

GIVING THANKS THROUGH CALLIGRAPHIC ART

THE CALLIGRAPHIC EXHIBIT AT THE BIBLICAL ARTS CENTER WAS A POWERFUL REMINDER OF JUST HOW TALENTED OUR MEMBERSHIP IS!

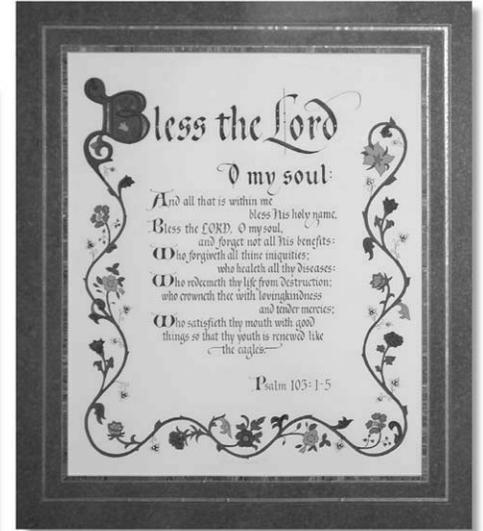
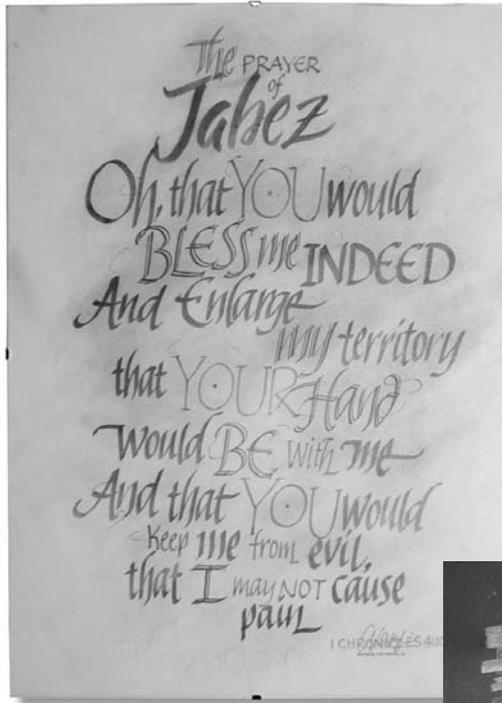
If you missed the November meeting at the Biblical Arts Center, you missed seeing some beautiful art produced by your fellow members. Although the exhibit was small, the pieces that were on exhibit ranged from traditional verses praising the

season to calligraphic interpretations that had been inspired by the 9/11 tragedy and our feelings of thanksgiving for living in such a great country as America. Although the few images I have chosen to share in this edition represent their work, you can never imagine the color and drama if you didn't see them in person. Perhaps we can get a web site going to help fill this kind of gap.



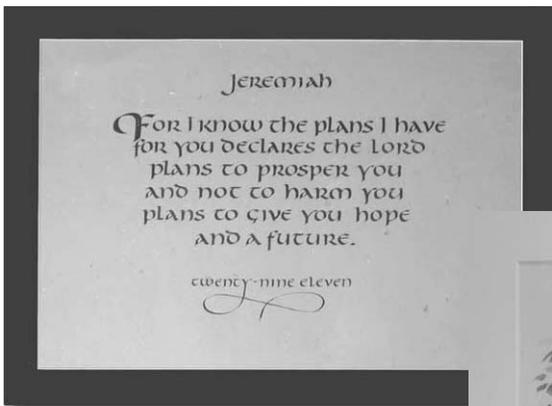
Wendy Howard

Angie Vangalis



Carol Measures Scott

Carol Measures Scott



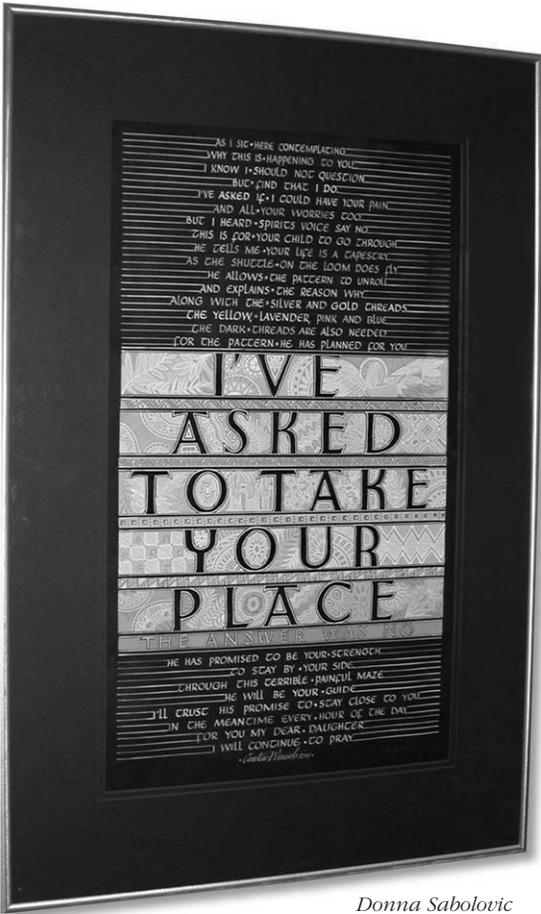
Angie Vangalis



Janell Wimberly

We are trying to get a web site organized. Keep your fingers crossed! You might be able to view these in color and even download a PDF catalog of all the art that was in the exhibit.

MEMBERS' THANKSGIVING EXHIBIT CONT.



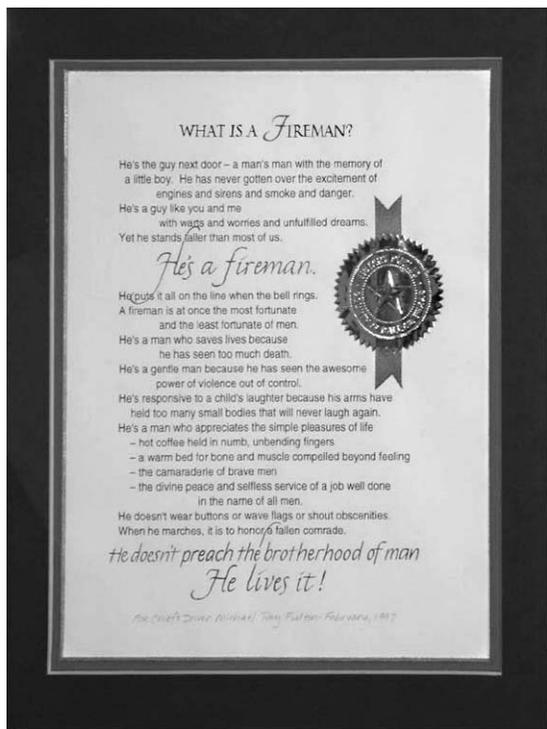
Donna Sabolovic



Terry Porter



Donna Sabolovic



Teri Fulton

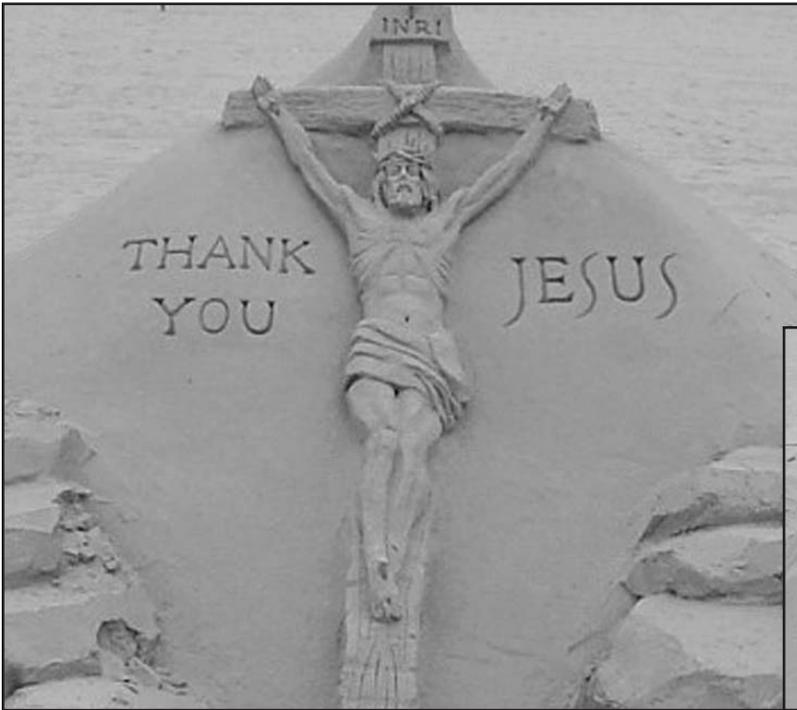


Janell Wimberly

NEW MEMBER

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BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!



I was sent these jpegs over the internet by an astute calligrapher who noticed the absolutely beautiful Roman Caps!

In stone, on vellum, Arches, with gouache or ink, now sand.

What a lovely thought—to be creating beautiful letters in the sand . . . *on a beach in Cancun!*



Information found & submitted by Teel Gray

WE'VE GOT THE GALL! IRON GALL INK THAT IS!

The very name itself conjures up images of some dark boiling medieval brew! That image may not be far from the truth. This wonderful and all but forgotten metallic pigmented ink can produce the finest hairlines and has a beautiful blue-black color. The color will in time become the warm sepia we have come to associate with ancient European manuscripts. The oxidative process brings about this color transformation. In other words, the inks' metallic pigment will literally rust.

There are references to a method of producing the ink for lettering as far back as the first century (AD). Contrast this to carbon based inks which can be found almost 5,000 years ago. Gall inks were extremely important to the recording of western civilization for centuries. Illustrious past devotees of this ink include Leonardo da Vinci (notebooks), the scores of J.S. Bach, Rembrandt, and others. Iron gall was the ink of choice for medieval manuscripts in Europe and was popular until the end of the 19th century when advances in chemistry and the improved availability of dyes allowed coloring alternatives to be developed. It is still around and used by some penman. Most notably, Brian Walker who also markets his own iron gall preparation as Walker's Copperplate Ink.

In the simplest terms Iron Gall Ink is a mixture of water, iron sulphate (vitriol), gum Arabic and tannin. Once you write with the ink and it is exposed to the air a blue-black, water insoluble metallic pigment is formed. The "gall" in its name comes from the galls that

are used for their rich source of tannins. These "galls" are formed by the tree in response to some insult such as a parasite. It should be noted that there are several types of galls. Oak galls are formed when a species of wasp lays its eggs within a twig. As the insect grows it feeds upon the tree causing the formation of the high tannin containing galls.

A 16th century treatise entitled "A Booke of Secrets" contains several iron gall ink recipes. Modern versions such as Walker's Copperplate Ink or Blots work wonderfully producing the finest hairlines. Although the ink is black, it is not the same intense black that is produced by Sumi. When first used it may startle you, as it starts light blue-grey, however, as it dries it becomes progressively more black.

It is a very corrosive ink. In order to prevent the premature precipitation of the pigment 'out of solution' it is necessary for the ink to be acidic. In other words, it has a low pH. Unfortunately, any attempt to reduce the acidity will result in the immediate precipitation of the pigment. Therefore, the life span of one's nibs is shortened depending on usage and care in washing nibs after use. The acidity of the ink causes it to 'bite' or strike into the writing surface. The result is a document that is difficult to alter. It guarded against 'creative' modifications and used for official documents of the German government into the 1970's.

A very popular ink in the US among past penmen was Arnold's Ink. This ink found favor with penmen such as E.A. Lupfer of the Zanerian College of Penmanship. Unfortunately it's no longer available. It was reported to be an ink that also had aniline dye added as a colorant. The dye made the ink easier to visualize during writing. Keep in mind that some commercially available gall inks such as Blot's will go on the paper as light grey in color. The ink line will then darken as the pigment precipitates and deposits on the surface.

If you have not already done so, you should experiment with this wonderful 'medieval brew' and have fun. To become a devotee of iron gall inks all one has to do is view a specimen of Brian Walker's remarkable Spencerian script and ornamental penmanship. Of course it does help to have the proper paper, nib and disciplined skill.

(this article has been paraphrased slightly to allow enough room for its printing)

Check out a site on web of the International Association of Master Penman, Engrossers and Teachers of Handwriting (IAMPETH) - a search engine should find it for you -

There is no meeting Decmeber. Tis the Season to be with your Family!

*But we'll see you in January for a retrospective of
Dick Beasley's Work*

presented through a collection of slides of his marvelous work

9:30 am / Art Encounter at Arapaho and Coit.



We are all thankful for our families and good health at this time of year, but on September 11, many families' lives were changed, especially the families of the firefighters. Take a moment and make a special card to show your appreciation and to honor those heroes. Send your card to the address listed below and it will be delivered to those that deserve thanks and holiday greetings.



NYC Fire Department • 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza • New York, NY 10005 *Thanks for the info Harriet Moore*

MONTHLY MEETINGS: (business & program) are open to the public and are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. / **MEMBERSHIP:** Open to anyone with an interest in letters. Annual dues are \$25 for individual - payable April 1st. Direct inquires to Carol Scott (972) 675-4569 / **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS:** Direct articles, pictures, art or ads to Janell Wimberly / 2621 Pin Oak, Plano, TX 75057 / (972) 519 1099 or fax (972) 519 1040 E mail to jwimberl@flash.net. Articles may be faxed or submitted as standard mail or digital files (Quark, PageMaker, Word, or as an e mail) send graphics as jpegs, tiffs or EPS files (Illustrator version 9 or less). Deadline for submission of articles and news is the 3rd Saturday of the month prior. / **KALIGRAFOS** is published 10 times annually. Publication of any article or advertisement does not imply endorsement by the guild or its officers. Direct all other inquires, general mailing and newsletter exchanges to: Kaligrafos, 818 Scottsdale, Richardson, TX 75081. © 2001, *Kaligrafos The Dallas Calligraphy Society. No reprints without permission.*

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KALIGRAFOS
THE DALLAS CALLIGRAPHY SOCIETY

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**Normally Kaligrafos does
not produce a newsletter
for December.**

This is our way of saying...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**a special
holiday
issue!**