



# A FAN OF THE *Flourish*

Duluth calligrapher pens 'The Lost Art of Handwriting'

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**B**renna Jordan took her time, gliding a metallic pen in swoops and swirls on labels in her Lakeside studio. The Duluth woman has been creating invitations, cards and more through her business Calligraphy by Brenna for years. In March, she released "The Lost Art of Handwriting."

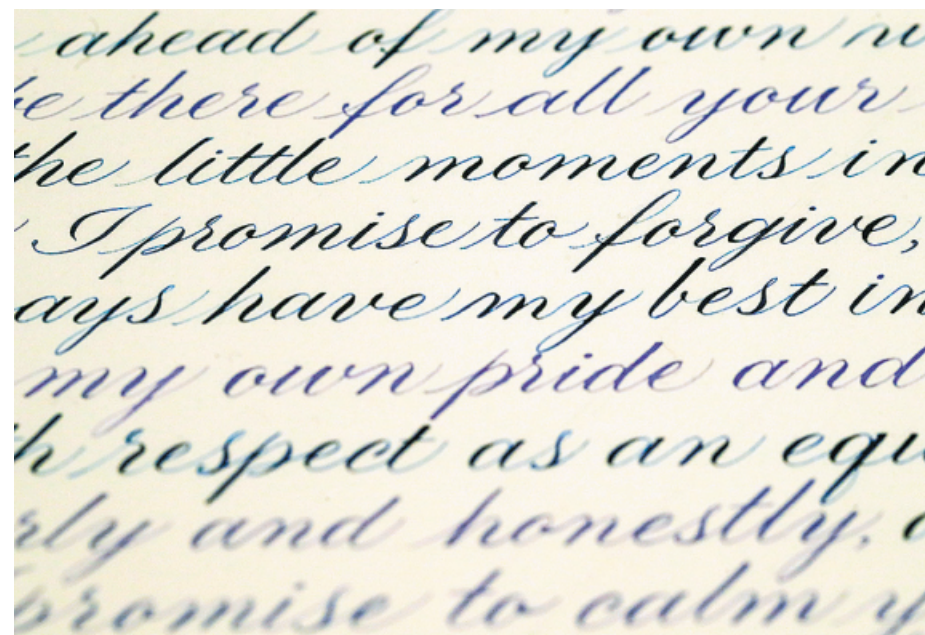
It's nearly 200 pages of history, exercises and tidbits such as how George Clooney uses pen and paper for all his projects.

Its tagline, "rediscover the beauty and power of penmanship," points to a

potentially quizzical topic in an increasingly digital age. It's one the author addresses in the first pages of the book. "Neurologists have discovered that freewriting can improve neural connections in our brains and spark creativity," she writes. More

handwriting as insight to the personality, how it can relieve stress.

People crave a personal touch



Photos by Tyler Schank / tschank@duluthnews.com.

**TOP:** Brenna Jordan, author of "The Lost Art of Handwriting," demonstrates lettering in her work space at her home April 11. "It's not perfect. There's something about handwriting that is more raw, more organic," Jordan said.

**ABOVE:** Brenna Jordan recently completed a piece for a couple's one-year anniversary. The piece featured their vows in different colors, indicating words the bride spoke and words the groom spoke.

and a lack of perfection that you don't get in an email or document, she said. (Jordan addresses this with a handwritten logo of her name in her email signature.)

And, she said, penmanship is seeing a resurgence.

In Duluth Public Schools, handwriting is taught in kindergarten, and cursive continues in the curriculum through 4th grade. But around the nation, cursive was disappearing as many states adopted national standards that did not require it, according to a 2013 Washington Post article. In September 2018, the newspaper also reported a cursive comeback.

Handwriting is raw and organic; it evokes emotions and connections to history, Jordan said, noting letters from her husband.

"These tender moments in life are enriched by taking a little extra time to slow down and use pen and paper," she writes.

It was a search for #handwriting and #calligraphy hashtags that led to Jordan's book.

Last year, Cate Coulacos Prato spotted Jordan's Instagram account and its videos of hand-drawn words such as "Double letters" and "Happiness" in

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## Mud, love among signs of spring

**T**he poet e.e. cummings once wrote about spring as a "mudlucious" time of year, a sensuous take on the mess that sometimes comes in the door when grandkids visit or the dog is done in the yard.



**DOUG LEWANDOWSKI**

The "lake" on the south side of our yard is held in place by our abundant supply of clay. It fills to the brim until the ground thaws, providing ample opportunities for a soaked kidlet after a misstep.

Spring lets us know it's coming when there is more light to see the muck and remind us that the lists we made of outside jobs is getting longer, quickly. No more kicking back and watching Netflix. The sun, when it gets a chance to shine, casts a welcome glow, not enough to catch a tan, but enough to sit outside for a while and replenish our vitamin D.

Dreamier observations about the season suggest it's a time when a young man's fancy shifts in an amorous direction. Probably got to do with all the "Final 4s" being over; no more basketball, hockey, etc. If the boys are blessed, there may be some return in kind from their objects of affection at this change in interest.

There does, indeed, seem to be a notable increase in activity in all species at this time, with chickadees leading the flock with their distinctive, two-note call. Traffic at the bird feeders picks up. Nighttime bandits of all sizes invade the feeders and gorge themselves. A blast in the face from a flashlight does little to discourage any of them. Nothing like a hiss from a surly raccoon or a staredown from a bear! They've been waiting a long time for a good meal.

Snow in Duluth this time of year dampens all but the most resilient spirit, taxing motivation to do anything about it. Is it worthwhile shoveling or will

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