Number 153



Every season has many things to inspire us, from the feelings they convey, to traditional greetings and words associated with the seasons. For me, fall and winter are packed full of meaning: family birthdays and special events,

holidays, remembrances, and the food and music always trigger a wide range of emotions. I'm sure I'm not alone in these reactions. So as we move closer to a new year, I think what a good time this is to apply what we've learned in art and calligraphy classes over this last year to commemorate these special winter memories and events.

Speaking of seasons, the Ft. Mason classes for 2023 are now over, and the new season of classes for 2024 is open for registration, with exciting classes by Judy Detrick: Caroline Handwriting and Square Capitals; Meredith Klein: Italic; Raoul Martinez: Batarde; and Rick Paulus: Introduction to Engrosser's Script. You can read about the classes and register at:

https://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/classes.html.

The FOC Lecture Series continues, with the latest lecture by Loredana Zega about how she developed the techniques that she uses to paint huge calligraphy on walls. Many of the lectures from the FOC Lecture Series are available for you to view on our website at https://www.friendsofcalligraphy.org/pages/resources.html. Scroll down to Instructional Videos.

I wish you peaceful days in December and a Happy New Year.









To view the Bulletin in color, please visit the FOC website under Publications.

President

Evelyn Eldridge

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**Council Members** 

Soohven Parks Billy Ola Hutchinson

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Michael Starkman Katie Leavens Raoul Martinez

**Bulletin Editor** 

Nancy Noble

### FOC Holiday Party December 4, 2023





Top Photo: President Evelyn Eldridge welcoming FOC Members and guests to the Annual Holiday Party at Jerry Lehman's lovely home. Bottom: Evelyn's happy audience.

More photos on Page 7

## Cadel Letters: Modern Beauty

By Charm Brown

October 23, 25, & 27, 2023

This was a workshop over three days: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and something I had been looking forward to for a long time.

The day in between was for the class to practice what was demonstrated. The 24-page handout had been sent previously with time to study the alphabet examples including the letters of Marco Antonio Rossi which had been enlarged for use later in the course, and links to other alphabets that were of interest.

After a quick chat on the history and emergence of Cadels, Massimo went straight into how to form the shapes that make them.

The examples were broken into a step-by-step instruction starting with the underlying skeleton of the form, then using a fairly large Speedball C1 nib. The initial pencil drawing was an important tool we used later.

The class started with graph paper to keep the lines parallel and an even distance apart. This was tricky as the distance is less than a pen width, so some visual estimating was involved. Getting this right however is probably the most important feature to remember when drawing the letters as variations in width are glaringly obvious.

This exercise was then repeated on plain paper. Choosing one decorated part of a letter was then sketched using the underlying skeletal form as mentioned above, and then traced over using pen and ink.

Massimo demonstrated how to make a design using the forms that had been practiced using three different nib sizes. One or more of these shapes was then put into a Mandala with a diameter of about 7 inches — filling all the space. This was done with one nib, the Speedball C1.

This was the homework for Day 1, with examples uploaded to a Dropbox site for comment by Massimo and the class. Having the importance of space, and lots of it, drummed into me for several years it was difficult to then not have any in the Mandala!

I had to revisit my first attempt. Although balanced, which was good, it had too much white space for Massimo so I have now filled in the pesky blank bits.

This completely filled my time until the next class, as I imagine it did for other students as well.

Day Two was choosing one of the letters, tracing it, and transferring it to another piece of paper and then drawing it in ink. Massimo showed an example where he watered his ink to do some of the strokes, which was a nice effect, and another example of adding a colour to one part only.

This was in preparation for the large canvas piece which would be a culmination of the skills taught. The canvas was to be 16x16 inches or 40cm square and had to have the base coat, using acrylic paint, done and ready for day 3. Massimo demonstrated how to do this, as getting a smooth finish with no brush strokes took some careful painting and more than one coat, the second being watered down.

I actually did mine on heavy smooth watercolour paper as I only had one canvas and did not know how much paint it would take to cover it. It was a lot as I discovered. I also tried some acrylic ink, watered, which for me worked as I had used it before making backgrounds. It also works with a light box.

A one inch square was cut out of the centre of the 8 inch square of black paper and moved around the chosen letter to find a nice composition which was not too busy and had white space.

This shape was then enlarged using the grid method to fit the canvas, and traced onto the dry canvas. It was then painted using the second colour, again with Massimo showing his method for getting nice smooth edges. This was basically the background and very effective. A great technique to use again.

Next was choosing the orientation of the piece which was more difficult than it sounded. This is where design knowledge came into play.

The final element was placing the letter over the design and leaving the white spaces white. Again, a design decision. The letter was then traced onto the very dry canvas and drawn, using gouache for this, not acrylic.

As part of the letter, the little 1-inch square was also traced somewhere around or on it, with the negative shapes being painted rather than the shape.

So lots still to finish and upload to the Dropbox site where Massimo has kindly agreed to review with comments.



# Dancing the Walls with Loredana Zega

By Jessie Evans

The Friends of Calligraphy was pleased to have Loredana Zega present *Dancing the Walls* as part of its virtual lecture series in November 2023. Loredana's presentation was an engaging exploration of how her work in calligraphy intertwines with her passion for dance, especially on walls.

Loredana's first paid calligraphy job was at the National Gallery of Slovenia in 2010, where she installed a visual art exhibit featuring lettering of several medieval hands on a wall. Initially, she faced challenges due to the lack of suitable brushes and experience in lettering on walls. She described the process as tedious and difficult.

Once she was "a little bit better—not good, but better—in calligraphy," she said, she was "a little bit bored." So she thought why not combine calligraphy and dance? Loredana likes making new things, and she enjoys being on stage. This artistic development led her to explore large-scale lettering art. She experimented with writing on different surfaces, including large walls and floors, combining her calligraphy skills with her dance background. This exploration was evident in her video performance where she used a broom for writing on an airport tarmac! She said this video was a joy to do, and pointed out the connection between dance and calligraphy and movement. With such large-scale lettering, you use all your body to make the strokes, like movements in dance.

A significant turning point in her career was attending a workshop with Carl Rohrs in Germany, where she discovered her now-dearest tool, which is the brush. She told the story of how she had one brush with her and Carl encouraged her to try some brushes she never used before. After writing with a flat brush, she said she thought, "Oh yes. This is it. This is what I've been searching for." She likes softer brushes because they leave beautiful traces, though they are harder to control. Prior to this workshop, she had been mostly following Denis Brown and using automatic pens. "She's happy that she went to this workshop because, she said, she discovered me and my style."

She wanted more commissions on walls. She joked that she was begging people to do their walls, and she got her first paid wall commission with the 2013 renovation of the Hotel Astoria Bled in Slovenia. Then she got another commission for wall calligraphy, and, in 2015, she did artwork for a permanent exhibit in the Museum de Kromberk in Slovenia.

In addition to wall and calligraphy with big tools, Loredana was looking for performance opportunities. She did a performance with Nazzareno Zacconi in 2013. In 2015, she gave a performance of large-scale calligraphy and dance at The Passionate Pen International Calligraphy Conference in Sonoma, California. She said she really loved doing this performance and it's one of her favorite things she ever did.

Loredana showed clips from a video of her lettering in a printing factory in Rennes, France where she wrote "everywhere for two days, including the floor."

Throughout her presentation, Loredana showcased numerous projects, highlighting her evolution as a calligrapher and artist. She demonstrated her ability to adapt to different surfaces, environments, and client requirements. For example many clients prefer legibility, but she likes the less legible calligraphy artwork on the walls.

Showing wall calligraphy she did in Slovenia, Loredana explained how she didn't make a sketch first and just wrote directly on the wall—no projector, no tracing. Because of the scale of wall calligraphy, Loredana said that you have to use your whole body like you do when dancing. She said, "That's why calligraphy is like dancing—everything is a circle with our joints in our bodies. Rhythm, movement, harmony are all there with calligraphy, but it can be a little harder to see how it relates to dancing when we are writing small and only using our wrists."

Loredana has also taught workshops, including workshops on wall calligraphy. She has shared her skills and techniques with students, allowing them to experience the joy of creating large-scale calligraphic works.

Loredana ended her presentation by showing pictures of student artwork from her wall calligraphy workshops. That she ended her presentation by showing works of her students' achievement in calligraphy that danced the walls says a lot about Loredana's beautiful ability to combine different art forms and her passion for them and inspire others to do the same for theirs.

# The Rewards of Mentoring

### Become a Mentor!

n my almost 46 years of involvement with the scribal arts I have had many memorable experiences: taking classes taught by calligraphic luminaries, the thrill of making a new "discovery" and subsequently mastering the technique of producing the letterform precisely and accurately, the honor of teaching numerous workshops in the US, Canada, and abroad, the pleasure of making countless new friends, the excitement of international conferences—the list goes on.

But my greatest experience has been the joy of mentoring a young student with enormous potential and watching him blossom as a rising star in the calligraphy firmament. In February 2021 I gave a lecture on Edward Johnston and the evolution of Gothicized Italic. Among the attendees was a young fellow, in India, Dashaen, who subsequently contacted me for some information. I went to his Instagram page and was blown away by the many images he had posted, mostly rendered with a fiber-tip brush and with vibrant colors. I emailed him and learned that he was only 19 and had no formal experience but was anxious to learn the broad-edge pen and historical alphabets. I offered to have periodic Zoom sessions with him in which I would demonstrate the fundamentals, and he in turn would send me some practice sheets for critique.

Dashaen told me that he attended a free Washington Calligraphers Guild lecture and was slowly saving enough money to become a member of the guild. I was so impressed by his budding talent and enthusiasm that I gifted him with a membership so he could immediately access its programs and on-line workshops. Eventually he took workshops from Christopher Haanes, Yves Leterme, Elmo von Slingerland, and John Stevens, all of whom were mightily impressed with his work and ability to absorb everything they were teaching.

2022 was a great year for Dashaen, as he won the prestigious Zapf Scholarship from the DC guild, and also contributed to a video about calligraphy sponsored by a South American bank whose aim was to bring different art forms to the public. Marta Legeckis and I were the two calligraphers invited to participate, and during production the organizer asked me if I knew a young person with promise, relatively new to the field. Well, it just so happened that...you guess the rest! Dashaen made a video of himself, and he subsequently got his first commissions in India.

It has been immensely gratifying for me to see how doors have opened for this young man, and I believe that all of us who teach have some students with exceptional ability and who would benefit greatly to be guided and advised by an established calligrapher. So why not consider becoming a mentor to someone who is in the early stages and who is enthusiastically committed to the art? Just as you will be giving so much to the student, you in turn will receive life-enhancing satisfaction beyond measure.

### Photos from Loredana's Talk









# Council Meeting Minutes

### **FOC Council Meeting Minutes**

Sunday, 16 July, 2023 Zoom

Starting time: 1:02 PM

### Attending

Elena Caruthers, Evelyn Eldridge, Darla Engelmann, Billy Ola Hutchinson, Fredi Juni, Katie Leavens, Raoul Martinez, Soohyen Park, Dean Robino, Michael Starkman Guests: Meredith Klein, Nancy Noble, Dorothy Yuki, Carl Rohrs, Anne Marie Foley, Paul Plale Exc'd: Cynthia Cravens

### **50th Anniversary**

Committee co-leaders Ann Marie Foley and Paul Plale presented their ideas for the celebration. Dean, Meredith, and Katie volunteered to work on the committee.

### Calendar

Our meeting and event dates were set for 2023 and 2024.

### **Council Meetings**

September 10, 2023 November 19, 2023 January 21, 2024 March 17, April 21 May 5, 2024 AGM 1-5 PM at SFPL July 14, 2024, 1-4 PM: Joint Council Meeting Trivial Pursuits: January 13. 2024 Holiday Party: Sunday, December 3, 2023, 2-5 PM if in person. Retreat: March 6-10,

### **Meeting Minutes**

April 23, 2023 Moved, seconded, unanimous approval.

AGM, May 7, 2023, Moved, seconded unanimous approval.

### **Reports**

### Web Administrator

Raoul: Buttondown is working fairly well for us In May, YouTube unblocked the videorecording of DeAnn Singh's lecture; the video is posted on our Resources page. Raoul is testing PayPal

Integrated Check Out buttons.

### **Membership Report** Meredith

2022-23 end of year figures, as of 6/30/23: 102 new, 587 paid renewals, 7 honorary, 2 honorary spouses, final total of 698 members.

Renewals to date for 2023-24: 13 new, 401 paid renewals, 7 honorary, 2 honorary spouses, total of 423 as of 7/15/23.

Meredith will create volunteer lists in September after most members have presumably renewed, but if anyone needs to know volunteers, please ask and she will create an early list. We need a Committee on Membership Dues and Mailing Costs to study various aspects of the costs, along with comparison to other guilds, and to make recommendations to the Council whether, and by how much, to increase membership dues how much to increase out-of-country mailing fees. Elena, Dean, Michael, and Nancy volunteered to be on the committee.

### **Treasurer Report**

**Dean** will share Council Orientation packets and Conflict of Interest forms for completion with new council members. Motion to continue to contract with Katie for teaching, and Raoul for teaching and as web master; moved, seconded, one abstention, approved. The transaction Report and Preliminary Budget were reviewed; moved to approve, seconded, unanimous approval.

### Workshop Committee

Elena reported on what is planned to date: Laurie Doctor, Summer workshop, Heather Held, September;

Massimo Polello, October; Mike Kecseg, possibly.

### Fort Mason

Katie all classes are scheduled to be held on Zoom: Engrosser's Script - Katie, starts Tuesday; Flat Pen Uncial - Meredith, August; Engrossing Text, Rick Paulus, November.

### Social Media: Katie

New initiative: FOC Remembers; partnering with Andrea Grimes to highlight work in the Harrison Collection. The committee is reviewing our electronic guidelines, including policy for YouTube videos.

### **Publications and Mailings**

Bulletin - Nancy plans to ask Laurie Doctor to do the masthead. Fredi to write an article on Laurie's summer workshop.

Alphabet - Carl shared that he has lots of ideas in the works for future issues and is committed to continuing as editor of the Alphabet.

### **Mailings Meredith**

The renewal mailing and a regular mailing were completed on June 15. The next regular mailings are set for October 5 and December 14. The membership directory mailing is set for November 9. Michael Starkman is doing the directory cover and letters. Judy Detrick is doing the graphic design.

### **Lecture Committee Evelyn**

Upcoming: Laurie Doctor, September; Loredana Zega, November; Jonathan Homrighausen, January.

### **Meetings & Events Trivial Pursuits**

Marcia Friedman will be the Coordinator.

Some teachers already lined up.

### Unfinished **Business**

Thank you's from AGM. These will be in the next Bulletin: Workshop Committee, Social Media, Ft. Mason, Lecture, Trivial Pursuits, Alphabet, Bulletin, Kalligraphia, Mailings.

### **New Business** Roman Holiday International Conference

Evelyn shared that the coordinators have requested donations. Dean to review past donations to conferences. Fredi agreed to assist Evelyn in researching a gift for attendees.

### **FOC Zoom** Membership

Committees to discuss, and then return recommendations to the Council.

Update on William Stewart's calligraphy

Michael Starkman has agreed to review.

### **Donation**

Chris Foster passed away in January, and her husband donated tools. Evelyn offered them to Ben Yates, who teaches calligraphy classes to children.

Adjourn: 3:16 PM. Moved, seconded, unanimous approval. Edited for Publication

### **FOC Council Meeting Minutes**

Sunday, 17 September 2023 Zoom Starting time: 1:38 PM

### Attending

Elena Caruthers, Evelyn Eldridge, Billy Ola Hutchinson, Fredi Juni, Katie Leavens, Raoul Martinez, Soohyen Park, Dean Robino, Michael Starkman Guest: Nancy Noble

### **Meeting Minutes**

July 16, 2023, Moved, seconded, unanimous approval.

### Reports Membership

2023-24 as of September 16, 2023: Renewed 595, Honorary 7, Honorary Spouse 2, Renewed 604, New 27, Total 631

A committee comprising Meredith, Dean, Elena, Michael, and Nancy will examine dues and mailing costs. Recommendations will be presented to Council.

Groups that no longer exchange a print journal with us will be notified that we will no longer send our publications to them. We will continue to send San Francisco Public Library and San Francisco Center for the Book our publications. We will discontinue FOC's Letter Arts Review subscription, since SF Library is receiving this publication on its own.

### **Treasurer Report**

Dean We purchased a fantastic book of Laurie Doctor's for the Harrison Collection.

### **Transaction Report**

for July and August moved, seconded, unanimously approved.

### Workshop Committee: Elena

2023: Heather Held, September 16-17; Massimo, October. 2024: Mike Kessig, Pointed pen; Judy Dietrich, April, Manuscript Books Master Class; Jurgen Vercaemst; Peter Greco; Carl Rohrs, Summer Workshop.

### Fort Mason: Katie 2023: Meredith's Flat Uncials class just

started; in November, Rick Paulus's Engrossing Text. 2024: Judy Dietrick 8 weeks online. 4 weeks Caroline, 4 weeks online Square Continued Next Page

# C Membership, Mail & Minute

Caps; Raoul: Bâtarde, 7 weeks in person; Meredith-Italic, September, 7 weeks in person; Rick: Engrosser's Script-4 weeks online.

### **Social Media: Katie**

Ongoing initiatives continue to get good responses online. Member Feature: scheduled through February 24. Questions are getting good responses. Prompts are ongoing monthly. FOC Remembers set up through December. It was suggested we post examples for upcoming classes.

### Publications and Mailings

Next regular mailing: October 5, 2023 Directory: Michael Starkman doing art for the Directory. Bulletin: Nancy. Laurie Doctor created the Masthead Alphabet: 49:1 is at the printers. It's gorgeous!

### Retreat

The Retreat is March 6–10, 2024.

### Lecture Committee Evelyn Laurie

Doctor, September, over 200 attendees. Loredana Zega, November. Jonathan Homrighausen, 2024 January. Carl Rohrs.

### **Meetings and Events**

Determining whether to have in-person, virtual, or hybrid to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

### **Trivial Pursuits**

January 13, 2024.
Marcia Friedman,
Coordinator. Teachers:
Meredith Klein:
Mandala Pebbles, Katie
Leavens: Illuminated
Letters, Raoul Martinez
Elephant Trunk, Jody
Meese: Concertina
Card and Envelope
Kestrel Montes: Color
Mixing, Carl Rohrs:
Punchy Papercutting.
People to bring their
own lunches.

### **Holiday Party**

Scheduled for December 3, 2 PM. Dean will ask Jerry Lehman about hosting an inperson gathering.

### Unfinished Business Roman Holiday International

Conference. Dean volunteered to assist Evelyn in completing the Google form. Motion to donate \$500, Seconded, unanimous approval. Fredi and Nancy will research options for Merch Bags.

### **50th Anniversary**

Regular reports from committee will be shared soon.

### **No New Business**

Adjourned: 4:45 PM. Moved to adjourn, seconded, unanimous approval.

Edited for Publication



## Membership Notes from Meredith

### Gratitude

Members support FOC in many different ways. We express our gratitude to the members who have renewed or joined at the patron, sustaining and supporting levels since the last Bulletin:

### Patron

Mariela Gerstein Hobie MacQuarrie

### Sustaining

Kathy McNicholas

### Supporting

Patricia Dressler Susan Ito

### Welcome New Members!

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

Linda Benzion
Kelly Cole
Midori Inoo
Marie Kalat
Mark S. Kaufman
Atsuko Miwa
Mayumi Miyamae
Cynthia Moseley
Sarah Spengler
Yasuko Tezuka

### Mail Crew Thank You

Regular Mailing, October 5 - Mille Grazie
Laura Bernabei - Including help - Int'l & PO
David Brookes
Meredith Klein - Labels, take mail to PO
Vicky Lee
Raoul Martinez
Dean Robino
Mary Ann Wight - Czarina

Regular Mailing, November 9 - Danke Schôn

Laura Bernabei
JoAnn Brand
Elena Caruthers
Meredith Klein – Labels, czarina, take to PO
Iyana Leveque
Raoul Martinez
Dean Robino

Thank you for both mailings to JoAnn Brand, who calls the crews, and to Georgianna and Andy Greenwood, for letting us use Georgianna's studio.



Top, left to right: Debby Turrieta, Vicki Lee, JoAnn Brand, Marcia Friedman, Sherrie Lovler, Barbara Lande, Tom Ekkens, Jerry Lehman, and Jodi Meese. Below Left: TomEkkens; Below Right: Susan Ito's Gingerbread House





### Fort Mason Classes

Date	Time	Event	Details
Saturdays January 20, 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, March 2	10:30pm -12noon Seven Saturdays	Caroline Handwriting Judy Detrick	Zoom
Saturdays March 16, 23, 30, April 6	10:30am-12NOON Four Saturdays	Square Capitals Judy Detrick	Zoom
Tuesdays May 14, 21, 28, June 4, 11, 18, July 2	6:30 - 9:00 PM Seven Tuesdays	Bâtarde Raoul Martinez	In Person
Tuesdays September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	6:30 - 9:00 PM Seven Tuesdays	Italic Meredith Klein	In Person
Saturday Mornings, November 2, 9, 16,23	10 AM-1:00 PM Four Saturdays	Engrosser's Script Rick Paulus	Zoom

### FOC Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Details
Saturday, January 13, 2024	9:30 to 4:30 AM PDT	Trivial Pursuits 35	In-Person
Wednesday, January 10	10 AM	Joanna Homrighausen Lecture Series	Zoom
Sunday, January 21	1:00— 4:00 PM	FOC Council Meeting	Zoom
Sunday, March 17	1:00— 4:00 PM	FOC Council Meeting	Zoom
Sunday, May 5	1:00— 4:00 PM	FOC Annual General Meeting	In-Person

### Colophon

FOC Bulletin #153

Masthead: Catherine von Schwind 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.

### Copy Deadline

Deadline for articles for Bulletin 154: February 19, 2024. Please submit articles or questions to Nancy Noble, 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

### FOC Facebook:

www.facebook.com/FriendsofCalligraphy

### FOC Instagram:

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 Fin a blue square, or the little red square camera outline.

### Social Media Committee

Social Media Prompts for the remainer of this year and into the following year are listed here. We'd love for you to post this list in a prominent place in your studio. The Prompts are posted on Instagram & Facebook on the 1st of every month. On the 25th of the month we repost the work of anyone who tags their prompted work with #FOCcreates.

December: Write out a quote by your favorite author.

January: Post a sample of your Handwriting. February: Share a tattoo that you have designed.

March: Write a pangram in your favorite calligraphic script.

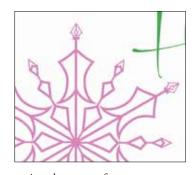
April: Share a calligraphy mural, or any writing on a wall or window you have done.

May: May the 4th be with you! Post a Star Wars themed

calligraphy piece.

June: Share calligraphy that you have done on fabric

or leather.



An enlargement of an ornament Barbara Lande created in her FOC Holiday Party flyer.

### Address Change

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

Meredith Klein gkle@sbcglobal.net 707 Spokane Avenue,

Albany, CA 94706 510.527.0434