

# Rogue Pens

The Calligraphers' Guild  
of Southern Oregon

[www.roguepens.org](http://www.roguepens.org)

Jan - Feb - March 2025



*Mandala by Danita Urban*

## From the President's/Editor's Desk

Greetings fellow Members, Earthlings and Et's. Welcome to Spring with all its flowers and weeds.

The year seems to be going fast. Our April Poetry Exhibit is on display at the Medford Public Library. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated in the setup and submitted artwork for it. Thanks to Joann Cleckner and Cynthia Griffin for working with the library to make this happen.

Thank you to Cynthia for providing demonstrations at the meetings this year. She is always well-organized, helpful and creative.

Congratulations to those members that answered the poetry challenges each month. Hopefully we all learned something about epigrams, elegies, acrostics and sonnets. The last one was a toughie!. This was also a good chance to use and improve your calligraphy skills. Looking forward to receiving your insults for April. :)

We will soon need to make decisions for the coming year at the Annual Planning Meeting in August. So think about what you would like to see happen in the Guild and what you would like to learn.

Hasta la vista, baby,

*Michael*

P.S. Remember that Zoom is always available for our meetings, for those who cannot attend in person. Zoom starts at 10:00 sharp as we only have a limited number of minutes available to us.



*Valentine sent by Eleanor Lippman*



There is no older:  
only  
more layers of  
perfection.



*Eleanor Lippman's epigram*



*Virginia Cook's Fraktur Book*



## Thank you

Thank you to the contributors of this issue of *RoguePens*: Danita Urban, Eleanor Lippman, Cynthia Griffin, Virginia Silbowitz, Patt Herdklotz, Joann Cleckner, Vicci Ewen, Steve Ostrander and your co-editors.





## January Meeting

Members at the January meeting participated in a drawing to make valentines for all the guild members, as a way to connect with those members we don't see very often. Included with the drawing of the names was a ticket for a gift basket donated by the guild. The basket contained a variety of card making supplies, treats and a valentine teddy bear. Eleanor Lippman was the lucky recipient.

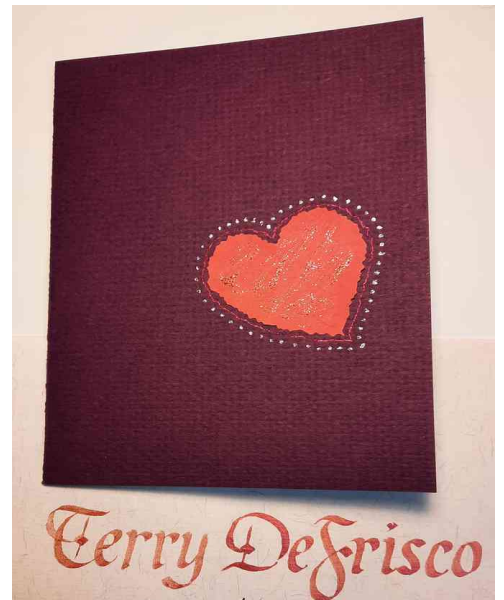
Cynthia Griffin demonstrated how to make a mini-valentine. She had pre-cut paper and all the supplies needed to make this cute little card.







Above: Valentines sent by Michael Rowbottom.

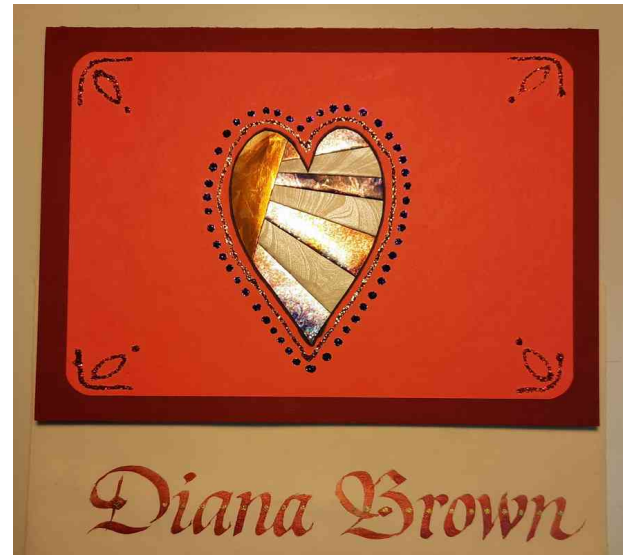


Terry DeFrisco

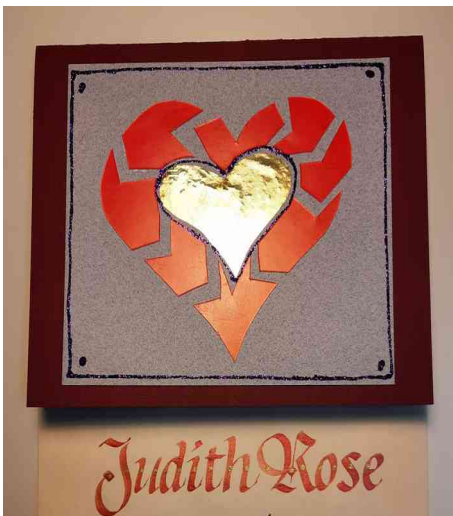
# HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!

A sampling of some of the valentines sent to guild members

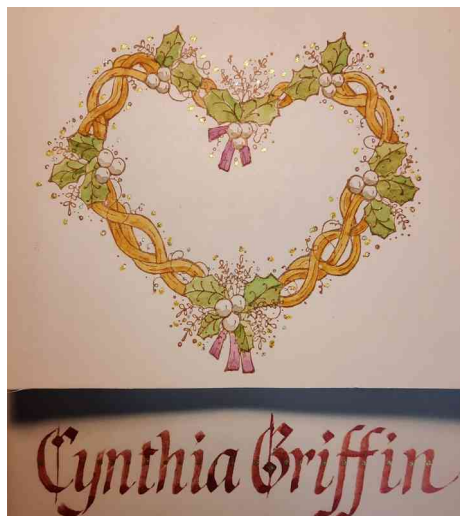
Below & Right: Valentines sent by JoAnn Evans



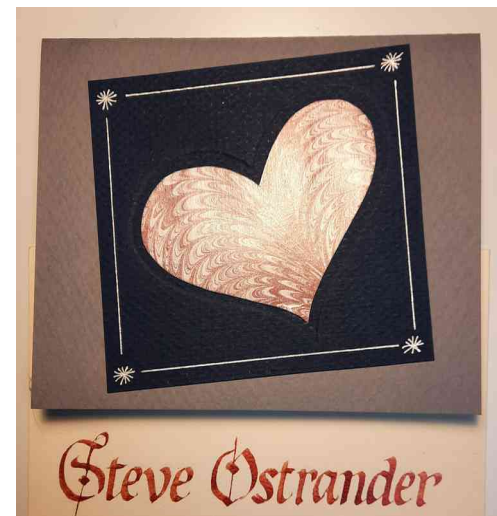
Diana Brown



Judith Rose



Cynthia Griffin



Steve Ostrander





## February Meeting

The poem style for February was Epigrams, which are pithy sayings or remarks expressing an idea in a clever or amusing way.

Cynthia Griffin demonstrated a clever way to make a glued book out of envelopes. She provided colorful envelopes for everyone.



PLEASE LET ME  
KNOW  
IF THERE'S ANY  
FURTHER TROUBLE  
I CAN GIVE YOU

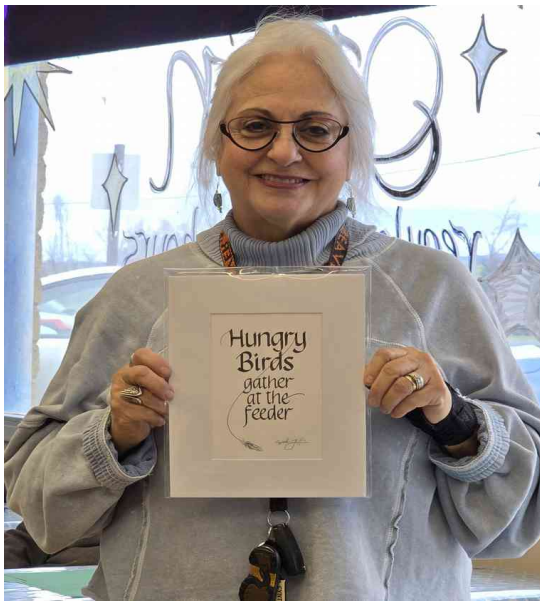
*Michael Rowbottom's epigram*



April showers  
tax deadlines  
computer  
meltdowns  
  
Wafting aromas  
tantalizing smell  
we're hungry

*Six-word stories by Eleanor Lippman*





Cynthia Griffin's six-word story.



Virginia Silbowitz's poem.

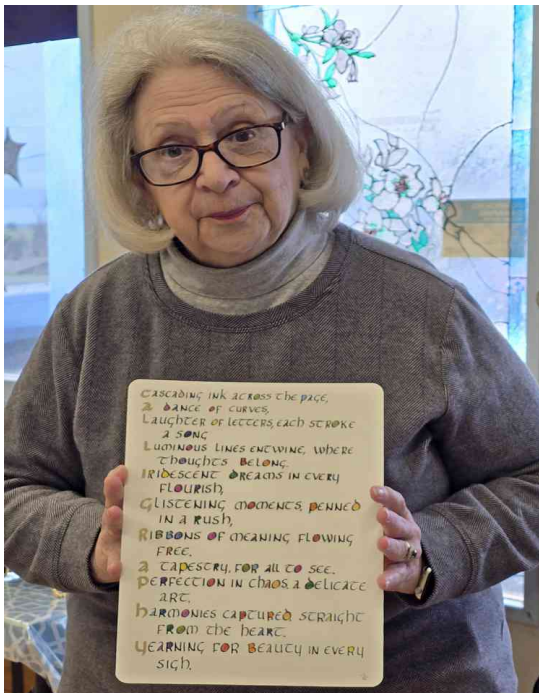


JoAnn Evans' elegy.

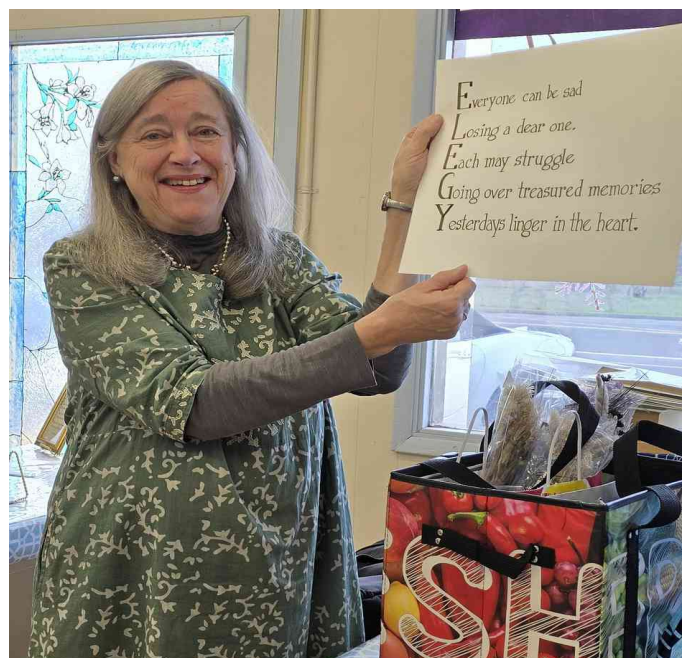
## March Meeting

The poetic styles for March were acrostic and elegy. Acrostic is a writing style that uses the first letters of each line to spell out a word. Each line refers or describes the word.

An elegy is a sad poem, usually written to praise and/or express sorrow for someone who is dead. It often laments or mourns the passing of a person or concept.



Joann Cleckner's acrostic was "calligraphy."



Patt Herdklotz's acrostic was "elegy."





The Calligraphers' Guild Exhibit at the Medford Public Library.

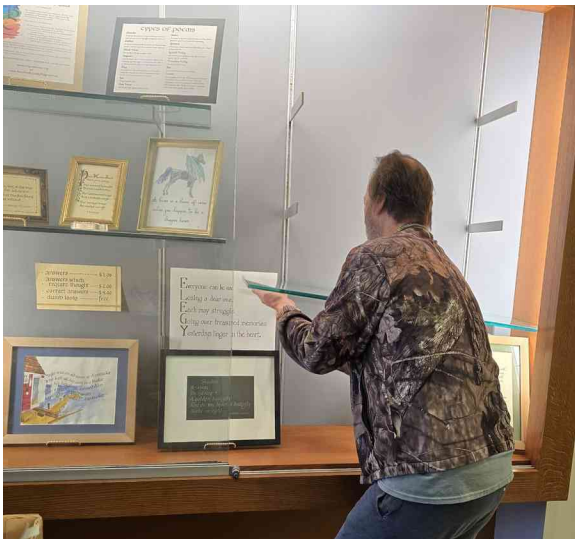
# April Library Exhibit

The Calligraphers' Guild is sponsoring a Poetry Exhibit for the month of April at the Medford Public Library.

This also celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Guild, which was formed in 1975 in Ashland by eight local calligraphers.

The exhibit features works by local calligraphers showing various styles of poetry.

President Michael Rowbottom adjusting shelves.



Exhibits Chair, Cynthia Griffin, planning the month-long exhibit.



# The Calligraphers' Guild

*Serving Southern Oregon*

presents

## "April is Poetry Month"

at the

Medford Public Library

(first floor exhibit case -- rear entrance)



April 1  
thru  
April 30

The Calligraphers' Guild was founded in 1975 and is celebrating their 50th Anniversary.

[www.roguepens.org](http://www.roguepens.org)





## Foundational Class

The Guild sponsored a Foundational Lettering Class at ScrappyCraft in Phoenix during February, March and April taught by JoAnn Evans.

All skill levels were represented and students chose to extend the class from four to eight weeks. The class also was attended by an online guild member in Merced.

Handouts were numerous and included inspiration pieces as well as the lettering exemplars. Variations on using the basic foundational hand were explored and used to create studio signs and finished pieces.

Pointed pen was introduced with Gwen Weaver's "Wascally Womans" lettering style. A pressure / release technique was also used with this style..

Studio tips were shared and the many aspects of paper were discussed. Types of paper, storage, usage, correcting mistakes, sample kits, conditioning new nibs, ink types, spacing, layout shortcuts and many other topics were covered in the short 8-week class.







## In Memoriam Virginia Cook

The Guild lost another long-time member, Virginia Cook. She was born July 2, 1940 and passed on January 25, 2025.

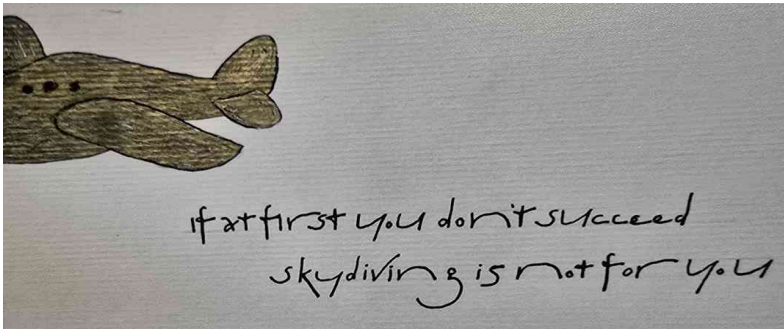
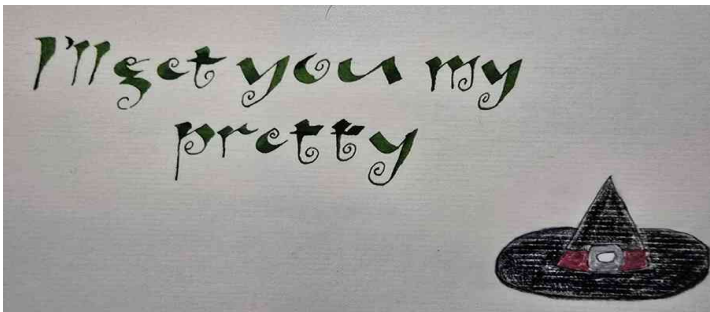
In her early years she danced on American Bandstand. One of her treasures was a brochure from the show with Dick Clark's photo on the front and his autograph inside.

She worked for SOS Care Packing for most of her adult life. Later, she volunteered for CASA and the helpline there.

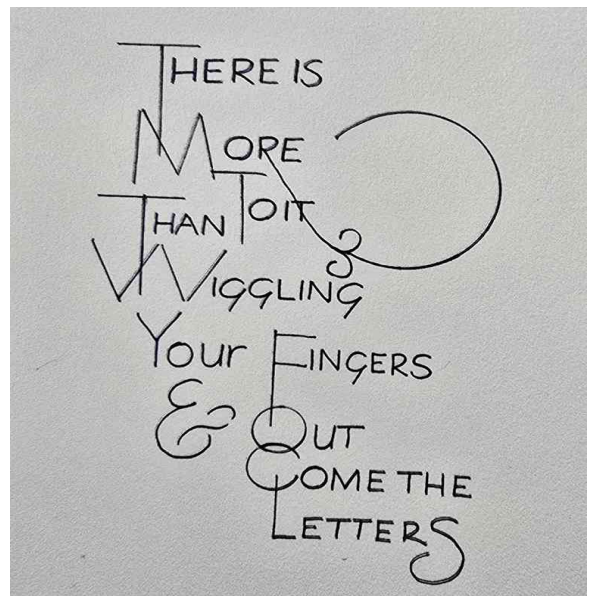
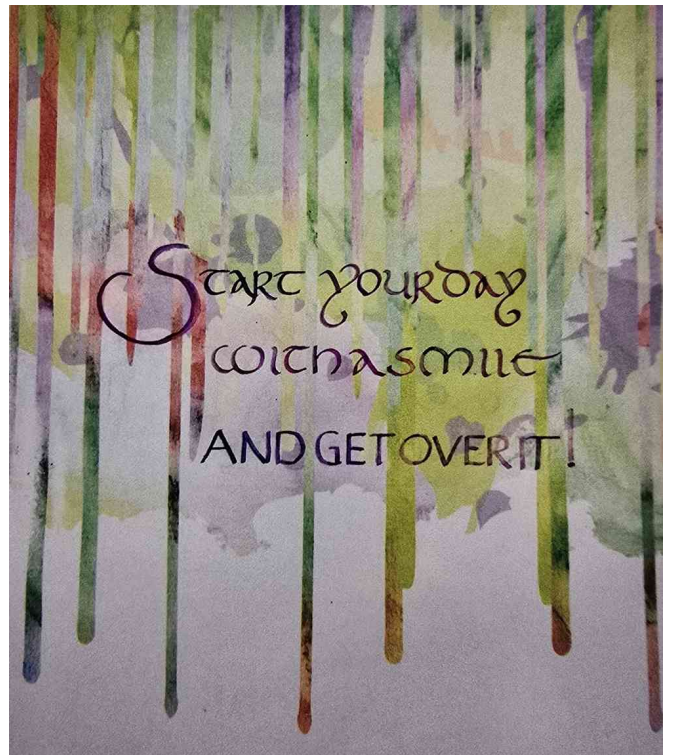
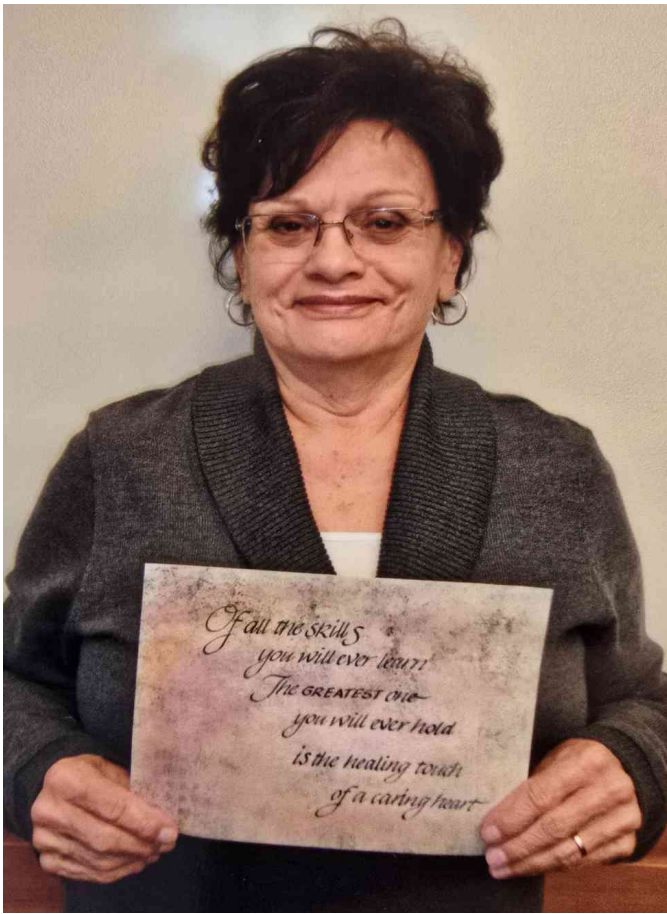
She was married to Lawrence Gerald Cook for 60 years until his passing in 2016. They had two children, a son Robert and a daughter Melanie.

She took an active part in the Guild activities and attended many classes and workshops. She especially loved Fraktur blackletter, but was skilled in many other lettering styles. She created beautiful cards, books and wall pieces.

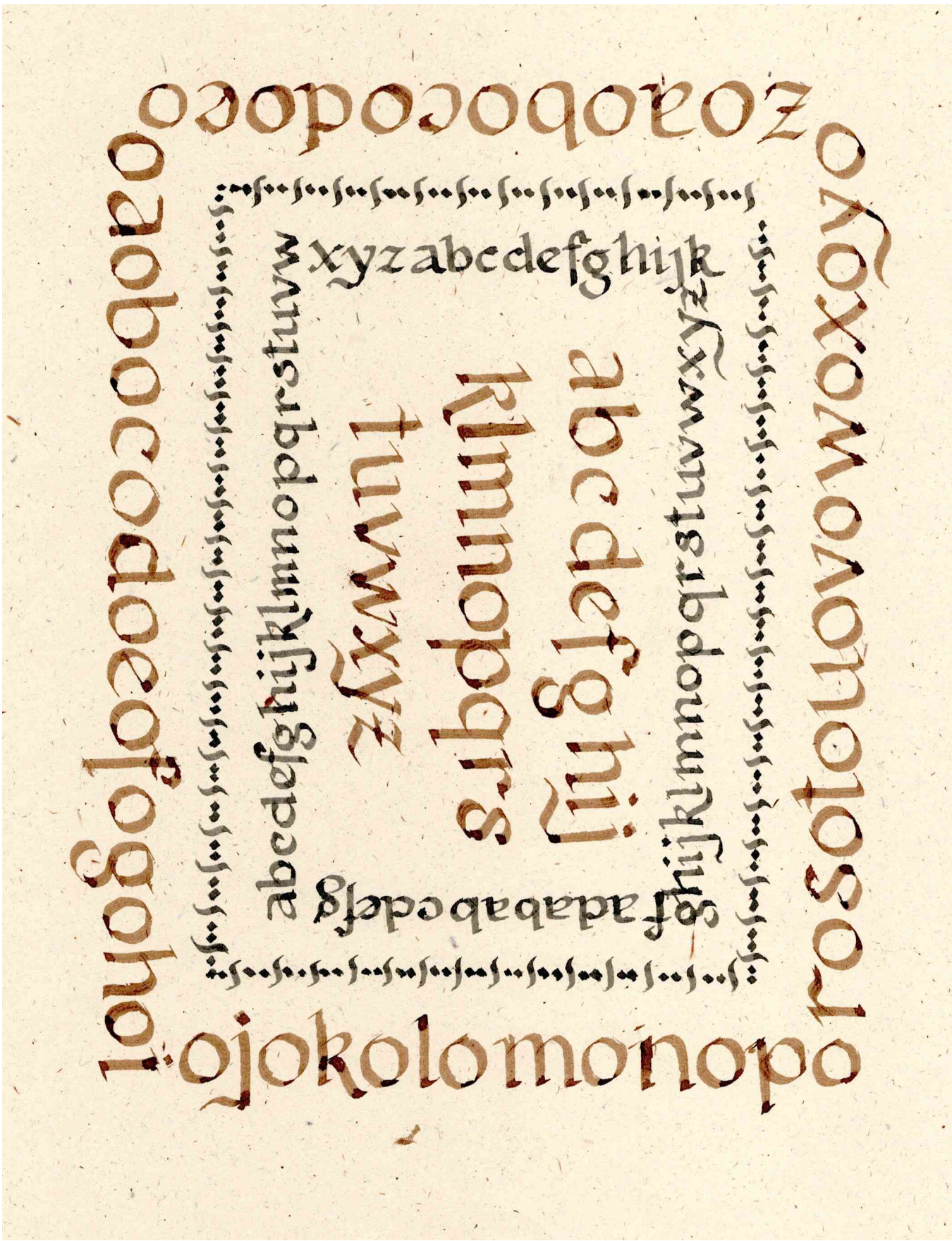
*She will be missed.*











Eleanor Lippman – Foundational class homework