

LETTERNEWS

The Society for Calligraphy & Handwriting



Happy
New Year

Pointed Pen by Laura Blaine

Winter-Spring 2021

PLEASE NOTE:

Because of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19, The Society of Calligraphy and Handwriting will meet virtually via Zoom for the 2020-2021 year. Members will receive a link via email before each meeting; the regular schedule of 7 PM on the third Thursday of the month from September through May, excluding December, will be maintained, unless notified otherwise.

Please stay safe and healthy! We hope to meet in person next year!

Reminder: SCH is invited to Mike Gold's talk to WOC, on January 12 at 5:30 PM. Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83209651979?pwd=Vy9wbXNDMXBkdnFSRnViQ3pYYXBFQT09>

Website: <http://calligraphysociety.org/>

Photographs this issue: Kathy Barker, Laura Blaine, Nancy Anderson, Lisa Leong-Tsang, and Nan Robkin

President's Message



First, I would like to thank all the people who renewed their memberships, signed up for workshops, or joined our guild as new members. You are the ones keeping us afloat! With new pandemic restrictions upon us, we hope you are managing the challenges and staying healthy. In another sense, we have been blessed by the explosion of calligraphic online content, a multitude of classes from top-tier instructors the world over; the mini-conferences, and art exhibitions posted by various organizations are a reminder that creativity and hope continue to thrive in our communities. Of course, it's not the same as meeting in person, but it is our current reality.

Our board met recently to discuss the future of SCH and how to continue. We've gotten feedback from a lot of members outside our state (and also those within Washington who have to drive more than an hour to get to our meetings) who have expressed their gratitude at being able to attend our meetings online, and have pleaded with us to find a way to continue doing so once we have a vaccine and it's safe to resume our normal lives. Just know that we are working on a solution. Learning a new way to communicate has opened doors but the memory of in person workshops and shared experiences will always be something we strive to return to. But for now, we can continue to identify the things that bring us happiness, and work on our creative lives accepting our failures as points of growth.

As we ready ourselves to step into 2021, I hope you can join our online meetings. Lose yourself in creativity for a couple of hours. Use your talents to send some love to our doctors and nurses, the front-line workers in service industries, and our teachers. I really appreciate the teachers who generously share their knowledge, you are all my heroes. Take out your pens and make a difference in someone's life. A friend who was hospitalized told me that my cards and letters really got him out of a deep depression. That handwritten card lets people know they are not forgotten and someone cares. More than a DM or email, getting beautiful correspondence elicits joy. Unlike a video chat, you can hold a letter, re-read the contents, and remember that feeling. This sentiment is beautifully expressed in Simon Garfield's book ***To the Letter: A Celebration of the Lost Art of Letter Writing***. Another good read is ***A Craftsman's Legacy*** (available through our local library, check yours) by Eric Gorges. The author got to spend some time interviewing artists and makers, including Jake Weidman, in chapter one. We get to enter the world of calligraphers, potters, stone carvers, glassblowers, engravers, woodworkers, and more-- accepting that perfection is an illusion and focus on doing what we love.

As we step into the new year, know that we appreciate you and look forward to beating this virus and being resilient!

Happy Holidays to you and your families.

Lisa Leong-Bang