

DECEMBER 2023, ISSUE 2

# The Inland Inkspot

Inland Empire Society for Calligraphy Quarterly Newsletter



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## Inland Empire Board Members

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**Alessandra Kawakubo**

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**Cindy Jones Lantier**

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## From the President's Desk

Can you believe it's already the end of 2023? I hope you all have enjoyed this past year as much as I have.

We have a team working with Alessandra to draw up a great roster of events for 2024. (Alessandra still does almost all the work.) We'll send announcements, but you can always keep your eye on our website's calendar. By the way, we'd love to add a quarterly in-person event, but we need a volunteer to help us coordinate them. We will train you! We'd also like to have someone to help with our three hour programs. Alessandra could really use the help! We're looking forward to January's workshop with Rosemary Buczek. Alessandra knows how to find talented artists and instructors!

The Inland Empire has a great team—besides Alessandra, we have Syeda, who records our meeting minutes; Caroline, who with her brilliant husband, handles our finances; and Cindy, who is doing a fantastic job with our newsletter. We invite each of you to consider contributing a little time to help out. We could use an exhibits chairperson, and a membership coordinator. Please contact me, if you'd like more information. You don't have to be local!

Are you planning to enter a piece into the Society for Calligraphy's 50th anniversary exhibit? We're aiming to arrange a virtual exhibit, as well as an in-person event. Don't put it off too long—you have time to make more than one piece. You can enter your favorite one, or multiple pieces!

If you're local, we're working on a celebration party! More plans will be announced as we firm up the venue and arrangements. And, if you're not local, maybe you want to visit! Right now, we're looking at summertime.

I'd love to hear who all is planning to go to the Roman Holiday International Calligraphy Conference in summer of 2024. Send me an email at [societyforcalligraphyevents@gmail.com](mailto:societyforcalligraphyevents@gmail.com). I wish everyone a wonderful 2024! Let's make beautiful art!

Kristi

# In the Spotlight: Elaine Sartain



Elaine Sartain

## **Tell us a little about yourself. What do you do in life (work, hobbies, family)?**

I am a wife, mother, and soon-to-be grandmother. I taught elementary school for a quarter of a century and, for the last ten years, have worked as controller at my family's creamery. I'm blessed to get to work with members of my family every day.

## **How did you get into calligraphy?**

I purchased a calligraphy kit many years ago, but I couldn't understand how to use the tools. When I changed careers, one of the things I missed most was teaching cursive. One of the things I did not miss was having hours of homework to grade each night. Now I had time to study and figure out how to use those calligraphy tools. I wanted to be able to address beautiful envelopes.

## **What made you get involved with Society for Calligraphy and the IE/PV chapter, specifically?**

I was very intimidated to join SfC. I thought you needed to be a calligrapher to join. One of my nieces followed Nina Tran on Instagram and recommended I follow her. I began watching Nina's weekly demos and saw that she was teaching Copperplate basics just a few miles from my home for SfC IE/PV. I couldn't pass that opportunity up and stepped out of my comfort zone. That day, I met incredibly talented people who generously shared their experience and enthusiasm for writing with me. There were people of all skill levels in that class and everyone was learning and having fun.

## **What is your favorite hand and why?**

Copperplate was my first love, but Spencerian has become another favorite. I like that these hands are composed of a set of strokes and have rules that if followed, allow you to compose beautifully flourished pieces.

## **Are there certain calligraphers who influence or inspire you – and who are they?**

I first admired Suzanne Cunningham's and Younghae Chung's work on Instagram, but Nina Tran's and David Grimes's courses have been most influential in teaching me the history behind scripts, their rules, and how to study other hands. I tend to paint realistically, and Anne Elser has helped me break free of that, and she's taught me to make structures to hold my tools and work. Thanks to Zoom, I've been blessed to learn from other amazing calligraphers including Michael Sull, Rosemary Buczek, Yukimi Anand, Heather Held, Eleanor Winters, and Pat Blair. I've also been very inspired by other members of SfC as I see work they create in workshops.



Artwork by Elaine Sartain



Artwork by Elaine Sartain

### What are you currently studying or working on?

I've wanted to learn italic so was excited to take *Let's get Italicized! Master the Basics of Italic Calligraphy* with Elmo Van Slingerland. I was never very interested in broad edged scripts, but they are growing on me.

### What have been some of your challenges in calligraphy? How did you overcome them?

I love to learn and have been taking a lot of classes. I've wanted to learn the rules of scripts and develop good habits, and I've always been a rule follower, but I'm starting to want to reach out more on my own and break the rules to develop my own style. I'm good at copying someone else's design, but I want to create more on my own. Finding time to practice and create pieces is also a challenge. That's one of the reasons most of my work is faith based. I can incorporate calligraphy with Bible study and worship. I've

found it helpful to set aside a few minutes each day to write a quote or verse.

### Is there a favorite resource and/or calligraphy tool that you'd really love to share with everyone?

My favorite tools are my eraser and my pointed nibs, but one of the most exciting parts of calligraphy for me is learning how to use new tools. Until a few years ago, I'd never seen anyone use different nibs like a Speedball B, or a ruling pen, automatic pen, or Kemper tool. There's so much to learn. It's exciting.

### Any tips for beginners?

I encourage beginners to join their local guild and not be afraid to make mistakes. Guild workshops are affordable, and every one I've attended has had talented instructors and classmates who have inspired and cheered me on.

### What inspires you artistically?

Scripture and spending time outdoors are sources of artistic inspiration, but I am also grateful for Instagram and YouTube because they've exposed me to talented artists and their work.

### What are the most rewarding parts of calligraphy for you?

It's rewarding to look back over my work and see growth and to I feel like a piece I've created is good enough to frame and hang on a wall or give to a loved one. When someone asks, "Did you make that?" it makes the time invested worth it.

### Outside of calligraphy, what other hobbies or interests do you have?

I love crafts and enjoy watercolor, bookbinding, decorating cookies, and crocheting. I also like to read, travel, and spend time with my family and friends.

Artwork by Elaine Sartain



# In Memorium

## John Michael Rafter

John Michael Rafter, was a beloved calligraphy instructor through Mount San Antonio College. He also taught Tai Chi—many of his students took both subjects! His classes were so popular that more sessions were added. He spread the love of calligraphy in both Wednesday and Friday afternoon calligraphy classes and both were full. Some of his students had been with him 43 years! We all made new friends or got to know old friends better.

John's teaching was old-school, he would go around the room and sit with every student, taking plenty of time to demonstrate to each individual how to write each letter. That took quite awhile, since his classes were large, but I personally thought it gave me lots of time to practice! I learned calligraphy hands from him, that I had never learned elsewhere, including the most beautiful form of italic I have ever written. He had discovered it on a trip to Spain. (It was also prevalent in Italy.) He dubbed it "Spanish Roundhand". We've included a historic exemplar.

John was very proud of the fact that he had studied in a year-long course with Donald Jackson before SfC was formed. (For Tai Chi, he also studied with a master.) In class, he would continuously give credit to Donald for teaching him helpful techniques. John was deaf, so he didn't initially join groups like SfC, but he did muster his students to attend lectures on the St John's Bible or to spend time at SfC's exhibit at the Bowers Museum. He encouraged his students to attend SfC's pre-workshop lectures and to take our classroom tour at our Letters California Style conference.

One of my favorite parts of class was getting there, via carpool with Jenny Allen. We enjoyed making new friends in class. We met Judy Scott and Rosana Ang—they became IE Treasurer and SfC Workshop coordinator, respectively. Later, we met Caroline Arakaki—she later joined our guild and recently became our IE treasurer! We also met JoAnn Nakamura and Joyce Nakano—JoAnn and I now walk our dogs together and Joyce sometimes joins us.

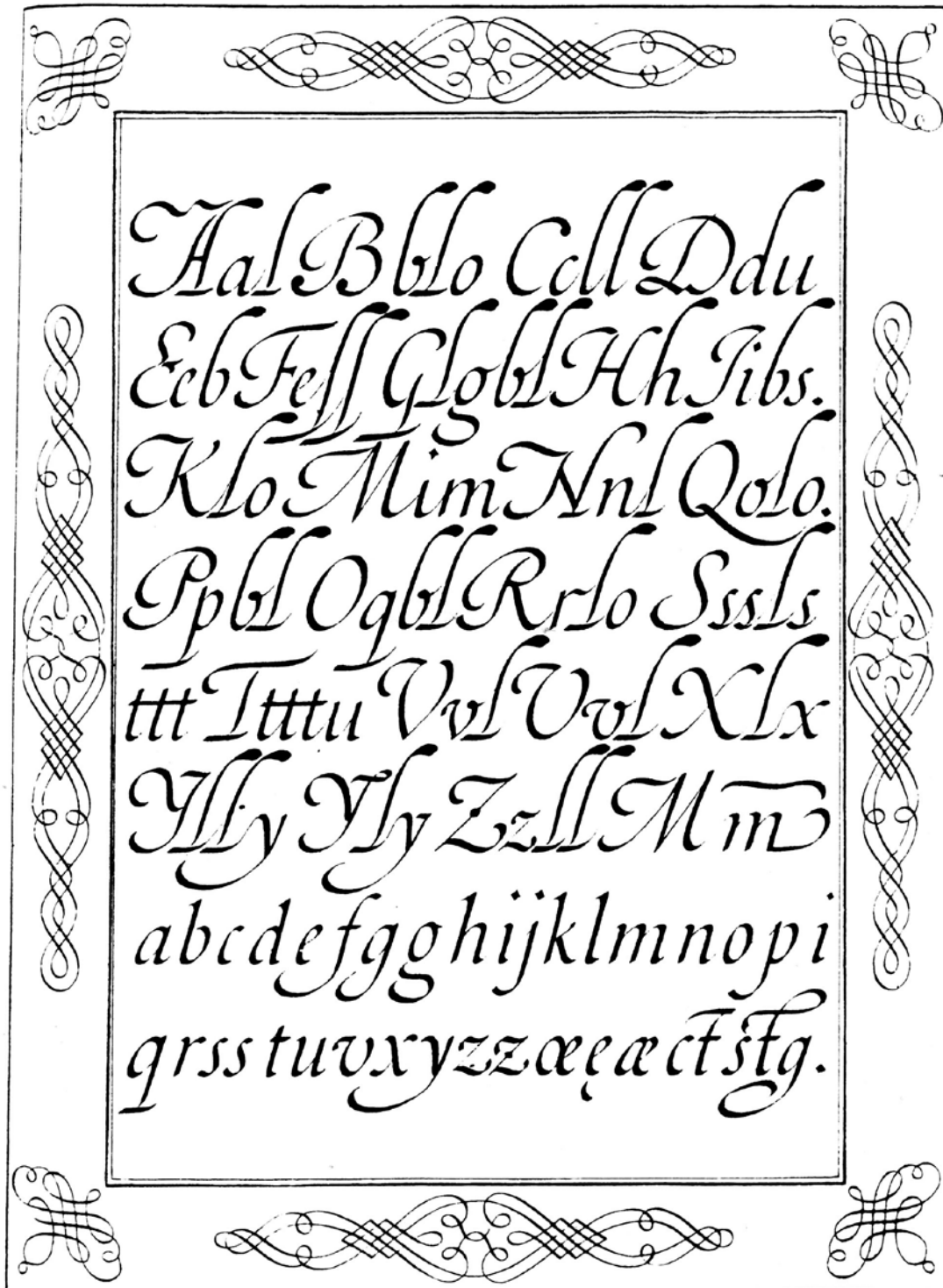
John was deaf, and listened to his students by reading lips. So, when the pandemic moved classes online, he could no longer easily see his students asking questions and he decided it was time to retire. He spent the years of the pandemic, refreshing his house—repairs, new roof, new paint, removing unnecessary clutter. He was well-liked in his neighborhood and was loved there as well. His neighbors helped him with some of the construction work that was beyond his own skills.

John, you are missed by many.

– Kristi Darwick



Back left to right: Charles Yoon, John Rafter (Honorary Member, deceased), Lee Gurwell, June Rosales, Judy Scott (member), JoAnn Nakamura (member), Joyce Nakano (member), Jenny Allen (member), Rosana Ang, Kristi Darwick (member)



Francisco Xavier de Santiago Palomares: Arte Nueva de Escribir. Madrid, 1776. Page 49. State Art Library, Berlin.

From Others:

John Rafter was my first calligraphy teacher. He studied under Donald Jackson, the creative director of the St. John's Bible. John was a great calligrapher, teacher and respected by his students. He will be truly missed.

With deepest sympathy.

-- Jenny Allen

I first met John in Donald Jackson's year long Calligraphy class as a fellow student. I remember him as a very nice person. He and I both went on to teach Calligraphy to adult students. When everything went online because of Covid, he decided to stop teaching Calligraphy and to concentrate more on his Tai Chi and such. I inherited some of his wonderful students who were sad that he wouldn't be their teacher anymore. We had been in touch since then. He will be missed.

-- Janet Martorello

John M. Rafter will be remembered as a sweet kind man who was dedicated to his calligraphy students. His gentle nature and patience revered him as a well-respected and beloved teacher. His spirit and gentleness will live on in the inspiration he gave us to continue to practice and create and share with others.

-- Caroline Arakaki

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We want to acknowledge the passing of SfC's beloved founding members, Larry and Marsha Brady, on December 9, 2023. If you would like to write about their impact on you, please feel free to send your tribute words to Kristi at [societyforcalligraphevents@gmail.com](mailto:societyforcalligraphevents@gmail.com). We will collect and feature those in our next issue of "The Inland Inkspot" (Inland Empire) or "The Creative Hand" (San Diego). Both newsletters will be distributed to members of those sister chapters.

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## Carol Walls

During the pandemic, Carol Walls became a member of both the Inland Empire and San Diego chapters. She tuned in via Zoom, from Vancouver. She also attended online classes with Annie Lawrence. It was great to keep in touch with her, if only via the screen!

I first met Carol in 2011, when I stayed in the Vancouver area with another SfC member, Laura Eriksson. Carol was fairly new to living in Vancouver, having relocated from Houston. She was wonderfully welcoming to everyone who entered her orbit.

Carol invited me to come back to stay with her. We kept in touch via annual Christmas cards, although I will say that my own card-sending is spotty, at best. Her cards always featured her gorgeous photography from the fantastic places she and Cooper had visited.

Since then, I had tried to arrange a multi-city trip, which would include a visit to Carol and her wonderful husband, Cooper. Somehow, it never worked out. However, in April 2023, I did manage it and I'm so grateful that I did! My stay in Vancouver was the last stop after time spent with friends in three Washington cities.

Staying with Carol and Cooper was like staying in a very posh hotel—complete with a gorgeous guest suite and fantastic artwork throughout the house. Really, it was much better than a hotel, because they were such attentive hosts. Carol invited local calligraphy friends for art-making, lunch, and celebrating Laura's birthday with cake! We had a fantastic time making art together.

I was there only a couple of days and Carol invited me to come back to stay longer. I had thought I would.

I was crushed to receive the news of Carol's cancer diagnosis. We lost her on November 1.

– Kristi Darwick



## Carol Walls brought new color into my life!

Not only did Carol live her amazing story colourfully and kindly; she passed on her passion for goodness and art to others. She often invited us into her beautiful studio so that we could learn and become richer because of friendship, rooted in 'making together'.

I was fortunate to be touched by Carol's passion for living and learning. We were curious together, and she would often say, "so where's our next adventure?" We explored the best places to buy lavender for our gardens and linens for her patio. We gathered the colorful fruits from the Okanagan and she learned the art of "preserving the gold and glory of ripe peaches" in my happy kitchen.

Carol initiated a regular study group of five, where we would introduce 'new art projects' to each other. Carol often pushed me beyond my comfort zones, as she was a prolific artist and I felt like the newbie. We tasted the exquisite hospitality which she and Cooper offered us— ever generous and always gracious.

My last visits with Carol were tender and tough. I could not grasp that this 'dynamic maker' was giving her paintbrushes a sabbatical, after painting daily for many years in her beautiful Journals.

Carol has left gems in hand-made-books, and treasured-memories in the lives of her warm friendships.

I give great thanks for Carol's 'Canadian years'. She was to us a beloved star.

— Laura Eriksson



Laura Eriksson (member), Wendy Cowley, Kristi Darwick (member), and Violet Smythe



# IS THIS YOU?



## Programs/Workshops Chairperson and Team Members - Online

These tasks may be split up, depending on technical skills, and time our volunteer is willing/able to devote. We can find members to help with 1) creating webpage content; 2) sending contract/forms for signature, digitally or via USPS; 3) handling Zoom and/or Padlet.

Team members assist Chairperson, as needed—can handle all tasks, or specific tasks. Only Chairperson signs contracts.

Work with rest of team to select teachers/lecturers to recommend to board – working up to a year ahead. Workshop subjects should be based on a well-rounded curriculum for our members. Post Some computer & email capability is necessary.

Contact instructors to invite them to teach. Agree on topic, dates, fees. Procure signed contract and tax form, as well as publicity materials, and handouts, including supply list.

If in-person, check venue for availability and coordinate contract. Work with treasurer for payment.

Work with our computer people to post publicity and distribute email notices. (We can train coordinator to do this, if desired.)

Track registration and payments via our computer system. Forward any checks to Treasurer (or deposit yourself)

Work with Zoom coordinator to facilitate workshop and recording (we can train coordinator, if desired). Coordinate use of Padlet when appropriate

Chairperson attends Board meetings

Coordinate with Treasurer to pay instructor.

## IE Exhibits Chairperson Job Description

Note: recently, our exhibits have been online, so rather than finding a venue; hanging pieces, decorating; and creating posters, this is conducted as a slide show on our website. A graphic artist can assist with creating the slides, as needed. We've done this several times and can help a new exhibit Chairperson through the process. If you are curious about this position, please contact Kristi at [sdpres@societyforcalligraphy.org](mailto:sdpres@societyforcalligraphy.org).

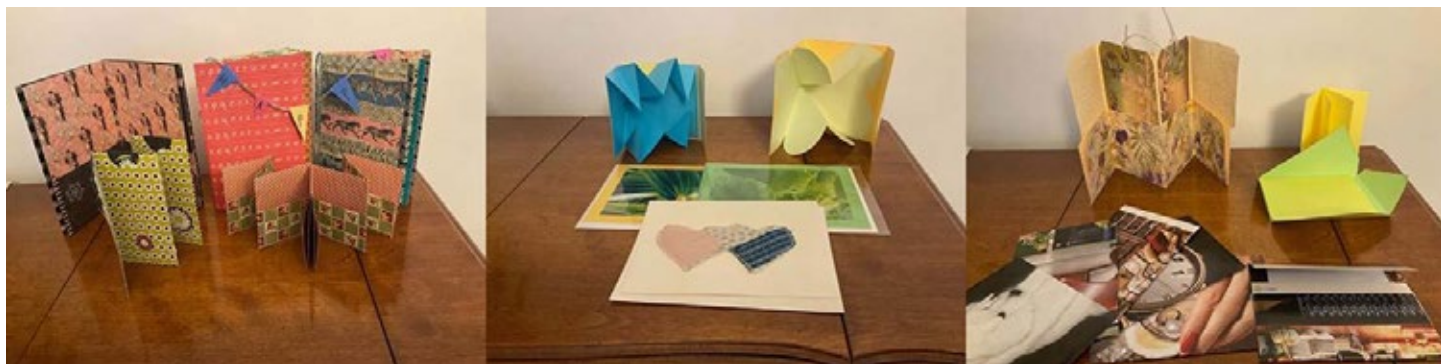
### Exhibit Chairperson

The position of Exhibit Chair is to coordinate with venue, SfC Board, Members and Volunteers to help with the exhibit. This is usually started six months to one year in advance. Call for Entries should go out 2-3 months prior to event. Announce a "save the date" time and place of venue periodically to remind members of upcoming event.

- Conducts an exhibit every other year. These exhibits are usually not juried.
- The Exhibits Chair contacts venues for exhibit space, produces publicity items and makes all arrangements for exhibits and organizes a committee to help with these tasks.
- The exhibit will have an opening reception and several demonstrations. All activities are coordinated under this committee.
- Exhibits Chair and Committee are responsible for planning, budgeting and mounting major exhibits of members' works at times agreed upon by the Board of Governors.
- Mounting an exhibit includes:
  - \* Notifying members and obtaining maximum participation
  - \* Preparing the call for entries
  - \* Coordination of hanging, labeling, arranging for demonstrations, assuring security, its cost, or announcing its limitations
  - \* Assisting with publicity
  - \* Designing and placing decorations, posters, invitations, etc.
  - \* Obtaining attendants and scheduling their presence
  - \* Return of entries to members
- Attend board meetings



## LEARN NEW TECHNIQUES FOR CARDS & ENVELOPES, Online With Marjorie Grace-Sayers October 28, 2023



Marjorie Grace-Sayer's "Learn New Techniques for Cards & Envelopes" Zoom class was terrific! I hope you all enjoyed her teaching style. She allowed her students to ask for more time and to take notes as she instructed us through a dozen creative cards! It was amazing what she covered in a short presentation! She started with a single, then built up to a triple-fold card. She covered the Gate Fold, eight-section card, and then the Turkish Map Fold. She even taught us the pamphlet stitch. Loved it! I made samples to refer to and look forward to trying many of the 12+ cards she taught us! Marjorie was a great presenter and her students' shared ideas and knowledge from their card making, so it was nice to be with others with similar interests! Hope to have more presented by her.

As a life-long crafter, Marjorie began studying calligraphy in 1999 with DeAnn Singh. She also studied and worked in watercolor, photography, handmade books, mixed-media, paper crafts, quilting, and needlework. Marjorie has taught art to students from preschool through seniors, as well as mini classes for Letters CA, Society for Calligraphy's annual Retreat, and at Designing Letters Studio. She is a retired music teacher and flutist with bachelor's and master's degrees in music from USC. Marjorie has been a member of the Society for Calligraphy for about 20 years and currently serves on the Board of Directors as Secretary.

– Caroline Arakaki, with Cindy Jones Lantier

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## Looking for Contributors!

We're looking for contributors who have recently attended an IE workshop to do a write up for future issues. A short recap of the class and what you learned along with a couple photos of your samples is what we're looking for. Also, if you are an expert on teaching a calligraphy-related project, useful software/app that others could learn from, we'd love to hear from you! If you're interested in contributing, please contact Cindy Jones Lantier at [newsletter.iesfc@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.iesfc@gmail.com).

## Contact Us!

If you have any questions, suggestions, comments, ideas or would like to be featured in future issues of the newsletter, please reach out to Cindy Jones Lantier at [newsletter.iesfc@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.iesfc@gmail.com).

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# Upcoming Events

## The Guided, Painted Letter and More with

Rosemary Buczek

Jan 13, 20, 27 & Feb 3 8:00 AM-10:00 AM - Online

(Rescheduled workshop)

We will look at the classic Versal letter, a letter so adaptable as to allow all sorts of decorative elements. We will focus on the use of 23K gold, drawing the versal letter and looking at the elements of the letter that make it so bold and unique. Then we will paint the letter in watercolor, paint its background, perhaps a diaper pattern or a damascene pattern, one of Rosemary's favorites. Then we will go beyond the letter and work on a simple vine to tie it all together.



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## Fractura with Victor Kams



*This workshop will be offered both in-person and online--Saturday-Sunday, February 24-25, 2024 9:30-4:30 PDT based at the home of member, Marsha Vanetsky in San Marcos.*

*For those who are able, the in-person experience is very special. We will coordinate an optional group dinner after class on the first evening. Online is offered for those not able to travel to San Marcos.*

### ABOUT THE WORKSHOP:

This class is the result of a series of studies and practices inspired mostly by the work of late German calligraphers Hans Schreiber and Hanns Thaddaus Hoyer, whose work was introduced to me by Carl Rohrs.

We build up these double stroke letters one stroke at a time, rather than limiting ourselves to the effects of a scroll pen. Our goal is to have more control over every little detail of each letter, like and how to start and end each stroke and the amount of space between strokes in certain parts of the letter.

For more information see the [SfC IE website](#).