

# Kaligrafos

NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 30 | ISSUE 4



[Fretz Park Recreation Center](#)  
(Click link to go to Google maps)

## The November meeting of Kaligrafos

Saturday, November 8, 2008

### ***FRETZ PARK LOCATION***

Fretz Park Recreational Building  
6950 Beltline Rd  
Dallas, TX  
SE Corner of Hillcrest and Beltline  
10:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Love Those Reds**  
*by*  
Debbie Worden

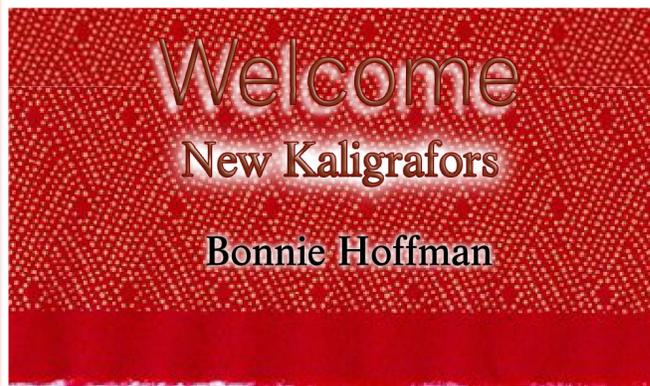
## Newbie Workshops

Are you new to the guild?  
new to the Copperplate hand?  
just want to polish your skills?  
or just hang out with us?  
Another Newbie Workshop  
is scheduled.

### *Newbie Workshop 2*

The *Copperplate Hand*  
taught by Donna Sabolovic  
is scheduled for  
Saturday, November 15th  
9 a.m. - 12 noon

Fretz Park Rec Center (Hillcrest and Beltline)  
Sign up at [dsabolovic\(at\)sbcbglobal.net](mailto:dsabolovic@sbcbglobal.net)



*Get your copies of Sweets & Scribbles this Saturday!*



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November 2008  
Volume 30 Issue 4

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by Kaligrafos,  
The Dallas Calligraphy Society

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**November Meeting Info**

Saturday, November 8, 2008  
10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
at  
Fretz Park  
6950 Beltline Rd  
Dallas, TX  
SE corner of  
Hillcrest and Beltline

– November program –  
**Love Those Reds**

This will be a unique opportunity to write a Scarlet letter and explore many other shades of red writing.

Please bring the following items:

- Your favorite broad edge nib and holder
- Your favorite pointed nib and holder
- Papers that you like - scrap pieces are fine (Arches text wove, watercolor, Nideggan, Frankfurt, anything you use often).

**Show and Share**

Please bring any new work you have to show whether in process or complete and share it with us. You may also ask for suggestions from the crowd but this is not required. Input from others can get the creative juices flowing again.

# President's Letter

It is always exciting to learn a new application for beautiful lettering. At our October meeting Janell Wimberly presented a wonderful program on "Calligraphy and Glass Etching", a process new to many. She walked us through the etching technique with handouts and clear instruction and...VOILA! Lovely pieces of etched glass appeared! Thanks also to Janell's great team: Brenda Brisco, Peggy Dawson and Jeri Wright.

**Future Programs**

- November:** "Love Those Reds", Red, Metallic and Other Inks
- January:** Photoshop for Calligraphers
- February:** Party/Card Exchange
- March:** "White on White" & "Rosie Kelly Paste Books" Conference Review
- April:** Garden Journal
- May:** TBA

While glass etching was a start for holiday ideas, you will find more creative answers to your holiday gift needs at our November meeting. Kaligrafos will host a **Holiday Bazaar** featuring members' work on Saturday, **November 8th**. Be sure to get there early for best selection. Embroidered aprons and totes, as well as Sweets & Scribbles cookbooks will also be available for purchase.

The program for November is "Love Those Reds", and will provide an extremely useful exercise for all calligraphers. Everyone will get the opportunity to try out a wide variety of red writing fluids and bring home an invaluable reference for any project requiring the use of a red hue. Join us at the Fretz Park location November 8th.

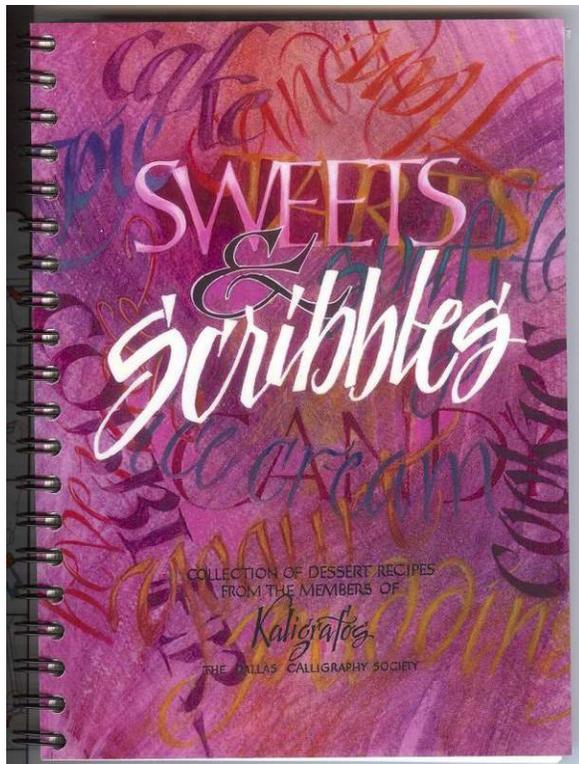
I have received favorable reviews regarding the use of Fretz Park as a meeting site, but due to booking conflicts, Kaligrafos will be returning to Artists Showplace (Southwest corner of Coit and Arapaho) when we resume after the holidays. Beginning January 2009 we will again meet monthly at our previous location. Of course February will be an exception as our annual Valentines Party, February 14th, will once again be held at the lovely home of Sherry Barber. We thank her for her generous hospitality. Invitations and more information will follow as we get closer to the date.

Don't miss the opportunity to attend a "Newbie Copperplate Workshop" offered by our queen of Copperplate, Donna Sabolovic, on November 15th, 9:00 am-noon at Fretz Park. These "Newbie" workshops are complimentary to any and all of our members, new and old. Please contact Donna if you wish to attend.

Randy Stewart and his committee (Sherry Barber, Louise Weber, Margaret Mall and Nicole Black) have been moving rapidly forward with the **web transition**. Any members who are teaching calligraphy and related classes are welcome to post their class information. Please submit that information to Sherry Barber.

I wish each of you and your families a blessed holiday season and look forward to sharing new calligraphic adventures with you in the new year.

...Kathy Setina



## Sweets & Scribbles

If you didn't already know, "Sweets & Scribbles", our new cookbook, is hot off the press and is fantastic. It is already in its **THIRD** printing. Be sure to get yours!

**!! This is the last meeting before Christmas !!**

**!!! Don't forget your checkbook !!!**

Use order form on the back page of the newsletter to purchase

or

Contact Paula Van Wagoner

*When two men in business always agree, one of them is unnecessary.*

*William Wrigley Jr. (1861 - 1932)*

*You have to know how to accept rejection and reject acceptance.*

*Ray Bradbury (1920 - ), advice to writers*

**Editor's Corner** Send newsletter ideas, suggestions, critiques, articles, pictures, etc. to Randy Stewart at [mrwhiskerss\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:mrwhiskerss(at)gmail.com) or bring them to the next meeting. Try your hand at writing, you might be better than you think. If something interests you it will probably interest others.

**Email:** To protect email addresses from spammers, (at) is used in the address instead of @. When you actually use the email address simply replace (at) with @ to make it work.

## Funky and Fresh

### Kaligrafos Fall Envelope Exchange

A reminder for those who signed up for the fall exchange. This time we are going to have a theme - "Funky and Fresh" and let's return the focus to the Envelope. Creativity is the name of the game! You are welcome to incorporate other crafts into your monthly mailing but we also want to see some great lettering this go round!

Please create an originally designed and decorated Envelope for each member of your group. Then mail one to each person in your group before the month's end. In turn, you'll receive one of theirs. The commitment is for the months of September, October and November.

...Nicole Black

**Mini Auction** Do you have tools, paper or supplies you bought but no longer use? (Or maybe never used?) Do you have some calligraphy work you are willing to let move to a new home?

Bring it to Mini-Auction table at the next Kaligrafos meeting! Please specify if you think a minimum bid should be met. Unpriced items will be available for "best offer" donation.

All proceeds from the auction go to Kaligrafos to offset the expenses of hosting the Southwest Calligraphy Conference in Dallas this January. The conference is a leadership meeting of the nine guilds in our region – where we share ideas to give you a better guild experience!

## 2008-2009

### KALIGRAFOS KALENDAR

#### GENERAL MEETINGS

Sat. Nov. 8, 2008	10:00 am at Fretz Park
Sat. Jan. 10, 2009	10:00 am at Artists Showplace
Sat. Feb. 14, 2009	10:00 am at Home of Sherry Barber
Sat. Mar. 14, 2009	10:00 am at Artists Showplace
Sat. Apr. 11, 2009	10:00 am at Artists Showplace
Sat. May. 9, 2009	10:00 am at Artists Showplace

#### BOARD MEETINGS

Sun. Jan. 4, 2009	3:00 pm
Sun. Mar. 1, 2009	3:00 pm
Sun. Apr. 5, 2009	3:00 pm

#### WORKSHOPS

Sat. Nov. 8, 2008	1:00 pm Carrie Imai at Irving Ctr for the Arts
Sat. Nov. 9, 2008	9:30 am Carrie Imai at Irving Ctr for the Arts
Sat. Nov. 15, 2008	9:00 am Newbie Copperplate at Fretz Park

#### SOUTHWEST CALLIGRAPHY CONFERENCE

Fri. Jan. 23, 2009	5:00pm - 10:00pm
Sat. Jan. 24, 2009	9:00am - Noon

See more details about workshops and local classes on the back page

# November Program

## Love Those Reds



Have you ever paid good money for a writing fluid and then been disappointed by its performance? Do you ever wish you could open a tube of gouache or a bottle of ink in the store and test it out before you buy? If so, the November meeting is your answer! We will learn about and test more than 20 fabulous RED fluids. You will leave with reference pages containing color swatches, technical info concerning lightfastness and your own personal comments and ratings about the "feel" of the inks.

The next time you have a project that calls for red, you can eliminate the guesswork and get the results you desire.

*Please bring the following items:* your favorite broad edge nib and holder, your favorite pointed nib and holder, papers that you like (scrap pieces are fine – Arches text wove, watercolor, Nideggan, Frankfurt, anything you use often.) ...Debbie Worden

## The Power of Red Ink

Red is supposedly the first color perceived by Man. Brain-injured persons suffering from temporary color-blindness start to perceive red before they are able to discern any other colors. Neolithic hunter peoples considered red to be the most important color, endowed with life-giving powers, and thus placed red ochre into graves of their deceased. This explains finds of skeletons embedded in up to 10 kg of powdered red ochre.

In the Ebers Papyrus, said to be the oldest complete book in existence (c.1550 B.C.), the color red was used for chapter headings, names of diseases, and weights and dosages of drugs. The Egyptians considered themselves the red race and applied red dye for emphasis. Writers of Egyptian papyri used a special red ink for nasty words.

Around the third Century A.D. the art of ink making underwent a revival, uncovering many of the ancient formulas. Vermilion red ink from cinnabar became popular and so did indigo blue ink. Specialist writers came from the East as far as Rome to illuminate manuscripts with metallic gold or silver and color. These authors had their own secret, jealously guarded ink recipes.

One secret recipe for making red ink was to grind vermilion (aka mercuric sulfide or cinnabar) and mix it with egg white and gum arabic. Another red ink was made from brazilwood chips infused in vinegar and mixed with gum arabic.

Red ink continued to be used extensively in medieval manuscripts. It was still the color of headings, titles and initials. It was also used for important days in the calendar, hence the expression "red-letter day".

Crimson, also known as Scarlet, came from an Armenian insect called Kermez. Kermez was a common red dye until the Spanish discovered a little beetle in Mexican cactus in the 1500s. Kermez fell out of use with the introduction of this cochineal beetle because cochineal red, or Carmine, was comparable in quality and color intensity to Crimson but it took *ten to twelve times* as much Kermez to produce Crimson.

Cochineal became a major New World export to Europe and many made their living trading this dye. The dried bugs looked like small pellets and the importers didn't know whether the little pellets were a berry, a bug, or a mineral. Carmine may be prepared from cochineal, by boiling the dried insects in water to extract the carminic acid. The resulting clear solution is then treated with alum, cream of tartar, stannous chloride, or potassium hydrogen oxalate and a red precipitate forms and is collected.

Historically red was expensive, so red fabrics were a sign of wealth and status. But in the middle of the 1800s cheap synthetic dyes were invented that caused the bottom to fall out of the bug market for red dyes and ink.

It has only been in the last hundred years that standards have been adopted for making ink. While some red is still made from the natural cochineal beetle, soluble aniline red is more often used today. However, time, light, humidity and heat affects aniline dyes, which cannot again be rendered legible again once faded. That is the principal reason permanent records still use black ink.

Four hundred years ago in 17th-century France, red was a color of power. Louis XIV put a little red into every step he took. His heels — which were quite high for a man — were not just red, but scarlet. Red was chic, flashy... and expensive.

A half-century after Louis XIV wore his red heels, Louis XV's fashion-loving, trend-setting mistress, Madame de Pompadour, fell in love with red. In her various chateaux, she covered sofas and beds with red-colored stripes and prints.

Today red is still the colored ink most in demand. Red is no longer expensive but red is flashy, red is royal, and red is powerful!

So, choose a color of power - choose Red!

.. Randy Stewart

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# Kaligrafos

## Holiday Gift Sale



Get a head start on the holidays - bring your shopping list and your friends to the November Kaligrafos meeting from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm at the Fretz Park Recreational Building 6950 Beltline Rd, Dallas, TX

Following the November Meeting the items set up for display will be available for sale from 12-1 p.m.

Bring finished pieces of work that you would like to sell. This may be broadsides, cards, books, various gift items.



RSVP to [sherry.barber\(at\)yemail.com](mailto:sherry.barber(at)yemail.com) for instructions on labeling the price and name identifier so that you may be paid promptly.

# Spotlight on ... Carol Scott

## How I got started in calligraphy

"Accidentally." I was brand new in Waco in 1983, and didn't know a soul. A calligraphy class was advertised at a church we had visited. I decided it would be a good way to meet people, so I enrolled. I always liked letters, writing and drawing. I thought calligraphy had to do with writing, but I wasn't sure until the first night of class! Took me about 10 minutes to be hooked for life. My first scratches with an Elegant Writer were thrilling, even if very immature.

## How I heard about Kaligrafos

Through the Southwest Calligraphy Conference. I started the Waco Calligraphy Guild in 1988 and we began attending SCC not too long after that as our guild got in touch with other guilds. I've met so many wonderful folks in the SCC guilds over the years.

## What keeps me coming back to Kaligrafos

There are lots of places to learn new art techniques. But, few of them offer calligraphic instruction and some of the art groups are cold and competitive in nature. Kaligrafos is full of warm, friendly, fun individuals who generously share their knowledge of calligraphy and other art techniques. We have such a wonderful group of members!

## My favorite hand

Ooooo, that's a hard one. It would be easier to name the ones I don't like, since I like

so many of them. I'm not a Batarde or Legende fan. I can do without Rustic. But, most other Western styles are lovely to me. OK, maybe I have a little bit of partiality toward Gothicized Italic.

## My favorite medium

Gouache, without a doubt. Love the velvety, rich color. Love the creamy flow and opaque qualities. I confess to being a gouache and ink junkie. I could work as a happy ink tester for some art company I think. Be sure to check out the terrific article Randy had in Sept. issue of the newsletter.

## My favorite tool

Broad-edged metal pens; Mitchell in all sizes, Speedball in larger sizes (C-0, 1, 2); I'm a newbie to the Parallel Pen



and I love it! I've been enjoying playing around with it recently. I'll do the pointed pen if I have to, but I loooooove the broad edge.

## What I do with my calligraphy

From place cards to prepared canvas and lots of things in between, I have used my calligraphy for exhibits, greeting cards, gifts and for customers. I enjoy learning new techniques and applications. Once was "awarded" the resident workshop junkie in the Waco Calligraphy Guild.

## What I'd tell a new calligrapher

Give yourself some more t\*i\*m\*e to experience this new skill. It's quick and easy to start in calligraphy; it takes years to develop, just like any other art, for example, music, dance or painting. Many adults are hard on themselves when they discover they aren't instantly proficient at calligraphy. I think many associate it closely with handwriting, which they find easy. But, they forget that they started writing decades ago and it took them many years to become proficient at it. I suppose many think that since they can write easily, that calligraphy will come naturally and quickly. If you date all your practice work and keep at least a representative amount of it, you will be very encouraged somewhere down the road when you hit the inevitable plateau in your growth. When you think you aren't getting any better, pull out some of that old dated work and see how far you've come.

## My family life

One handsome husband, two tremendous teens, one delightful dog, one beautiful bunny, and seven fabulous fish currently comprise the Scott household. I say currently, because the animal population is always in a state of flux. All of us love animals, and one child wants to be a vet.

## I've lived in the Dallas area

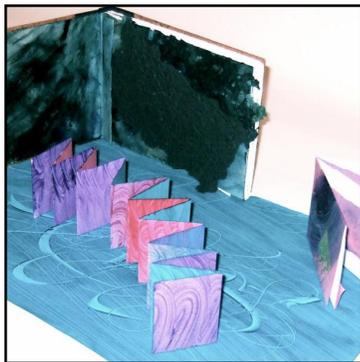
For almost ten years. I've enjoyed Kaligrafos every minute of it! I looked up Kaligrafos as soon as we got to town and jumped right in. Haven't regretted it one bit.

## In my "other life"

I'm a homeschool mom to one of my kiddos.

## My other interests

Visual arts group at our church, flowers, reading, Star Trek, old movies, thought-provoking movies like *Les Miserables*, *A Beautiful Mind*, *The Elephant Man*, *The Village*. Do I have to confess to liking the Marx Bros. and the Three Stooges?



## Harvey's Helpful Hints



An easy way to laminate a small piece is to lay the piece carefully on the sticky side of contact paper. Seal the back side and the ends by creasing the contact paper with a bone folder or burnisher.

Still trying to get rust off your nibs and wind up throwing them away? Here are two more ways which might remove rust:

**1.** Soak the rusty nibs in "Simple Green" for as long as you want. This is not a caustic solution. When you think they are as good as they will get after several hours, take them out, wipe them off and then use a brass bristle brush or Dremel rotary wire brush on them. This process will help a great deal.

**2.** The other method is to take 4 or 5 tea bags or teaspoons of tea leaves and boil in a pint of water for a few minutes. Let sit until cool and immerse the rusty nibs in this tannic acid solution for about 8 hours. The nibs will appear blue-grey, but with wiping and drying will retain their grey color. If the rust still persists use the rotary Dremel wire brush. If you do not have a Dremel tool – get one – they are great for all purposes and several attachments are available...no, I am not a Dremel salesman – just sold on the product.

To view some masterful script writing check out these sites:

[www.beyondwordscript.com](http://www.beyondwordscript.com) – Dr. John Decollibus

[www.lillyscript.com](http://www.lillyscript.com) – Bill Lilly

[www.zanerian.com](http://www.zanerian.com) – Dr. Joe Vitolo

If these sites don't whet your appetite for copperplate, bird flourishes and engrosser's script writing then you're hooked on the broad pen! But you'll have to agree that these samples are truly amazing!

Have you always wanted to make your own iron gall ink? Check out this site: [www.knaw.nl/ecpa/ink/make\\_ink.html](http://www.knaw.nl/ecpa/ink/make_ink.html), ... with several sets of ingredients and instructions listed.

GET A GRIP...Need something to help open screw-on lids or just help hold onto a slippery jar, etc.? Treat yourself to the rubberized drawer liners available at most craft and drug stores. Cut the size you want with scissors, grip the slippery or stuck thingy with a drawer liner in each hand and twist the lid off. This stuff comes in several colors by the foot. You'll wonder how you ever got along without a roll of this stuff on hand...

Need a sharp tip on your dull Exacto blade? For a quick fix just take a pair of pliers and snap-off the cutting tip of the dull blade. Voilla! You have another sharp tip to work with. This can be done several times depending on how much tip you snap off.

Keep a 10x loupe close at hand on your work table. This is an indispensable item to have close at hand for checking line joins, nib numbers and many other jobs at hand. You will become addicted to using one. There are types that come attached to a wire you can place on your head allowing you to free-up both hands as well as the standard hand-held loupe.

Till next month

Plano Harvey

## October Program Recap

Etching calligraphy onto glass turned out to be a fascinating way to exercise our artistic muscles. Our instructor, Janell Wimberly, expertly guided us past the potential hazards at each step. This resulted in some beautiful pieces etched before our eyes.

It may be difficult to see the etching in these pictures because the lighting has to be just right and camera phones are not high quality, but you can at least get an idea of the wide variety of items we produced. The meeting time flowed quickly but Janell kept us on track so that everyone left with some impressive etching.

Judging from my purchase of the next-to-last bottle of etching cream at the Hobby Lobby just up the street from Fretz Park, I suspect many members were itching to do more etching as much as I was. I think I should keep one of those Hobby Lobby coupons handy on meeting days from now on! ...Randy Stewart



# SWEETS & Scribbles

## ORDER BLANK

Get additional copies of *Sweets & Scribbles* by returning this order form with your check or money order to:

*Kaligrafos / PO Box 831118 / Richardson, TX 75083-1118*

or contact:

*Paula Van Wagoner at (972) 233-2253 (pvanwagoner(at)prodigy.net)*

Please send me \_\_\_ copies of *Sweets & Scribbles* at \$24 ea. plus \$5 ea. sh/hnd

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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### Workshops

Formal to Funky  
Two day workshop  
With Carrie Imai  
Saturday, Nov 8, 2008 1:00 PM to 6:30 PM  
Sunday, Nov 9, 2008 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM (Lunch provided)  
IRVING CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
2000 West Airport Fwy  
Irving, TX • 972-721-8063  
See pdf for complete details at:  
[www.kaligrafos.com/Activities/Workshops/Formal-to-Funky-November.html](http://www.kaligrafos.com/Activities/Workshops/Formal-to-Funky-November.html)

SWCC Early Bird \$85 by Oct 25  
\$105 after Oct 25, 2008

Intro to Calligraphy - Modern Italic 110 plus \$20 supply fee  
Mondays, Sep 15 through Nov 10 (no class Oct 6)  
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM  
Minimum/Maximum number of students: 5/12  
THEO, 15th & Custer, Plano  
Register NOW at [www.THEOonline.org](http://www.THEOonline.org)  
Taught by by Carol Scott

Private Lessons \$30/Hour  
Fall & Winter  
Afternoons  
My studio in Sachse  
Contact: Carol Scott  
[www.kaligrafos.com/Activities/Local-Classes/Private-Lessons.html](http://www.kaligrafos.com/Activities/Local-Classes/Private-Lessons.html)

### The Ten Cannots

- You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.*
  - You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.*
  - You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.*
  - You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.*
  - You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.*
  - You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.*
  - You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.*
  - You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.*
  - You cannot establish security on borrowed money.*
  - You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they will not do for themselves.*
- William J. H. Boetcker (1873 - 1962), published in 1916*

### Local Classes

Uncial Calligraphy \$58  
Saturdays beginning Oct 4, 2008 for 5 weeks  
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM  
Carpenter Park Recreation Center  
(Coit and Spring Creek, Plano)  
Contact Kathy Setina: [Kathysetina\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:Kathysetina(at)hotmail.com)

Tropical Flat Brush \$90  
Wednesdays, Nov 5, 12, 19, Dec 3  
(no class Thanksgiving week)  
Mornings 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM  
OR  
Evenings 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM  
Stamp Asylum  
Contact Donna Sabolovic: [dsabolovic\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:dsabolovic(at)sbcglobal.net)

Watercolor Class (on-going) \$20 per class  
Fridays 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM  
pay as you come, limited to 6 students  
Stamp Asylum  
Contact Donna Sabolovic: [dsabolovic\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:dsabolovic(at)sbcglobal.net)