

## Happy Holidays!

### Handcrafting Calligraphy Tools & More at the Holiday Tea

Members gathered for light snacks, a cup of coffee or tea and enjoyed an afternoon of hand crafting alternative tools for lettering on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Central Denver Library. Materials and how to make unusual pens were: veneer and large diameter dowel handles (by Alice Turak), cola pens (by Renee Jorgensen), and Stim-u-dent dental pick nibs (by Jill Berry). Jill also demonstrated how to use a special 'Miracle Cleaning eraser' to lift away watercolor paint once it had dried on paper. Margaret Stookesberry demonstrated a wonderful new tool (see photo below) used to create attractive gift bags from decorative papers. The tool named the 'Memory Keeper Gift Bag Punch Board' can be purchased at JoAnn Craft stores.

Thank you to Jill and others who shared new ideas and supplied materials.



**Top left:** Alice Turak and Alison Richards observe David Ashley demonstrating how to cut a slit in the dowel handle for the veneer pen. **Top middle:** Members left to right: Chris Advincula, Tess Vonfeldt-Gross, Geoff Ferguson, Alice Turak and Jill Berry.

**Bottom left:** Miracle erasers (Great Value Brand – Walmart). **Bottom middle:** Jill Berry talking about the new watercolor paint by Golden, (QoRcolors.com), and demonstrating the miracle eraser. **Bottom right:** Charlotte Rocha watching as Margaret Stookesberry demonstrates how to make gift bags with the Memory Keeper Gift Bag Punch Board. Find more at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nhwuxg-lsh8>



## ***Guild Workshop Coming Your Way!***

### **Introduction to Italics**

**Instructors:** David Ashley and Sandy Marvin

Visit [coloradocalligraphers.com](http://coloradocalligraphers.com) for details on a \$60 class for beginners. The Colorado Calligraphers' Guild is underwriting the cost of this 3-session workshop for anyone interested in learning or brushing up on Italic. Tell your friends or suggest it as a Christmas gift for someone who has always wanted to learn calligraphy.

The class will meet monthly in January, February and March.

### ***Denver Area Workshops:***

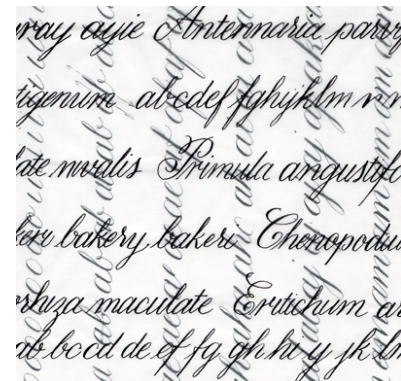
#### **School of Botanical Art & Illustration**

(<http://www.botanicgardens.org/sites/default/files/blog-photos/2017winterspringbicatalog.pdf>)

#### **Improve Your Handwriting Skills**

**Instructor:** Renee Jorgensen

Are you writing with your fingers or with your forearm? Does your handwriting have an easy flow or does it look tortured? Handwriting is becoming a lost art since the personal computer and text messaging have become the primary methods for recording our ideas. Researchers suggest that developing writing skills will aid the visual identification of graphic shapes. During this workshop you will learn how to develop and improve your handwriting skills while exploring simple methods to improve your signature and labeling. With practice, you will be able to make neater writing a habit. This workshop gives you the confidence to sign and label your next work of art without the help of a word processor. **Fee:** \$145 member, \$175 non-member. **No prerequisites.** **Date:** Tuesday, January 17, 24, and 31<sup>st</sup>. **Time:** 1-4 p.m.



#### **Denver University Enrichment Program**

<http://universitycollege.du.edu/courses/coursesdetail.cfm?degreecode=ppe&coursenum=0112&crn=1032>

#### **Painted Pages: Paint, Color, Paper, Play!**

**Instructor:** Jill Berry

Touching a paintbrush to canvas can be quite intimidating. What if you make a mistake? How can you explore your ideas if canvas makes each stroke permanent? In this hands-on workshop, award-winning artist and instructor Jill Berry teaches painting fundamentals using a special paper (Arches Text Wove) that can be “fixed” when necessary (wow!). With such freedom and flexibility, Berry leads new artists through an exploration of color, paint and technique. Learn about the qualities of paints and pigments, and how to create luminous layers that look vibrant instead of “muddy.” Explore water-based mediums, as well as sumi and walnut inks, which are rich and smooth for added dimension. Discover techniques for creating texture by using unusual tools, such as cheesecloth, salt, wax paper and orange oil spray. Use symbols from around the world as patterns while you learn simple mono-printing and stenciling skills. Come away with a new skill and unique ideas for scrapbooks, cards, journals, collages or original paintings to frame and display. The majority of supplies are included. Seating is limited so register early!

Weekend intensive. Saturday & Sunday, March 11 & 12. **Time:** 9 a.m. – noon; 1–4 p.m., **CRN 1032 / \$215**



#### **School of Botanical Art & Illustration**

(<http://www.botanicgardens.org/sites/default/files/blog-photos/2017winterspringbicatalog.pdf>)

#### **Embossed Design: Alphabets and Flowers**

**Instructor:** Renee Jorgensen

Embossing is an art form used to raise a shape from the surface of paper. The embossed shape casts a delicate shadow and when combined with color creates an elegant effect. We'll provide decorative letter and flower patterns, and you will learn how to design and cut a stencil as well as choose the best paper surfaces for embossed subjects. Finish your project with ink or colored pencil accents, and you will leave the class with an elegantly embossed design. **Fee:** \$95 member, \$130 non-member. **No prerequisites.** **Date:** Tuesday, May 30. **Time:** 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.





## ***Holiday Recipe Request: Alison's Delicious Crackers!***

### **Life-Changing Crackers**

<https://www.mynewroots.org/site/2014/07/the-life-changing-crackers>

*Makes 2 baking sheets of crisp bread*

#### **Ingredients:**

1 cup / 135g sunflower seeds  
½ cup / 90g flax seeds  
1/3 cup / 50g pumpkin seeds  
¼ cup / 40g sesame seeds  
1 ½ cups / 150g rolled oats  
2 Tbsp. chia seeds  
4 Tbsp. psyllium seed husks (3 Tbsp. if using psyllium husk powder)  
1 ½ tsp. fine grain sea salt  
1 Tbsp. maple syrup (for sugar-free diets, use a pinch of stevia)  
3 Tbsp. melted coconut oil or ghee  
1 ½ cups / 350ml water

#### **Rosemary, Garlic and Smoked Salt**

Half batch:

2 Tbsp. chopped fresh rosemary  
¼ – ½ tsp. garlic powder (depending on how strong you like it)  
smoked sea salt, to taste

#### **Fig, Anise and Black Pepper**

Half batch:

3 large dried figs (approx. 70g)  
1 tsp. anise seed  
1 tsp. cracked black pepper

#### **Directions:**

1. In a large bowl combine all dry ingredients, stirring well. Whisk maple syrup, oil and water together in a measuring cup. Add this to the dry ingredients and mix very well until everything is completely soaked and dough becomes very thick (if the dough is too thick to stir, add one or two teaspoons of water until the dough is manageable). Divide the dough roughly in half, and set aside one half.
2. Place one half of the dough back into the bowl and add any flavoring you like. Gather into a ball and place it between two sheets of baking paper. Using a rolling pin, firmly roll out into a thin sheet. Remove top layer of baking paper and using the tip of a knife, score the dough into shapes you like (I chose large rectangles but it's up to you). Repeat with remaining half of dough. Let sit out on the counter for at least 2 hours, or all day or overnight.
3. Preheat oven to 350°F / 175°C. Using the baking paper, slide the dough onto a cookie sheet and bake for 20 minutes. Remove cookie sheet from oven, flip the whole cracker over (if it breaks a bit, don't worry!) and peel the baking paper off of the back. Return to oven to bake for another 10 minutes, until fully dry, crisp, and golden around the edges.
4. Let cool completely, then break crackers along their scored lines and store in an **airtight container for up to 3 weeks.**

**Check out the Colorado Calligraphers Guild presence on Facebook:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/coloradocalligraphers>**



**Stay up to date on events at our website: [Coloradocalligraphers.com](http://Coloradocalligraphers.com)**

Contact Renee with upcoming classes, workshops, calligraphy shows and she will post details in the bulletin. Please send your information at least one month in advance of your event to: Renee Jorgensen @ [reneeLjor@gmail.com](mailto:reneeLjor@gmail.com)