

# Letter Perfect

Sept-Oct, 2007

The Newsletter of the San Diego Fellow Calligraphers

Vol. 29, No. 1

## **SDFC General Meeting A Day at the Bleach Lecture/Demo**

Friday, September 14, 2007; 7:00 PM

*Risa Gettler, guest lecturer*

**Location:** San Diego Education Association, Suite 300,  
10393 San Diego Mission Road, San Diego. For directions  
go to: [www.sdfconline.com](http://www.sdfconline.com).

## **SDFC Workshops with Sheila Waters**

### **Gothicized Italic & Batarde**

Tuesday & Wednesday, Sept. 18 and 19, 2007

### **Italic Variations**

Thursday, September 20, 2007

### **Lecture**

### **My Calligraphic Life**

Tuesday, September 18, 6:00 P.M.

**Location:** Balboa Community Church, 655 Balboa Ave.,  
San Diego, 92111 (west of 805)

## **SDFC General Meeting "Egg Experiences in San Diego"**

October 12, 2007

*Annie Lawrence, guest lecturer*

**Location:** San Diego Education Association, Suite 300,  
10393 San Diego Mission Road, San Diego

## **SDFC Workshop Watercolor Exercises**

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 13 & 14, 2007

*with Annie Lawrence*

**Location:** San Diego National Bank, 1678 Bernardo  
Center Dr., San Diego 92128

## From the Board:

**Welcome back!** We hope you had a restorative, creative summer. You'll find in this issue of Letter Perfect articles sharing calligraphic summer adventures and accomplishments of your fellow members.



Join us for our first General Meeting of the year Friday, September 14. We'll enjoy an evening of friendly play and experimentation, under Risa Gettler's instruction, using household bleach. She'll be generously sharing a version of her workshop "A Day at the Bleach." Please refer to your meeting announcement email for materials to bring.

### **Workshop Update from Yvonne Perez-Collins:**

Sheila Waters workshops are full and the remainder of the 2007/2008 workshops are half full. We filled all workshops last season and from all indications, it looks like they will be filled again this year. The instructors are fabulous and nationally popular. We are fortunate to have them teach for us in San Diego. Other guilds charge \$100-\$125 compared to our \$85 rate for a two-day workshop. See the schedule on the last page of the newsletter for a listing of classes.

### **Publicity & Exhibit Update from Kathleen Morgan:**

2008 marks the 30th anniversary of SDFC, and we are making plans to commemorate this milestone. Among them are at least one exhibit representing the guild and a publication showcasing members' art. We encourage everyone to participate in these projects once details are announced.

## MEMBER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SDFC **Britta Brice, Viviana Lombrozo and Yvonne Perez-Collins** have books on display in a traveling exhibit by San Diego Book Arts. All books are made from library file cards. "cARTalog" is Open! (two cases on two floors)

### August through September 24 at Carlsbad Dove Library

1775 Dove Lane  
Carlsbad, CA 92011  
(760) 602-2038

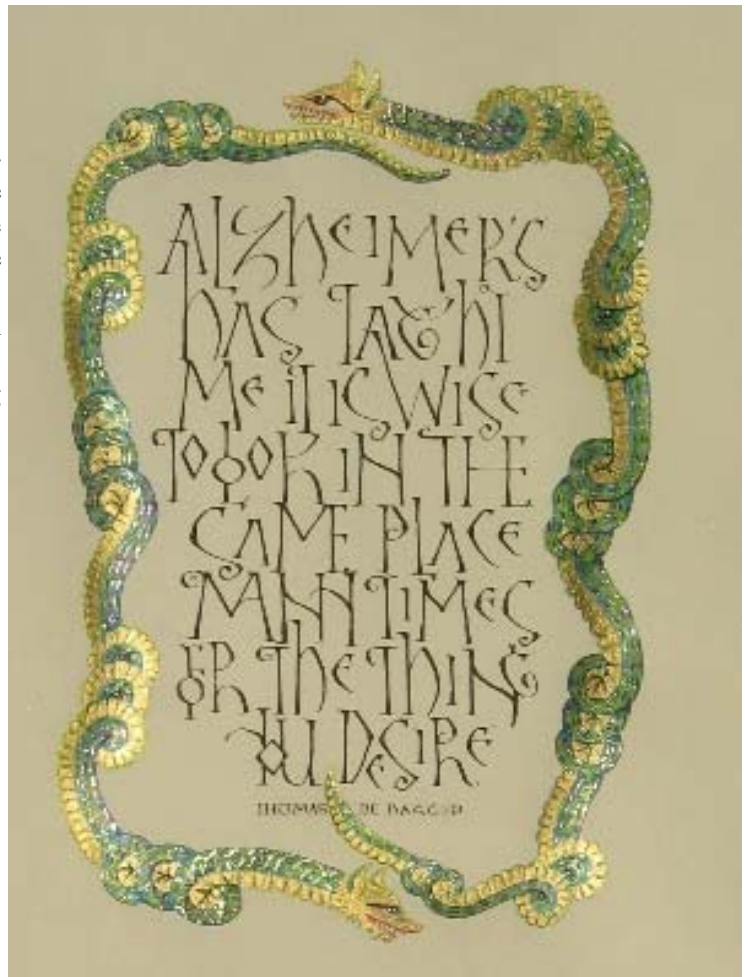
Monday-Thursday 9:00 A.M. -9:00 P.M., Friday & Saturday 9:00 A.M. -5:00 P.M., Sunday 11:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.  
Located in Plaza Paseo Real near the Edwards Theater at Aviara Parkway and El Camino Real.

"Responding to Our World" is the Guilford Art Center's third, juried international exhibition devoted to the letter arts. It engages its viewer in a dialogue concerning the world in which we live. The show ran from June 29-August 12, 2007. **Viviana Lombrozo** is one of the 40 artists selected from 10 countries and 18 states. She is represented with two pieces. All works selected for Responding to Our World are published in the July 2007 journal Letter Arts Review, Volume 22, Issue 1. Jurors for the exhibition are the esteemed calligraphers Thomas Ingmire and Maureen Squires.

**Risa Gettler's** calligraphy logo for Robert Renzoni Vineyards in Temecula, California may be viewed at:  
<http://www.robertrenzonivineyards.com/>

Letter Arts Review accepted two of **Risa Gettler's** Visigothic Versals pieces, "Mounted Rider" and "Between the Lines", which are scheduled for the Annual issue, Volume 22, Issue 3. The publication is expected by the first of the year. Her article on Spain appeared in an issue last year. Her Chanukah's piece is on the (back) cover of the special holiday issue and the work she did for Edna Wright's daughters wedding was included in the special Wedding Issue.

**Risa Gettler's** work, "Alzheimer's Has Taught Me", was accepted in the juried exhibit, "Art of the Sacrifice", Minneapolis MN. The work is written in Visigothic Versals.



### SDFC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Acting President: RISA GETTLER  
Vice-President: OPEN  
Secretary: SUE MANN  
Treasurer: JEANEN MONTELEONE  
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Publicity: KATHLEEN MORGAN  
Exhibits: OPEN  
Library: LINDA WEST  
Immediate Past President: DIANE REITER

## TEXTURED LETTERS with Barbara Close May 12 & 19, 2007



On May 12 and 19 everyone in the room danced to the tunes of Barbara Close and her Versalettes. The group hung on every word and seraph. New to calligraphy or veterans—made no difference. A good time was had by all. When she broke out the golden tones of Schmicke and Stickle there were audible gasps.

And the dot flowers, oh my! Murmurs of “that alone made the class worthwhile” could be heard throughout the room.

Barbara spun webs of creative magic, bringing out tool after tool, creating layers of texture, color, and sparkle, showing no favoritism towards the Watercolors, the Pastels, or the Acrylics but giving equal time to all.



Continually urging the group to think “outside the box” and the initial exercise of creating lines of different intensities and shapes, helped to clear the cobwebs out of the creative side of the brain

Her “performance” was packed with lots of useful tips and worth every cent. At the end of the first performance, Barbara even produced magic pencils for all.

Her encore performance on the 19<sup>th</sup> provided new uses for our newly found textured letters—some new card structures and, she even managed to make 2 card holders out of 1 envelope! She kept pulling tricks out of her hat and kept the group hungering for more. As people were leaving the room for the last time, one could hear them crooning the tunes of Barbara and her Versalettes and looking forward to her next performance.

Article by Janice Shigehara

## COLOR, ILLUSTRATION & TEXT with Connie Furgason June 16 & 17, 2007



Once again our SDFC experienced a very enjoyable workshop with Connie Furgason from Lethbridge, Canada.

This class focused on simple illustration and watercolor techniques the first day then adding in letterforms to our newly created art on the second day. It was fascinating to see watercolor come to life with such few strokes of the paintbrush. Connie taught us to make very simple brush strokes and then to create something out of them. Before long, we were making flowers, trees, windows, fruit, vegetables and much more. Connie emphasized that leaving white space creates an intriguing interest.

We practiced free versals and italics that are pulled in very tight and narrow. This created a “dance” out of the lettering that when put on the page with our simple illustrations made for very delightful pieces of art.

Article by Elizabeth Kenney

Connie’s free versals are exciting, carefree and joyful, and look wonderful with the watercolor sketches. We also worked on monoline caps. Connie gave us lots of pointers on combining the letters and sketches, such as having the letters touch the drawings so your eye sweeps around the page, and to use goauche, not ink, over watercolor for lettering. Connie uses only her own words and verses to decorate her drawings. The day was filled with helpful tips and little bits. She gave us a thick pack of worksheets, information and color photos of her gorgeous work.

Article by Jeanen Monteleone



## ISLAND MAJIC, 2007 CONFERENCE

The 27<sup>th</sup> International Conference for Calligraphers, July 21-28, was held this year at Shawnigan Lake School in Duncan, British Columbia on beautiful Vancouver Island. Our hosts were the Warmland Calligraphers of the Cowichan Valley, ably represented by co-directors Eleanor Harris and Barbara Qualley. Due to the location, many West Coast Guilds were well represented. Lucky enough to make the trip from SDFC were Lorraine Brown, Helen Lebowitz, Diane Reiter, Pat Sunda, Kingsley Benefield and Susan Richardson.

The setting was idyllic; a private boarding school with Tudor style buildings set in the lush surroundings of Malahat Mountain and the Cowichan Valley. The campus landscape included ponds surrounded by waves of colorful flower beds, weeping willows, Douglas Fir, Arbutus and Maples – a perfect place to concentrate on one's creative side under the direction of some of the world's best lettering artists.



We arrived in the rain – not an unusual occurrence there - to find our rooms in dorms situated up long meandering paths and several flights of stairs which served to keep our bodies in shape. It also gave us an excuse to partake in the wide variety of delicious food served in Marion Hall for breakfast lunch and dinner.

One could choose from two sets of workshops: 3-Day; Sunday, Monday and Tuesday and 2-Day; Thursday and Friday. Wednesday was a day off for Island excursions. We had a choice of several tours around the Island, an Eco-Tour, Butchart Gardens or simply sightseeing in Victoria. It had stopped raining on Tuesday so we could enjoy our day off and the rest of the week without our umbrellas. The classrooms and dorms lacked air conditioning so we were thankful for the moderate climate; beautiful, sunny afternoons and cool evenings.

And so in this setting for 6 days we were free to fine tune our lettering skills with classes such as Pre-Copperplate Italic with Gemma Black, Foundational with Jean Formo, Uncials with Martin Jackson, or Caro-



lingian with Joan Merrell; try something new, such as flowers and flourishes with Victoria Pittman, Contemporary Romans and Delicate Page Design with Barbara Close, Drawing for Calligraphers with Kristen Doty, or Xtreme Gilding with Roann Mathias; or venture into the unknown, with classes such as The Art of Celtic Design with Cari Buziak, Developing Expression in Calligraphy with Denis Brown, The Rules of the Ruling Pen with Thomas Hoyer or Gestural Writing with Yves Leterme. Just a smattering of what was offered. Overall the level of instruction was exceptionally high forcing many of us out of our comfort zone.

Each night after dinner there was a lecture given by one of the faculty. On Sunday, Denis Brown from Ireland gave an amazing talk and video demonstration of his etched letters on layered glass; Monday, Yves Leterme spoke about his Gestural Writing and showed a video of the artists of Bruges, Belgium; Tuesday night Cheryl Moote led us on a journey called "Finding Your Own Voice" and on Thursday evening Betty Locke from the host guild shared some of her light hearted drawings and creations with us.

Show and Share, an opportunity to demonstrate the results of what we produced during the week took place on Wednesday and Friday evening. The results were nothing short of spectacular. It was truly hard to believe what we had accomplished in so short a time.

The end of the week came all too quickly. Just as Diane and I, neighbors on the third floor of Lakes dorm, found the EIGHT SHOWER STALLS on the second floor (there was ONE on our floor) it was time to leave. Pretty soon we were at the closing ceremonies where Barb and Eleanor "handed over the baton" to Lisa Kivland and Jim Chin, co-directors of next years' conference, Letters Mingle Souls 2008 which will take place in Napierville, IL outside of Chicago. I've already registered! See you there? article by Helen Lebowitz

# IAMPETH, 2007 CONFERENCE

The annual convention of the International Association of Master Penmen, Engrossers and Teachers of Handwriting (IAMPETH) was held July 9 to July 15, 2007 at the Holiday Inn at the Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri. Among the distinguished faculty were Michael Sull, John DeCollibus, Dr. Joe Vitolo, Pat Blair, and Rosemary Buczek.

Participants were able to select full and half day classes, giving them the opportunity to learn a variety of skills over several days. A few of the class choices included Engrosser's Script/Copperplate, Spencerian Script, Flourishing and Embellishment, Painting Techniques for Calligraphers, Layout and Design, and American Cursive.

The classes were held in conference rooms at the hotel, where participants could watch the instructors make pen or brush strokes on a large screen.

The IAMPETH Archive Collection, which has rare samples of historic master penmanship, was available during the week for attendees to see and study.

Shopping opportunities were many, as the Plaza was only a few blocks away and Paper and Ink Arts was across the hall from the classrooms. It was a great week! For more information about IAMPETH, go to:

[www.IAMPETH.com](http://www.IAMPETH.com)

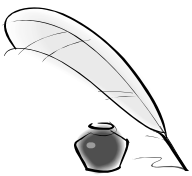
Diane Reiter

## BOOK REVIEW By Linda West, SDFC Library Chair

Foundations of Calligraphy by Sheila Waters ( John Neal Bookseller) is a master's perspective of "exemplar alphabets, instructions and hints" for the serious calligrapher's self- study.

The content and style reflect the artist who has made calligraphy her life's work. Her conversational discussions tell the history of the alphabets in relation to how the lettering developed practically and culturally.

The clarity and insights that Sheila gives to the foundational alphabets that were revived in the 20<sup>th</sup> century demonstrate her love and understanding of the art of beautiful writing.



### Quotes For Quills

"Butterflies are self-propelled flowers."  
author unknown

"Writing between lines is like dancing in a closet."  
Carrie Imai

### ONLINE FUN!

**Specialty Paper, Envelopes and Invitation Supplies:**  
<http://www.envelopemall.com>

**California Lawyers for the Arts:**  
<http://www.calawyersforthearts.org/>

**Online Grid-paper downloads:**  
<http://www.incompetech.com/graphpaper/>

**Interesting Fonts:**  
<http://www.myfonts.com/newsletters/rs/200708.html>

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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](http://www.sdfconline.com) for information and directions.

# SDFC 2007-2008 Calendar of Events

Please send your information, pictures, etc. for the November/December issue of *Letter Perfect* to Ginger Johnson by emailing her at: [g.johnson@sdcoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:g.johnson@sdcoe.k12.ca.us) or by mail to:  
P.O. Box 84960, San Diego, CA 92138-4960; Material must be received by October 12, 2007.

## [www.sdfconline.com](http://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](mailto:nlesberg@cox.net)

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| SEPTEMBER 14:                     | <b>General Meeting with Risa Gettler</b><br>"Day at the Bleach"                                      |
| SEPTEMBER 18 & 19:                | <b>Workshop: Gothicized Italic &amp; Batarde</b><br>with <i>Sheila Waters</i>                        |
| TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 6:00 P.M.: | <b>Lecture with Sheila Waters</b><br>"My Calligraphic Life"  |
| SEPTEMBER 20:                     | <b>Workshop: Italic Variations</b><br>with <i>Sheila Waters</i>                                      |
| OCTOBER 12:                       | <b>General Meeting with Annie Lawrence</b><br>"Egg Experiences in San Diego"                         |
| OCTOBER 13-14:                    | <b>Workshop: Watercolor Exercises</b><br>with <i>Annie Lawrence</i>                                  |
| NOVEMBER 9:                       | <b>General Meeting with Mark Van Stone</b><br>"Exotic Scripts"                                       |
| NOVEMBER 10 & 11:                 | <b>Workshop: Medieval Versals &amp; Ronesque Illumination</b><br>with <i>Mark Van Stone</i>          |
| DECEMBER:                         | <b>SDFC Holiday Party tbd</b>  |
| JANUARY 11:                       | <b>General Meeting with Sherrie Lovler</b><br>"Keeping It Fresh: Passion, Love, Poetry, Calligraphy" |
| JANUARY 12 & 13:                  | <b>Workshop: Subtle Colors in the Night</b><br>with <i>Sherrie Lovler</i>                            |
| FEBRUARY 8:                       | <b>General Meeting with Barbara Close</b><br>"Mark of the Pen"                                       |
| FEBRUARY 9 & 10:                  | <b>Workshop: Pointed Pen Magic</b><br>with <i>Barbara Close</i>                                      |
| MARCH 8 & 22:                     | <b>Workshop: Groovy Painted Papers</b><br>with <i>Risa Gettler</i>                                   |
| MARCH 14:                         | <b>General Meeting with Risa Gettler</b><br>"Evolution of the Alphabet"                              |
| APRIL 11:                         | <b>General Meeting with Carl Rohrs</b><br>"Mostly Modern European Lettering & 20th Cent. Ghosts"     |
| APRIL 12 & 13:                    | <b>Workshop: Modern Moves from 20th Century Masters</b><br>with <i>Carl Rohrs</i>                    |
| MAY 9:                            | <b>General Meeting with Sylvia Kowal</b><br>"Fun with Flips & Folds"                                 |
| MAY 10:                           | <b>Workshop: Circle Book</b><br>with <i>Sylvia Kowal</i>   |
| JUNE 13:                          | <b>TBA- New workshops presented, new board announced</b>   |

SAN DIEGO FELLOW CALLIGRAPHERS



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Address Correction Requested

