running our community and ensure that we get the help we need to continue another 50 years. Many of our committees are always looking for help. Even if you don't have time to join the committee—there are smaller ways to help out too.

The Fort Mason Classes committee works to offer classes to our members and the public that encourage students to master the fundamentals of calligraphy. We now offer classes online and in person.

We have one big planning meeting a year over zoom with teachers. And the core committee meets occasionally to problem solve as needed.

Things our committee members currently do, but maybe you'd like to help out:

- Set a calendar year of classes at once, so students can plan a year at a time.
- Design a brochure to promote the classes.
- For in-person classes, coordinate with the venue.
- Coordinate & communicate with teachers and students as Classes Registrar.

Easy ways you can help right now:

- When you take a class, be willing to share your work with our publications and social media—and encourage your friends to do so too!
- Become a class helper—online or in person.
- Attend the annual meeting.
- Send committee members comments about classes you're interested in.

Committee members are listed in the Directory.

Our classes program may not be as flashy as the workshop committee, but we truly believe we are creating a better lettering community for the future.

Does this seem to be a committee you'd like to help with? Contact the classes registrar: Katie Leavens: hello@kleavens.com