



Letter Perfect

November, December 2006

The Newsletter of the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers

Vol. 28. No. 2

SDFC General Meeting
Painting Along the Garden Path
November 10, 2006; 7:00 PM
Connie Furgason,
guest lecturer

Location: San Diego Education Association, Suite 300; 10393 San Diego Mission Road, San Diego, CA 92108. For directions go to: www.sdfconline.com.

SDFC Workshop
Letters, Lines & Watercolors
Saturday & Sunday, November 11 & 12, 2006
with Connie Furgason

This class will help you realize that calligraphy is drawing. We will learn to see shapes and lines in new ways, to draw objects and to combine them with lettering. We will be developing images from simple line drawings to finished designs in color. Various lettering forms will be incorporated to bring your work to a new level.

SDFC Workshop
Painting Along the Garden Path
Monday, November 13, 2006
with Connie Furgason

This class will focus on simple free-form techniques to create beautiful flowers and greenery. No previous art experience is required.

SDFC Holiday Party
Friday evening, December 8, 2006

Members, their spouses and significant others, are invited to the annual SDFC Holiday Party to be held on Friday evening, December 8, 2006 at the home of Linda and Allen West in Rancho Bernardo. Bring hors d'oeuvres or dessert to share. All party-goers who would like to participate in the gift exchange may want to be on the lookout for that special gift (approximate value \$10.00). More information will be mailed in November.

Presidential Ponderings



Diane Reiter

The holidays are just around the corner and for most people that means an even busier life than the one you had the previous 10 months. Experts suggest setting priorities as a way to keep things from getting out of hand. Be sure to include time for art! Make time in your schedule to doodle in your journal, sketch a layout for your next calligraphic piece or start a list of art supplies to try. This doesn't require a large block of time. A few minutes each day will do. Think of it as your gift to you and a mini-vacation from the frenetic pace this time of year.

It's also important to spend time with the special people in your life. For many, this includes the friends made through SDFC. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual Holiday Party on December 8th. In addition to great food and fun, one may learn car buying tips, favorite recipe ideas, the one calligraphic item that will soon be put on everyone's wish list, or the best vacation destinations based on golf courses.

May you have a happy and peaceful holiday season and a wonderful 2007!

SDFC Workshops Update

O-h-h-h-h, it is time to get off the fence, if you haven't already signed up for workshops! Every workshop has only 3 spots left. The marbling workshop (one day) is full, but you can be first on the waiting list. Calligraphy friends from the Los Angeles and Orange County area have become members and will be joining us at workshops.

It's never too early to put a workshop on your birthday or holiday wish list. Remember, you can postdate the check for the first day of the month BEFORE the workshop, if you want to delay the payment.

Best wishes in reserving a spot in the workshops of your desire.

Yvonne Perez-Collins
Workshop Co-ordinator

Letters, Lines & Watercolors, Connie Furgason- All levels can incorporate this lively painting with calligraphy

Painting Along the Garden Path, Connie Furgason- Even more ideas and techniques for all levels

Littera Antica, Doug Boyd- Learn three ways to accomplish lowercase Romans

Wonderful Wild World of Paper Marbling, Todd Jameson- You'll be awash in color with a day of serendipity

Textured Letters, Barbara Close- Add depth and integrity to your letters with ease and personality

Quotes For Quills



“Life is the ART of drawing and writing without an eraser.”
John Gardner

“Don't wait for inspiration. It comes while working.”
Henri Matisse

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Online Fun!

Find out more about **Letters California Style**, SFC's Member Conference, February 15—18, 2007. Our own **Risa Gettler** will be teaching “A Day at the Bleach”:
www.societyforcalligraphy.org

Fontifier turns a scanned sample of your handwriting into a handwriting font you can use in your word processor:
www.fontifier.com/ref?1043

Grids Galore website has all the possible graphs you could want for FREE. You designate sizes of grid:
www.scribblers.co.uk/cgi/gridlines.pl

Art Monthly's 300th issue is out. To subscribe, or for more information, go to:
www.artmonthly.co.uk/

Daniel Smith Online Art Instruction:
www.danielsmith.com/learn/default.asp

The Oldest Writing in North America:
<http://artsjournal.com/visualarts/>

DEAR SDFC MEMBERS,

Thank you for your condolences on the loss of my mother. In so many ways, and for so long before this day, you generously gave your friendship and support.

Of all the things Mother gave me...and taught me...caring for her was the greatest gift of all.

The philosopher, Terence McKenna, reminds us to always look around and see who's on the journey with us. I did....and there you are.

Thank you ... your friendship and compassionate connections are a strength and healing...and a great JOY! Risa Gettler

Handy Hint

Find a piece of marble (or thick glass) to use for your palette. It's cooler so your paint won't dry as quickly and it's easy to clean.

Save the silica gel packets from shoeboxes or vitamin bottles. Put one of them in your nib containers after you clean them. The packets will absorb moisture and prevent rust.



**Lisabet Wilson
receives SDFC
proclamation,
July 2006**

TRIBUTE TO BELOVED SDFC MEMBER

Lisabet Wilson

Then, one of these aunts, who lived in Chicago, wrote to my father that she and her husband were willing to sponsor two of his girls to come to the United States. My parents liked the idea since the economy in Germany seemed so hopeless. The application for my visa was made.

I was seventeen at that time. My parents were very concerned that I did not have a marketable skill which would provide an income. "What would you like to learn?" was the big question. I certainly did not want to be a fine artist like my dad. I wanted a regular income. But I enjoyed the art world and hoped to become a commercial artist.

The closest city which had an arts and crafts school was Hannover, which was an hour's train ride away from where we lived. There I applied for admission, passed the entry exam, and was accepted. It soon became apparent that I enjoyed the calligraphy class the most. My teacher was Friedrich Heinrichsen, who was trained by Rudolf Koch, one of Germany's most influential calligraphers and designers. We practiced on large sheets of paper. Different styles had to be mastered. Decorative initials had to be designed. Sometimes, the teacher sat down next to me and helped out.

Soon I was getting actual jobs to do. The first assignment came from the art store where I bought my supplies. They requested price tags and other little signs. Then a larger store needed signs. After that, a butcher shop wanted me to letter the daily specials on big window panes. That activity drew lots of comments from people passing by. I was glad when I did not have to do it any more!

It was more fun to letter quotes and poems for people. Also, the business community in Hannover often contacted the art school for specific needs. We got to do posters for the Opera House, title pages for architects, tombstone designs, and many logos. I could now support myself. My first steady flow of income came from certificates for the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1951, my name was reached on the quota list, and I got a boat ticket to America. I sailed right after my 19th

Twenty-eight years ago a group of lettering artists got together to form the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers. Lisabet Wilson was one of those lettering artists, and she has been a very important part of the group since its inception. Her contributions to SDFC and the calligraphic community are numerous. Lisabet earned a great deal of respect and admiration as a calligrapher and commercial artist here in San Diego. Her work is easily recognized by those in the field.

But, Lisabet will be most remembered as a warm and caring individual, always a lady, who just happened to be a calligrapher. As a teacher, President of SDFC, and fellow calligrapher, Lisabet shared her love of the written word in a variety of settings. With humor, patience and kindness, she taught many people the art of beautiful writing. In her quiet way, she set a wonderful example of how to be an accomplished lettering artist, and a welcoming source of information to those new to calligraphy.

Her enthusiasm and gentle encouragement endeared her to many. We speak for the entire calligraphic community when we say it was an honor and a privilege to have known Lisabet. She will be greatly missed.

Diane Reiter

An Interview with Lisabet Wilson By Shirley Wineberg, April 2003

Shirley Wineberg:

Your history is so unique - how did calligraphy enter your life? Tell us your beginnings, your studies.

Lisabet Wilson:

Some time after the Second World War was over, we heard from my father's two sisters, who had left Germany in the 1930's and were living in the USA since that time. Both of them sent us packages with food, which was always cause for celebration!



SDFC EXHIBIT



An exhibit of words and images from the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers (SDFC) opened September 1, 2006, at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts where everyone enjoyed the art along with refreshments and demonstrations.

BIG, BAD BONE WORKSHOP with Carrie Imai

Seventeen eager calligraphers assembled in Rancho Bernardo on October 14 for the first of a two-day workshop titled BIG BAD BONE with noted teacher Carrie Imai.



Carrie Imai

This alphabet was an invention of Jaki Svaren, based on Foundational -- but you throw all the rules away! She recommended the #5 Automatic pen, but some used 3/8 Coits and even the widest Parallel pen. The wider pens show the actual pen strokes better. We learned to prepare brand new pens by cleaning the manufacturer's wax off with toothpaste and sanding in a particular way. Then, just dip the pen in Gum Arabic before each writing session.



Brita Brice, Kathy Gilchrist,
Sue Mann & Jeanen Monteleone

The first day we learned the lowercase alphabet. She taught us to "shake hands" with our pen.....holding it lightly with our fingertips. The pen is held upright. This way the pen can be manipulated by rolling it forward with the fingers and backward with the thumb; achieving the thicks and thins by manipulation. You start flat, roll the pen so the left side of the blade leads and the line narrows. As you get toward the bottom of the downward stroke, you reverse the manipulation letting the right side of the nib take over to give you a wider base of the line and a nice exit stroke. (This is just as hard to describe as it is to perform!!!)

We started to practice the basic strokes shown in the exemplars (part of the 45-page book we each received). After each demo, we imitated the strokes on our papers. There were quiet moans and groans.....and finally, "I got it!" throughout the day.....it's not so easy. It took some of us longer than others, but eventually we all did "get it", as shown by our finished pieces on the second day.



Yvonne Perez-Collins

BONE can be fun! It's best when the letters are packed and overlapped. It can bounce, fitting letters into spaces created between letters. Use the corner of the nib to make fine, hair-line flourishing strokes.

On the second day, we did a quick review of the capitals and used our newfound skills with the 12- piece experimental writing kit we received. We learned that by photocopying small lettering text on transparencies, we could try out layouts by placing it over one or two big Bone words.

Carrie packed so many fun techniques in the last half of day two: using crayon resist as an element, cut out counter spaces and backing with decorative papers, four styles of Halloween cards. And the most fun -- making a spider by puffing at an ink blob through a straw!!!



Student Work

It was a most enjoyable 2-day workshop with a delightful teacher and a new alphabet to use in many fun ways. We all hope Carrie will come back to do another workshop with us next year!

Marilyn Dailey

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Letter Perfect is the bi-monthly newsletter of the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers. SDFC is a non-profit group dedicated to the art of calligraphy and related subjects. We include beginners, professional artists and all levels in between. Our purpose is to share and to educate.

Meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month, Sept. to June. Locations may vary. Check our website www.sdfconline.com for information and directions.

Those wishing to join SDFC or to renew their membership may do so by contacting the SDFC Membership Chair; P.O.Box 84960; San Diego, CA 92138-4960.

Publication of any article in *Letter Perfect* does not imply endorsement by the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers or its Board.

Please send your information, pictures, etc. for the January/February issue of *Letter Perfect* to Ginger Johnson by emailing her at: gjohnson@sdcoe.k12.ca.us or by mail to Diane Reiter, P.O. Box 84960, San Diego, CA 92138-4960. Material must be received by December 14, 2006.

www.sdfconline.com

is the official website of the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers. Bookmark this address for the latest SDFC news, photos, calendar of events and other society information. For our online gallery, we would like to publish .jpg files of your scanned calligraphy. Send them to Naomi Lesberg at:

nlesberg@cox.net

SDFC 2006-2007 Calendar of Events

- NOVEMBER 10:** General Meeting with Connie Furgason
"Painting Along the Garden Path"
- NOVEMBER 11 & 12:** Workshop: Letters, Lines and Watercolors
with Connie Furgason
- NOVEMBER 13:** Workshop: Painting Along the Garden Path
with Connie Furgason
- DECEMBER 8:** SDFC Holiday Party
- JANUARY 12:** General Meeting with Doug Boyd
"A Few of My Favorite Calligraphers"
- JANUARY 13 & 14:** Workshop: Littera Antica, Roman Lower Case
with Doug Boyd
- FEBRUARY 9:** General Meeting: Valentines for Veterans
- MARCH 9:** General Meeting with Todd Jameson
"Dust Catchers"
- MARCH 10:** Workshop: Wide, Wonderful World of Paper Marbling
with Todd Jameson
- APRIL 13:** General Meeting with Chris Cozen
"Golden Products Lecture/Demo"
- MAY 11:** General Meeting with Barbara Close
"Creative Sparks"
- MAY 12 & 13:** Workshop: Textured Letters
with Barbara Close
- JUNE 8:** General Meeting TBA

SAN DIEGO FELLOW CALLIGRAPHERS



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Address Correction Requested

