

CAPITAL SALEM OREGON CALLIGRAPHERS

April/May/June 2023

Cherry Blossom Day, March 18

Photos by Aries Manoff, Caroline Tresidder, and Lori Festa

Despite a somewhat delayed arrival of the popular cherry blossoms this year, hundreds gathered at the Oregon State Capitol Park in Salem

Mark your calendar

Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month (except July & August) at 7 p.m. The opportunity to Zoom the meeting will be provided as well.

March 27 to April 21 – Exhibition at the Salem Public Library.

April 6, 7 pm - Monthly meeting at Capital Manor's Community Center. **Katy Bayless** will present **"Toothpick Books."**

May 4, 7 pm - Monthly meeting at Capital Manor's Community Center. Aries Manoff plans to show us how to **"Embellish Copperplate."**

June 1, 7 p.m. – Monthly meeting at Capital Manor's Community Center. **"Decorating Letters on Fabric with Crayola Colored Pencils"** will be taught by Caroline Tresidder. We'll have our annual potluck as well.

for the annual Cherry Blossom Day celebration. Thanks go to many for our showing of weathergrams for the event.

Laura contacted the State Capitol organizer who loved the idea of hanging weathergrams from the

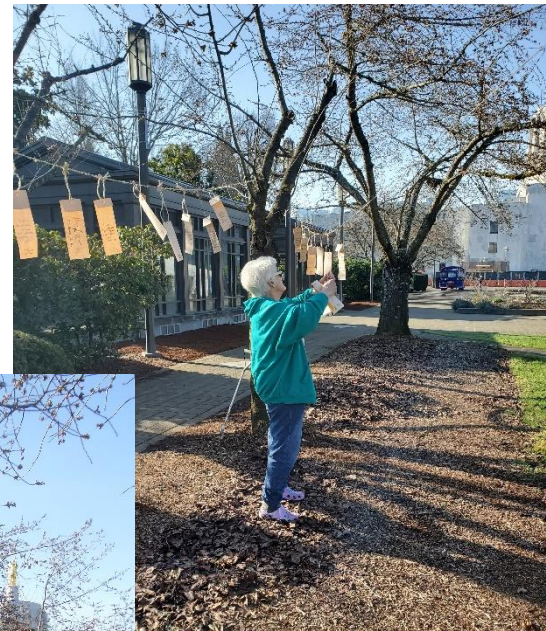




cherry trees. A work party/potluck at Laura's home attended by Aries, Caroline, Brenda, Maryellen, Tina, Jessie, Penny, and Sally, generated over 100 weathergrams. Aries then took the reins and created 50 more, taking on the responsibility of hanging them at the event. Tina, Caroline and Brenda helped Aries hang them.

The event was blessed with blue skies and sun – a miracle!

Aries reported that all 150 weathergrams were gone by 12:30!



Cherry Blossom Day

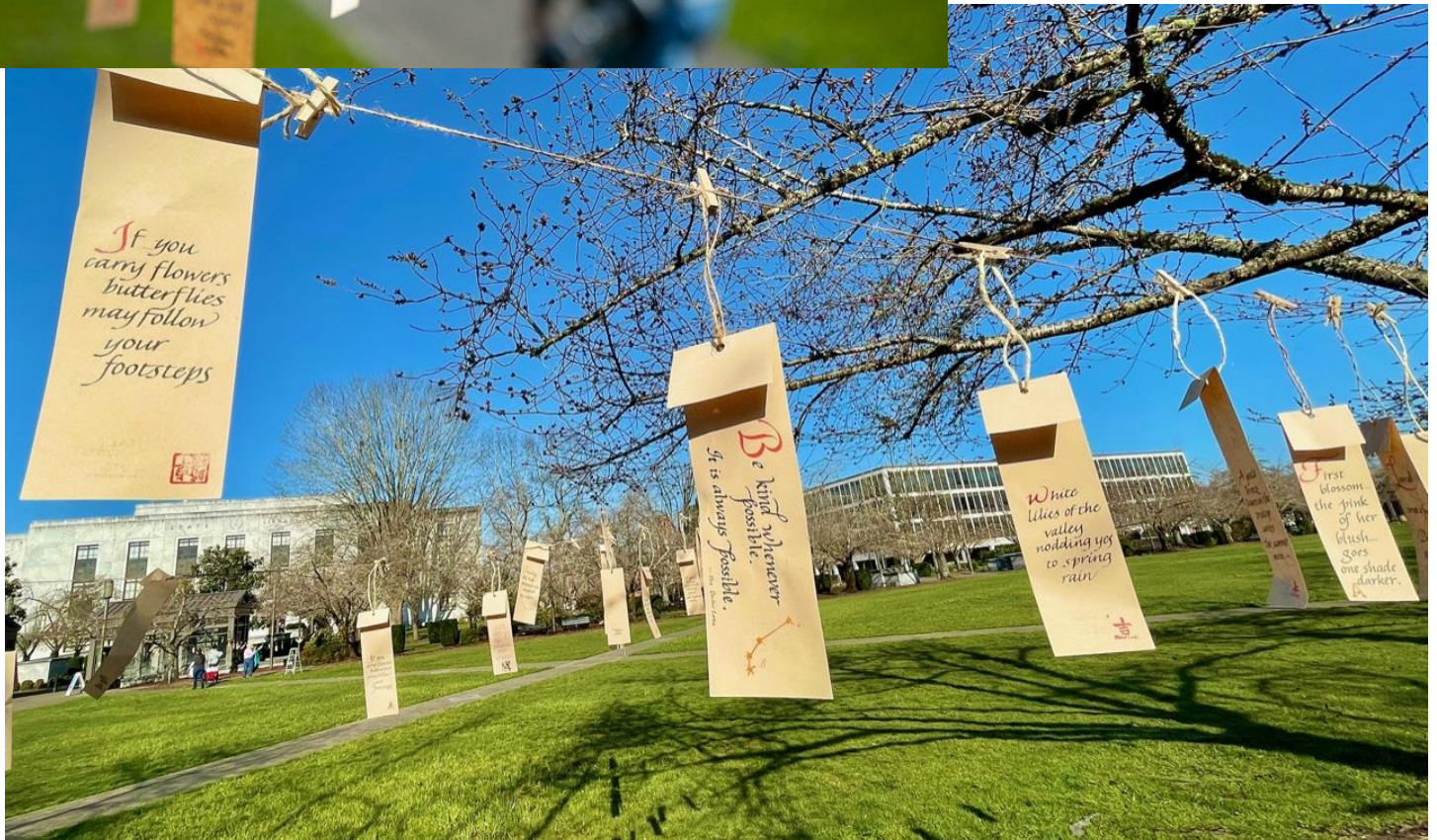
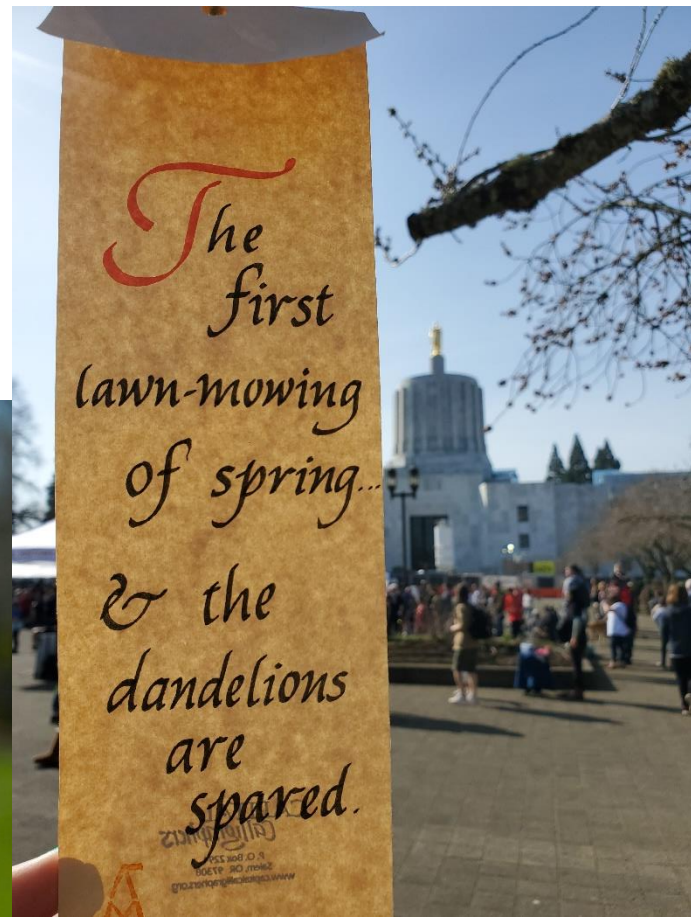
WEATHERGRAMS

This activity is brought to you by the Capital Calligraphers.

Weathergrams were invented in Portland in the 1970s. They are recycled kraft paper strips, with poems or haiku calligraphied. The first letter uses Japanese vermillion ink, and the signature at the end is a Chinese chop or Japanese hanko.

Read the poems hanging in the trees. Does one speak to you? If yes, then take it from the tree. You can use it as a bookmark, or piece of art to beautify your space.

Weathergrams that hang in the tree "weather" with age. They dissolve, or are taken by a bird to make a nest, and return to nature.

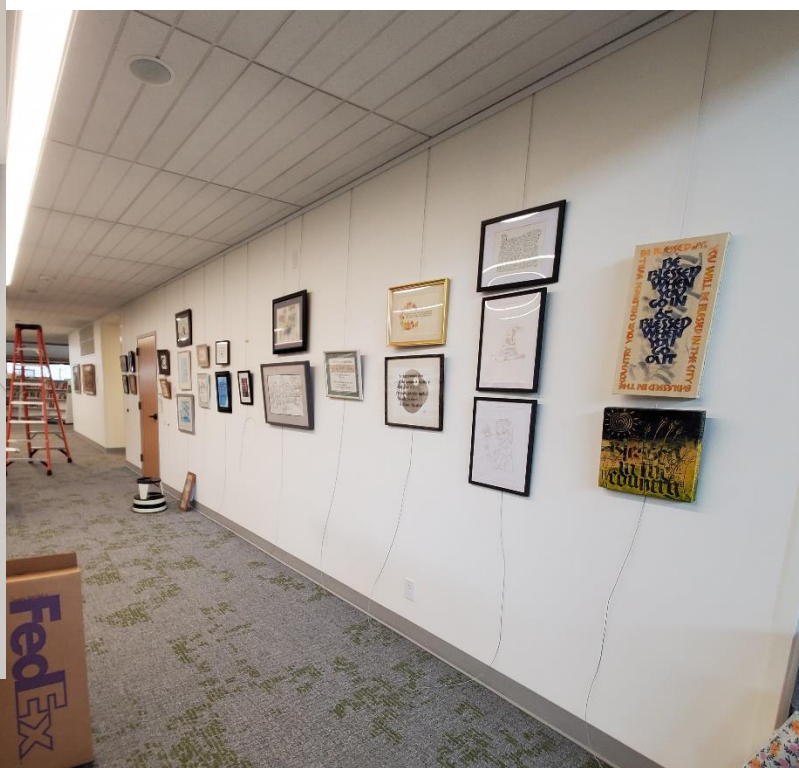
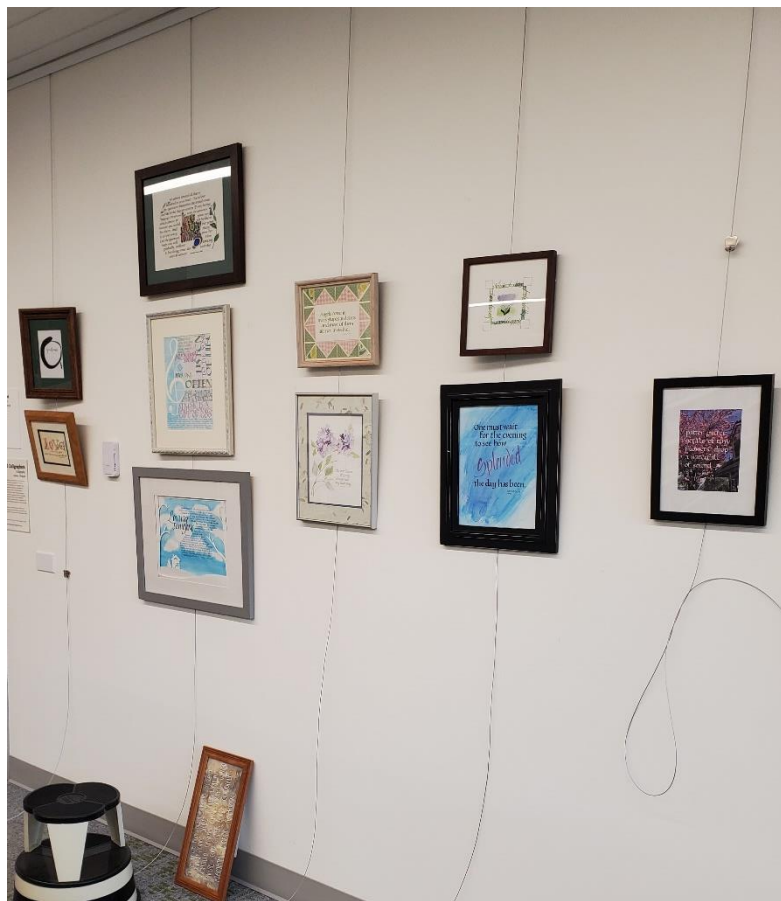


Salem Public Library Exhibit

March 27 to April 21



Don't miss our exhibit at the Salem Public Library, hanging from March 27 to April 21. Trish and Aries did a super job of organizing, gathering pieces, and hanging the show. Aries took a few shots during the hanging process.



Stretching your skills brings pleasure!

Editor's interview with Barbara Taylor
Photography by Iris Nowning, Barbara, & Editor

Barbara has served as our vice president for many years. She quietly and effectively takes care of many jobs: substituting as needed for the president, keeping the president on task, cajoling and convincing the board each year to continue serving, or recruiting new board members, as needed. And, that's just a few of her tasks! Single-handedly, as her own way to honor members, she began to create beautiful birthday cards for **every** member every year. We all look forward to and cherish every card she has sent us. When Aries took over the task, she suggested we honor Barbara. Here are many of the beautiful cards she created for us, plus calligraphy pieces.



My interest in calligraphy began in the late 1990s during my time working in retail. The store had a candy case with chocolate truffles that were made in San Francisco, California. It was one of my friends that would write small labels on each package of chocolate

truffles. I

admired the look of the letters that she used and this was when my interest to learn the skill of calligraphy began.

Shortly after discovering my interest in calligraphy, I found a beginners calligraphy class offered in the senior center newspaper. After my first class, my journey falling in love with calligraphy began. The class consisted of two solid hours where I could entirely shut out the world, and fully concentrate on learning the lettering. This new found interest was exactly what I needed.

I have had the privilege of attending classes with four highly talented and creative calligraphy teachers, including Ann Thompson, Marian Gault, Penny White, and Carol DuBosch.



I will always be grateful for their kindness and encouragement while teaching and for the time I spent learning from them.





Ann was my first teacher in San Jose, California. She was very skilled in writing the letters in varying styles and strived to teach us how to be technically adept at forming each letter. She helped each of us individually, and class members were all supportive of one another. I realized calligraphers were a special group of people, and attending classes quickly became a hobby.

During Ann's class, two classmates kept encouraging me to take a second class to learn copperplate under the instruction of Marian Gault. Eventually, I found the time to add the class. Needless to say, I totally fell in love with the beautiful rhythm of writing each letter with the pointed pen. Copperplate is still my favorite style of lettering. Marian taught us to be technically correct with the formation of each letter. I can still hear her quoting "practice makes perfect!" and "always use your lines." She taught us how to construct a piece from start to finish by showing the stages of her

consignment pieces. Marian was also a skilled watercolor artist and active in IAMPETH.

In 2007, we moved to Salem, Oregon where I joined Capital Calligraphers. This is where I found another wonderful, supportive and talented group. Upon becoming active in the guild, they needed someone to take over sending out the annual birthday cards. I offered to take on this task, unaware of the challenge it would present with my limited artistic and creative abilities.

I decided to sign up for Penny White's class at the Keizer Art Association. We studied many different lettering styles and her classes always consisted of a fun project. I began to expand my skills through the use of imagination along with the work.



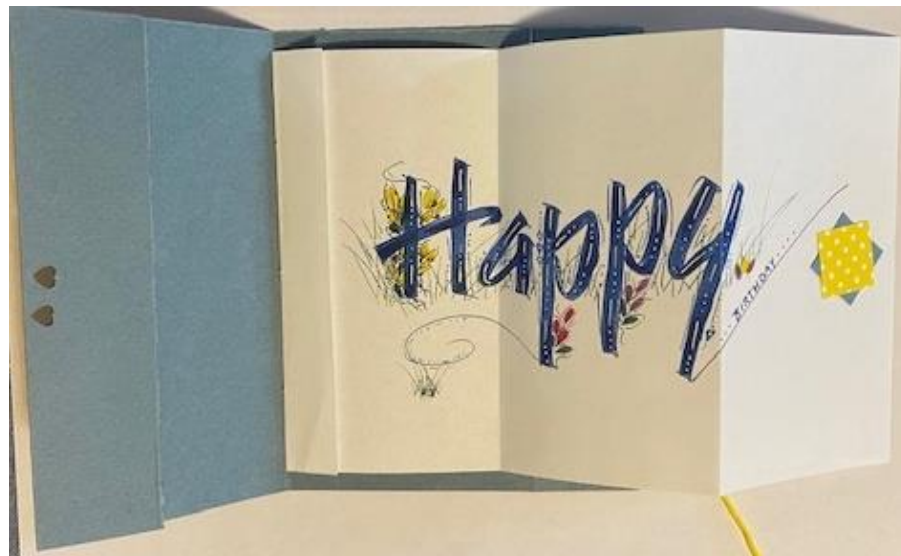
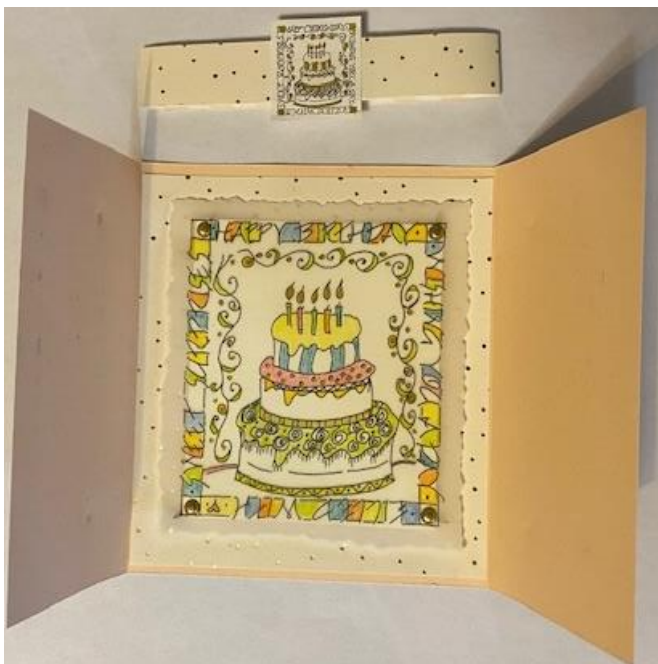
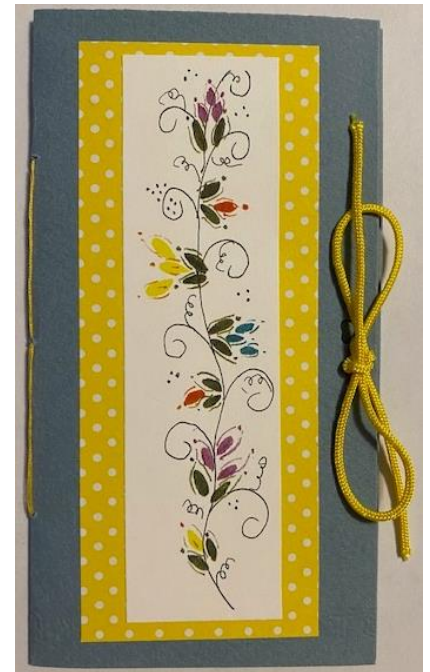


Soon, I started taking another class in Portland, Oregon with the gifted and skilled teaching of Carol DuBosch. Carol had a very structured way of demonstrating the writing of letters, with a focus on pen manipulation. She challenged us with homework assignments that stretched our ability to construct a final piece of work.

Throughout attending many classes workshops and conferences, I would think about how to implement what I was learning to create a birthday card. Each year I decided to feature a different lettering style. I would labor over ideas until one took hold and would design a card in my mind over many days and nights. I would add colors and materials, and shop for varying supplies until I found products that would support my ideas. Office Depot and Copy Cats helped me achieve the right letter size

and the “look” I wanted for the card. Once the supplies were gathered, I could begin to make the card. This whole process of designing each card was

forever a stretch of my non-artistic skills, but has given me so much pleasure over the years. I so appreciate all the thank you messages and kind comments and am honored



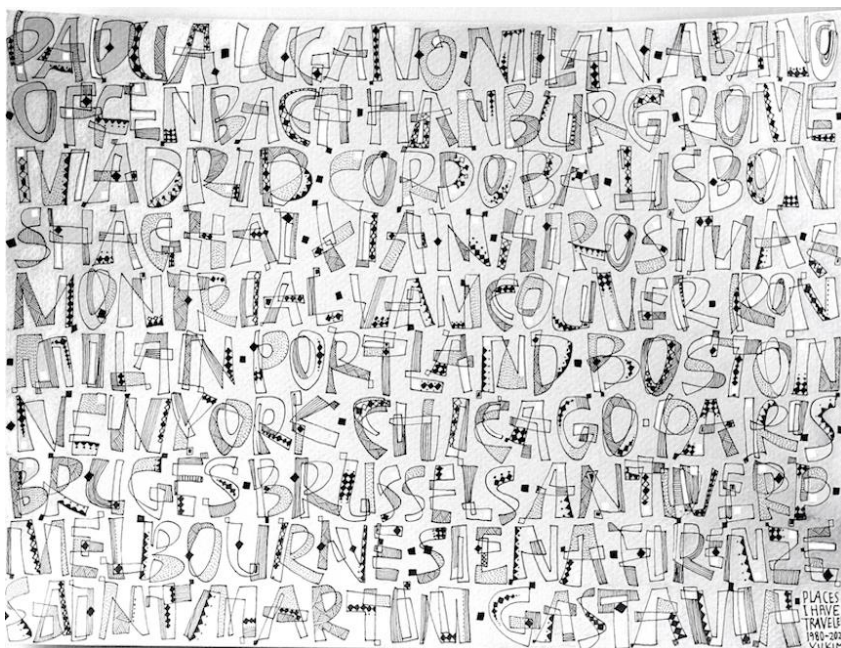
to have served the Guild in some way.

I have the deepest admiration for the early calligraphers and our community of artists locally, in our country and throughout the world today. I truly believe their creative art and skills in lettering projects are distinctly and beautifully special.



Upcoming Classes/Programs

Online classes have become an excellent way to continue learning. John Neal Bookseller has the most comprehensive list to refer to. Go to www.johnnealbooksellers.com and browse. You're sure to find just the one(s) for you.



May 27 and 28 are the dates of **One Stroke Letters with Decoration** taught by Yukimi Annand

9 AM – 4 PM

Cost \$85. For VCG & Capital Calligraphers members

\$110. For non-members

This and That



Laura Drager and Nancy Orr traveled from Amsterdam to Antwerp on a Viking river cruise in March. At left is a canal in Amsterdam. At right a piece in the Rijks Museum, appeared to be made with mother of pearl – no credit. Bicyclists everywhere. There are



around 1 million people in Amsterdam, and 1.4



million bikes, per our guide. We became very careful to stay off the bike paths. Discovered this "Lord's Prayer" in a Lutheran Church in Dordrecht. Saw our first windmill in Kinderdijk, what a thrill!



Wooden shoes are stored efficiently inside the windmill.

Tulips at Keukenhof Gardens where a couple of angels dropped in!



Coat of arms lined the walls of St. Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent.



Chocolate shops were readying for Easter.

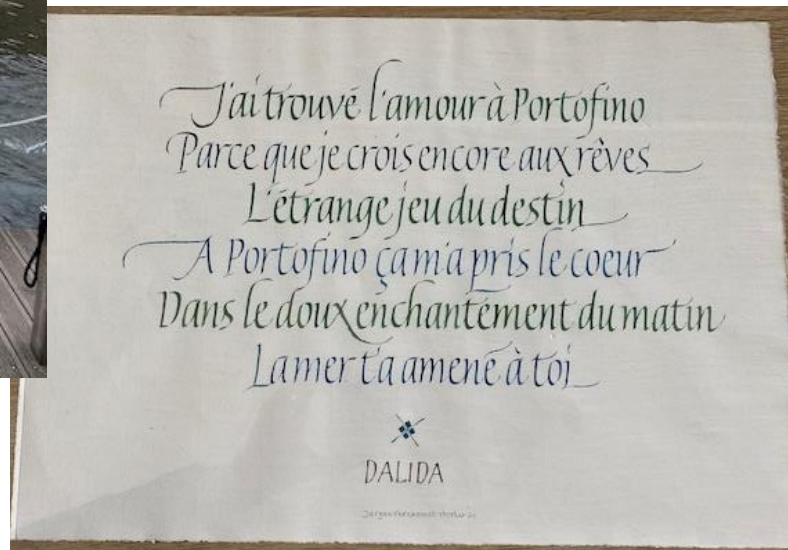




A canal in beautiful Brugge. We took a side trip to meet Jurgen Vercaemst, a Belgian calligrapher teacher we recently zoomed a class from. He and his family were so hospitable and we spent a lovely afternoon eating lunch in his coffee house and touring his studio.



The flower market in Amsterdam.



A piece of art by Jurgen. His italic sings!

A stone monument/sign in Brugge carved by Christoffel Boudens.



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Don't forget to wash your hands!

