

Letter Perfect

minuscule

The eNewsletter of SDFC

Three February Workshops with Brenda Broadbent

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BLACK ON BLACK with Brenda Broadbent

February 19, 2016

Relaxing, productive, fun! Brenda Broadbent's *Black on Black Magic* was a delightful way to spend a sunny Friday upstairs at the SDEA building. She told us to "listen with your eyes" as she led us in creating letter variations drawn with Sakura Black Glaze pens on black paper, embellished with colored pencils and Sakura Clear Stardust pens. We even experimented with oil pastels.

Prior calligraphic experience was definitely not needed, but a sense of playfulness was as we changed letter width, height, baselines, and stroke shapes. Brenda said, "There is no 'perfect,' there is just using the space and filling it up."

We worked on single versal letters and longer monoline quotations. We were encouraged to make thumbnails, to draw boundaries to give our work a framework, and to figure out how to make our "mistakes" work. Brenda told us that when all else fails, some artists just add yellow, some add black or add gold, many of us in the class added dots.

Time flew by quickly, as it often does when doing art with friends. Thank you Brenda, and thank you SDFC for offering this one-day workshop.

By Naomi Lesberg



Above: Wendy Watson-Diedrick's design on black paper

Below: Naomi Lesberg's word tree



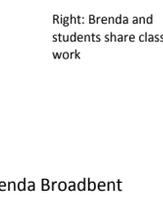
Left: Cesar Kobashikawa starts his design of the letter C

Above: The finished letter



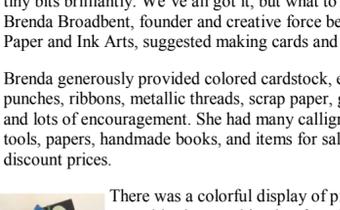
Above: Elizabeth Kenney prepares her black paper

Below: B is for Elizabeth's granddaughter, Bridgette



Above: Diane Reiter's D and Wendy Watson-Diedrick's A

Below: Kathleen Prosi-Urbano's birthday card for Sofia



Right: Brenda and students share class work



BRILLIANT BITS with Brenda Broadbent

February 20, 2016

It was a small, but enthusiastic group that gathered in hopes of getting rid of some of our stash paper by using tiny bits brilliantly. We've all got it, but what to do with it? Brenda Broadbent, founder and creative force behind Paper and Ink Arts, suggested making cards and jewelry.

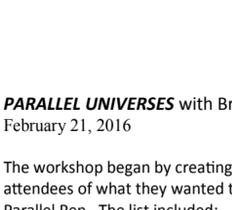
Brenda generously provided colored cardstock, envelopes, punches, ribbons, metallic threads, scrap paper, gold paint, and lots of encouragement. She had many calligraphic tools, papers, handmade books, and items for sale at discount prices.

There was a colorful display of pins Brenda assembles by punching her favorite shapes, including an asymmetrical heart, out of her scrap stash, and organizes them according to color. Two or three shapes that coordinate color-wise are chosen to be mounted on a two-inch square of black mat board. Ribbon or cording is used to wrap and accent the piece, which is embellished with beads and/or a vintage nib. Glue on a pin-back, and you've got a wearable mini-collage. Given all the necessary materials, we got the chance to try our hand at mimicking Brenda's jewelry.

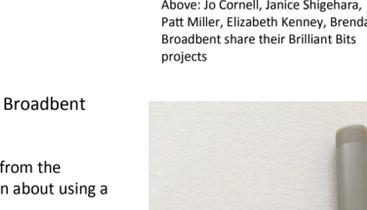
It was a stress-free play day, and each attendee offered a single word to sum up our time together: challenging, creative, fun, inspiring, joyful, motivating, stimulating, and perhaps most importantly, *productive!* We were all able to reduce our stash a little bit.

Brilliant!

By Patt Miller

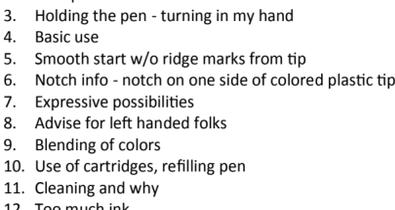


Above: Fran Welk's card



Above: Patt Miller's cards

Below: Jo Cornell's cards



Above: Jo Cornell, Janice Shigehara, Patt Miller, Elizabeth Kenney, Brenda Broadbent share their Brilliant Bits projects

PARALLEL UNIVERSES with Brenda Broadbent

February 21, 2016

The workshop began by creating a list from the attendees of what they wanted to learn about using a Parallel Pen. The list included:

1. Using other fluids
2. Manipulation
3. Holding the pen - turning in my hand
4. Basic use
5. Smooth start w/o ridge marks from tip
6. Notch info - notch on one side of colored plastic tip
7. Expressive possibilities
8. Advise for left handed folks
9. Blending of colors
10. Use of cartridges, refilling pen
11. Cleaning and why
12. Too much ink

All these topics were covered and more! We thoroughly learned how to take apart the pen, clean and reassemble it. We reviewed inks (e.g. sumi, gouache, watercolor, acrylics) that fade vs. those that don't, what to use on plasticized materials (acrylics), using multiple colors of inks, writing on black paper using white ink, writing on different types of papers, using Finetec golds, etc. We had plenty of time to practice and experiment with guidance from Brenda (handouts and her wonderful book *Parallel Pen Wizardry*). We ended with a demonstration of the slanted pointed pen.

By Dorothy Wilson



A Parallel Pen disassembled



Above: Brenda queries the class on their thoughts regarding the Parallel Pen. Fran Welk and Lorraine Brown are ready to learn

Adding Used Comments on the Parallel Pen Workshop

Having used a Pilot Parallel Pen for a semester, I thought I knew 'enough'.

When I saw the announcement for the Brenda Broadbent workshop, I signed up mainly because I thought she would make all my letters Beautiful...Well, she's not a magician. But she IS a Parallel Pen Expert/Guru.

We learned more about these pens than I thought possible. We totally took them apart including removing the nib, had an extensive discussion about what inks, beside the pilot cartridges, that you can use.

We used gouache, which besides being really hard to pronounce, kind of intimidated me. **I only own one tube.** That in itself tells you I was intimidated. My path to mastery is often via shopping for one in every color so I now can buy more gouache.

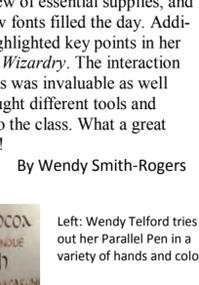
We mixed, we drew. We had fun.

We had an extensive discussion on papers, the vast variety, and the different types. Brenda even brought some of the original art from her book *Parallel Pen Wizardry*, and we heard stories about other calligraphers because we all love gossip, and it was just a great day!!!

By Christine Valle



Above: Janice has experience with the Parallel Pen



Below: Kathy Altomare gets started on lettering with her Parallel Pen



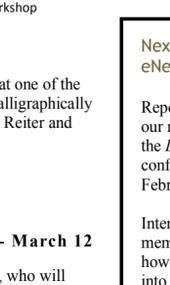
Brenda thoughtfully brought an abundance of supplies. We all need more supplies!

More on PARALLEL UNIVERSES

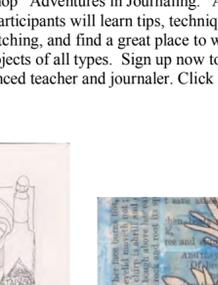
I left the one-day class, *Parallel Universes* with Brenda Broadbent, feeling quite excited about learning a new medium. The class of twenty students ranged in skills and years of practice, yet Brenda gracefully balanced her instruction to challenge everyone.

Helpful tips, a review of essential supplies, and time to practice new fonts filled the day. Additionally, Brenda highlighted key points in her book, *Parallel Pen Wizardry*. The interaction among the attendees was invaluable as well since each one brought different tools and tricks of the trade to the class. What a great way to spend a day!

By Wendy Smith-Rogers



Left: Wendy Telford tries out her Parallel Pen in a variety of hands and colors



President and Workshops Chair Diane Reiter gives SDFC announcements before the start of each workshop

Meeting Ideas?

Let us know if you have an idea for a program at one of the SDFC General Meetings. Is there something calligraphically related that you'd like to teach? Contact Diane Reiter and share your ideas!

Upcoming Workshops -

- **Journaling with Kristi Darwick - March 12**

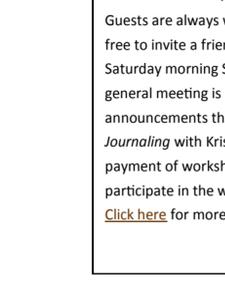
On March 12, SDFC welcomes Kristi Darwick, who will teach a one-day workshop "Adventures in Journaling." All skill levels welcome. Participants will learn tips, techniques, pen and watercolor sketching, and find a great place to work out design ideas for projects of all types. Sign up now to learn from this experienced teacher and journalist. Click [here](#) for more info.

Next Month's eNewsletter

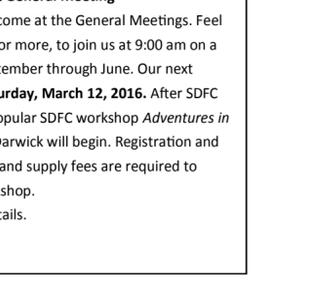
Reports and photos from our members who attended the *Letters, California Style* conference in Pomona February 12th -15th.

Interesting notes from our members who travel and how they incorporate art into their journeys.

More details on upcoming April and May workshops and programs.



Samples of Kristi's journaling



Attack of the Killer Romans with Jane Shibata April 9 & 10



Roman variation by Jane Shibata
Click [here](#) for more information

Check out these illuminating workshops and get your reservations in soon. You won't want to miss these upcoming sessions. Click [here](#) for more information.

Next General Meeting
Guests are always welcome at the General Meetings. Feel free to invite a friend, or more, to join us at 9:00 am on a Saturday morning September through June. Our next general meeting is **Saturday, March 12, 2016**. After SDFC announcements the popular SDFC workshop *Adventures in Journaling* with Kristi Darwick will begin. Registration and payment of workshop and supply fees are required to participate in the workshop.
[Click here](#) for more details.

