

DIALOGUE

Winter | 2022

MISSION:

It is the mission of AAHA to increase public understanding and acceptance of Handwriting Analysis.

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Inside this Issue:

Cultural Influence
by Eileen Page 1

AAHA Contacts Page 2

President’s Message 3

Dear Abbey 4

Psychogram Class..... 4

Cultural Influences
by Eileen Page..... 5-6

Energy of the Heart,
by Jo Coppola..... 7-9

Drives, Motivations and Vitality in
the Handwriting,
by Valerie Weil 10-13

Beginners Corner..... 14

Handwriting in the Future, by
Edda Manley..... 15-16

AAHA Book Exchange..... 16

Cultural Influences

by Eileen Page

For hundreds of years cultural influences have impacted our music, fashion, and art. Since handwriting is an art form, it seems reasonable to expect that it would be impacted by cultural influences also.

Having been a teacher for 18 years at the elementary level, for several years substitute teaching at the junior high and high school level, and for many years teaching teachers at the graduate level, I have witnessed the many cultural transitions occurring in an individual's early growth years. Being a mom, grandma, and great grandma has also provided me with up close and personal experiences of our cultural evolutions.

These evolutions have been viewed both favorably and unfavorably. Why is that? Mainly because of the many variables that are entrenched in their development. These variables include such things as generation and gender gaps, geographical location, personal and spiritual beliefs systems, workplace demands, and communication methods...the variable most affecting one's writing.

When our culture was slower paced, the writing process was tedious and had a certain reverence attached to it. Originally, skilled scribes were trained to write. Eventually, writing styles were taught that were designed for specific trades as well as the class of the gentleman. Women were eventually allowed to join the writing group; however,



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Mission Statement:

It is the mission of AAHA to increase public understanding and acceptance of Handwriting Analysis.

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The President's Corner

A Message from our president, Cindy Cheaves



Most will agree that the world is in an upheaval as we prepare to enter 2022. No one is quite sure what to expect for the new year. Instead of frittering away the time in concern or worry, it is best that we use that time to strengthen our organization.

How can we make AAHA stronger?

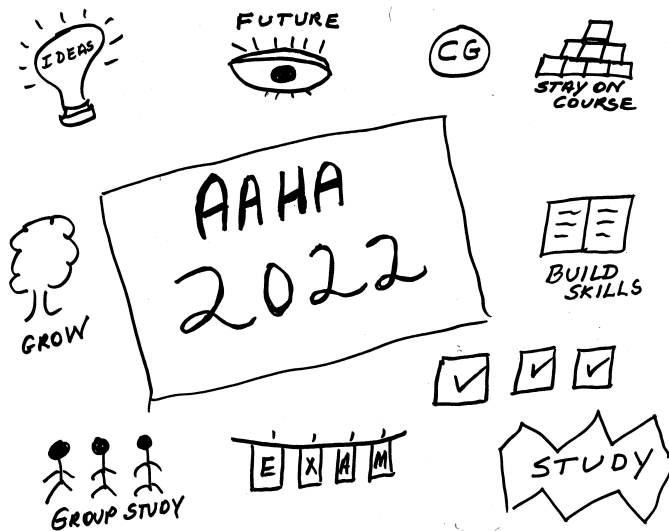
Most would answer “get new members,” and yes, I agree about that. But there is more to an organization than just membership numbers. Recall the saying “it’s not about quality, not quantity.”

AAHA encourages all members to become a Certified graphologist to increase the standard of excellence in the graphological community, as a whole. Successful completion of the Associate Exam bestows a higher level of AAHA Membership and voting privileges. Completion of the Certification

Exam is the highest recognized level of professional achievement among your peers here at AAHA.

We strengthen our organization by upping our professional stance with a high percentage of membership with certification. Members who become Associate or Certified Members have a vested interest in AAHA which also strengthens the longevity of our organization.

Currently, our membership is stands at Affiliate (52%), Associate (16%), and Certified (33%).



To encourage and assist members to take the Associate and Certified Exams in 2022, we will focus the monthly Zoom study groups on topics that will help prepare for the exam. Additional workshops and videos will also be presented in 2022.

To all Affiliate and Associate members, I encourage you to make your New Year’s resolution “I will become a Certified Graphologist in 2022!”

Happy New Year!

Cindy G. Cheaves

Dear Abbey:

I have two sisters and two brothers. One sister is a handwriting analyst, the other was just sentenced to death for murder. My mother died from insanity when I was young. My two brothers are gang members who were involved in looting at the riots in Los Angeles. My father sells narcotics to feed the family. Recently, I met a girl who was released from a reformatory, where she served time for smothering her illegitimate child, and I want very much to marry her.

My Problem is This:

If I marry this girl, should I tell her about my sister who is a handwriting analyst?

This was from a Karen Amend book, submitted for your humor by our own Kitty Holm.

Psychogram Class

Dr. Ellen Bowers is preparing for a new class on the Psychogram with an emphasis on "Printing" beginning February 11, 2022.

Whether you are new to graphology or want to learn this amazing way to organize and prioritize characteristics for a complete and thorough report, the Psychogram offers it all.

Ellen will provide by mail all the materials (the book and the measuring guide) for a reimbursement of \$30.00. There is no charge for the course.

Weekly sessions will be recorded, so if you cannot make the Friday sessions at 1:30 Central time, you can still participate. Homework is required in order to complete the course and get your certificate!

For more information, visit her website <https://www.graphexinternational.com> or email Ellen directly at graphex.bowers@gmail.com

National Handwriting Day

Don't forget that January 23rd is National Handwriting Day. It's up to all of us "handwriting enthusiasts" to make that known. So, the question is, what will YOU do to celebrate? Here's some suggestions:

- Host a free quickie handwriting analysis to bring awareness to both handwriting and graphology! You can do this online with social media (Facebook, Instagram, Reddit) or with your own blog.
- Give a talk at the local library about anything handwriting or graphology.
- Create an event. Throw a birthday party for John Hancock at the local church or library, explain why he represents handwriting around the world today!
- Shout out to all your friends on your Facebook page on National Handwriting Day.

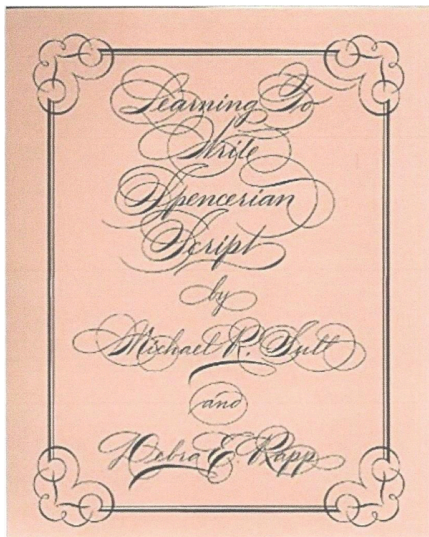
Cultural Influences

Cursive, Print, and Print-script

By Eileen Page

they were limited to only social communication. By the early 1900's Spencerian penmanship was the most prevalent.

Spencerian handwriting exemplifies the connection



between penmanship and the prevailing culture as noted in Tamara Thorton's book, Writing in America:

"Handwriting reflects the culture of the times. Beauty and flamboyance went well with the exaggerated decor of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Women wore enormous hooped skirts and ruffles; gold braid was in abundance. The men were even more extreme, with knee britches, embroidered waistcoats, and powdered wigs. It is not surprising that the elite of this era loaded their writing with curlicues. (Vivian, 1991, p.4)."

As cultural mores changed and writing broadened to a wider audience, writing styles followed suit. As lifestyles became busier and clothing became more

casual, the prevailing penmanship models like Rinehart and Palmer and Zaner-Bloser were easier, faster and less flourished.



As time passed and our culture continued to pick up speed and get busier, many more new

writing systems were developed. The D'Nealan in particular seemed to be the most simplified and tried to promote an easier and quicker transition from printing to cursive.

Written communication was continuing to take on a new look as it transitioned into a high paced, technological, and utilitarian culture. The slower handwritten communication was quickly being replaced by the more time efficient computer. Programmed cursive fonts were developing to replace handwritten models. Handwriting was taking on a new look, and with this new look came new concerns about cursive handwriting becoming obsolete... a lost art so to speak.

Personally, I do not think it is a lost art, perhaps it has just become a different art from what was traditionally experienced by the previous generations. Can we resurrect the old time traditional cursive handwriting models and methodologies and make them adapt to the 21st

Cultural Influences

continued from page 5

century cultural demands? Personally, I think not. We have become very individualized and mobile culture that appears to have a need for speed and instant gratification. Many of the younger generations communicate using acronyms via texting... or just talk into their phones to send messages.

Information is only a fingertip away. Learning traditional cursive methodologies is too time consuming... and also does not fit comfortably into most (perhaps even all) public schools curriculums nor their budgets. This is not meant to be a value judgment, but rather a reality check of the way things are due to many and varied reasons.

With all that being said, I do believe the handwritten word can have a place in our society today. It just has to be adjusted to the culture of today, not just in methodology but also in attitude.

Handwriting can be adapted to supplement and not supplant the changes we are all experiencing. We need to accept the use of acronyms, the printing, and the mixed print-script style that seems to be so prevalent rather than continuing to lament the loss of 100+ year old penmanship models. Perhaps we can promote developing an individualized style focusing primarily on legibility and consistency.

This may be hard to comprehend, but I can attest to the fact that it can work because I have done informal research to support the concept. While

teaching elementary school I was able to transition 3rd grade kids from printing to cursive quite easily with those 2 goals in mind. The best part was that the children loved the unique ownership part of their writing style which became an intrinsic motivation to continue to use it. I used unlined paper without margins and many of the kids loved the freedom it provided while focusing on their

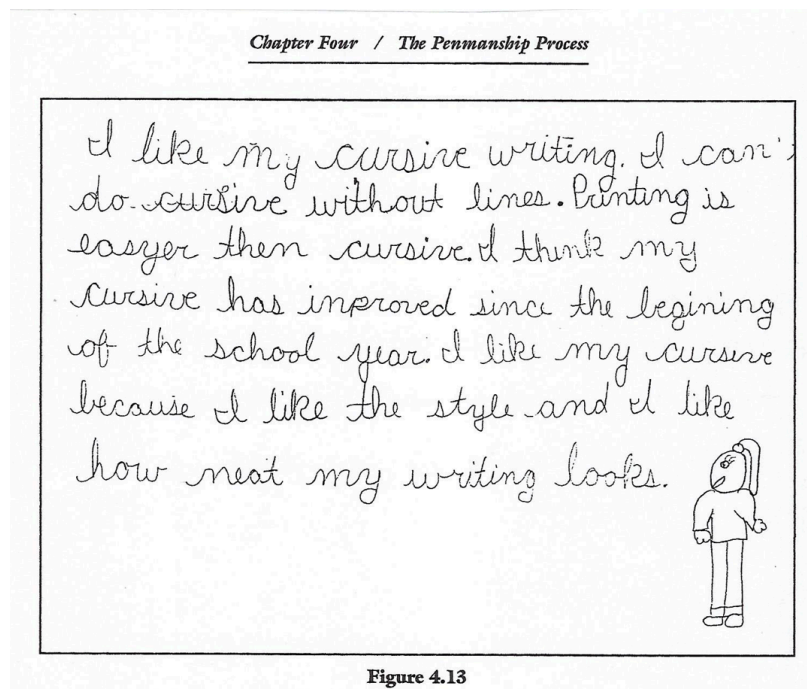


Figure 4.13

writing style. I combined writing instruction with academic subjects to conserve time. I was pleasantly surprised how well it was received by the teachers and the students. I will end this article with a paragraph from one of my previous students... consistency needs some more practice but the legibility is great. It was taken from my published penmanship manual, *A Humanistic Approach to Penmanship*.

By Eileen Page

“The Energy of the Heart” in the New Year

by Jo Coppola

“Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.” -Carl G. Jung

As we leave 2021, we can move into the New Year with a hopefulness that humanity becomes more refreshed with a sense of renewal, for after all, what is the New Year about but to be hopeful of things to come?

We have had another tough year struggling through the continued epidemic of covid, the variants, and the future unknown possibilities that may or may not be coming.

I felt I wanted to give our wonderful readers of the Dialogue an invitation to start the New Year with a positive reflective look into our hearts! Finishing up 2021 is a good time to mindfully pause and consider our own thoughts and feelings.

My annual habit of Journaling before the year is over and then when the new one begins has been something I have treasured for many years. The profundity of having the opportunity to reflect more deeply is a gift I feel carries the energy of what both the past year gave, and my positive attitude about the one coming.

It is reflective, and has nothing to compare or contrast. It is an energy of my heart speaking. It is being alive in the present, and the wonder of what is coming, a better potential than to worry. It is a personal time to reflect whether you use Journaling as a means to transport those deeper feelings, or record them in your own voice to

save. In either way, we are calling on the energy of our heart to be heard. It is in this energy of the Heart where mindfulness plays it's most vital part; and has its' greatest impact on our mental and physical health system. They do exist together.

Mindfulness is not work. So many people think it means meditation or retreat. It is actually a state of being. It is the wonder of our own presence with ourselves. I feel strongly that our mind, and in particular, our left brain, is not the center of who we are. It is our heart! And of course, our right mind.

They operate as a team. Lean into your heart. If you can use this as a prompt to Journal, the invitation is to consciously go inside. Look at it as an exercise of unpacking your very wisdom. Many people never get this invitation, but it is a great one to use at the end of a year in particular, or to begin a new one that is coming, or both. This is a good time to be open.



This starts a process of Journaling as a tool for the year of growth. Our emotional mind, our right mind (and I do like that it is our right mind that actually is linked to our heart), will always be accessible. This is the brain that dreams, Intuits, and feels deeply. This is the brain of self-mastery. This is the brain where we feel our truest nature, and where we tell our greatest stories from. It is the brain of inner dialogue! This is the brain that converges with the heart, which is mindfulness in intentionality. It tells us when we are in our true nature.

“The Energy of the Heart” in the New Year

continued from page 7

In order to be mindful, you must have access to your heart of compassion as a daily practice. It tells us we are enough, and it reassures us that any outcome we feel connected to is just a set up for expectations.

Mindfulness reminds us to stay in the present, not the past and not the future. Leaving outcomes out of this practice opens up a more congruent experience of being present. Mindfully in the New Year, the ability to reflect with our heart is the opposite of overthinking. It is about making the heart more central. The heart sends more signals to the brain than the brain sends to the heart. This is something that not only affects our emotions, but has a strong impact on our nervous system.



I will offer some good mental health advice when our wonderful readers of the Dialogue feel anxiety creeping in for any reason:

- ✦ **Put your hand or hands on your heart.**
- ✦ **Close your eyes and take a deep breath.**
- ✦ **Remember that your heart is your guide, and when your mind overpowers your ability to be calm, you will always have your heart to guide you back.**
- ✦ **Allow your mind to feel what the word “calm” brings to you; it may be an image or a memory, a sound, or an emotion.**
- ✦ **Allow this activity to be felt in your heart. It can literally take ten seconds for your**

heart to feel your center and out of your brain.

The heart celebrates our lives, beating without any guidance or help. It gives us the power to always self-regulate when we take the time to stop and ask for its’ help. It becomes a practice that has tremendous power. It is listening to your nervous system when it feels out of wack, because it will tell you something is off.

Listen to that strong voice of reason, because this is where compassion resides. Our biology is the basis of compassion. It began that way in the womb!

We have had an abundance of nervous energy over the past almost two years as a country and world, and the vibration of hope has been lowered and felt by many people.

Mental health has never been more affected. Worry has taken on a life that most people never saw before. We went from having choice in our reactions to having anxiety be a part of the day to day. It has added stress to every part of our regular life, and it has been daunting for many people.

As we look on 2022 as a potential year of hope, let us be hopeful. Let us encourage change of optimism and wellness. Let us be mindful of the words we use in our day to day; what we say to ourselves and to others. The ability to be more mindful of what we want to change will happen if we give ourselves permission to grant ourselves another way of thinking or feeling.

If we see that being nervous is a strain on our heart, realize it and tell the very cells in your

“The Energy of the Heart” in the New Year

Continued from page 8

body that you want to be more self-compassionate. Your very nervous system is



reactive.

Journal what you notice every time you feel you are having a nervous reaction, no matter what it is. This is an opportunity to see how your own internal system reflects something that you feel you cannot change in the moment.

The nervous system is an alert system. Even a simple headache is a response; something needs our attention. It is a healthy system of communication we often forget we have within us at all times. It is heart driven. It is linked to common sense. This is mindfulness. Stop and reflect in the moment. Go from fight or flight to being able to talk to your very being. Be an active participant in your longing to feel calm. Again, your heart is your guide.

Be curious about your very nature! It is your friend! Mindfulness is about choice. What would you seek to be more mindful of if you were asked to wonder how the New Year may go?

Choosing to look at mindfulness more deeply is a path of self-compassion, not of fear or

anticipation. It is not outcome related, has expectations, or is fear-based. It is hopeful and lends itself to a heart of lightness. It lends optimism as a side affect of self-compassion. Mindfulness is intentional. It is about self-worth, how could it not be?

In the New Year, make mindfulness active compassion. Bring your heart into the conversations you play out in your mind. If you can, Journal before or around the New Year. It will be something you can use reflectively during the year. It is a tool for self-growth and curiosity.

It is going to be an inspirational year on many levels, this is something that I believe is true, because we are part of a resilient humanity that knows **Love** was here before we were. And I count on that!

We have a universal desire to see that people have the same goodness, not because any of us deserve it more than anyone else, but because it is a sharing of that love we were born with. It is an energy we can place before 2022 unfolds and we can lavish it as we move forward. A healthy, well, and grateful spirit of the New Year to each and every one!

Jo Coppola is our AAHA Vice President and Accreditation Chair. She is also a licensed and practicing therapist and professor at . Jo promotes journaling to her college students and patients.

Drives, Motivations and Vitality

By Valerie Weil

Any graphologist that provides good reports to their clients should include information about the writer's Drives, Motivations, and Vitality. Why, you ask? Because it is an essential part of how this person operates in life. Every employer what's to know what will motivate their employee to do more, to do better. Every individual wants to know it's OK to follow their dreams by understanding their personal motivations and drives.



Not every person wants to be in first place all the time. Not every person cares to be on the winning team. Not every person needs an "attaboy" for recognition of little achievements.

Note everyone needs a bonus or follows the money to greener pastures. But there are those that do. And, your writer will definitely be telling you what they need to motivate them, if you know how to look for it in their handwriting.

So, let's take a deeper look at what drives, motivations and vitality is really all about, and how you can see it in the handwriting.

Drives, Motivation and Vitality are important to know how your writer gets by in this life. It answers the questions:

- are they able to handle situations,
- do they care and have the competitive drive to win,
- and what motivates them to do more and better.

Drives: will tell you how the writer moves through life. The more of these indicators in a handwriting sample will tell you this person "is driven to accomplish what they set out to do." They "have a purpose" and are goal driven.

Motivation: Joan Cook writes that these indicators "reflects the writer's instinctual drives that motivate responses." It's the "measure of unconscious biological needs and drives which act as motivators for behavior.

Vitality: tells us how much energy, zest for life, and health is available to the writer.

These three often work with each other, so we discuss them as one unit.

Here's the indicators you need to examine to find the drives/motivation/vitality of the writer. Remember, the more of these indicators you find, the stronger the drive/motivation/vitality is an unconscious and integrated part of the writer.

Drives, Motivation and Vitality

Continued from page 10

1) **Speed** – the writer’s personal tempo. Pace at which writer acts, reacts and adapts to people and new situations. Measure of impatience and irritability.

- Natural and Spontaneous writing
- Right slant
- Average to large middle zone (neither extreme)
- Garland and/or Thread
- Few lead-ins

- Average to wide letter & word space
- Average to wide left margin
- Narrow right margin
- Long t-bars
- I-dots dashed or hooked, and to the right of the stem

2) **Horizontal Expansion** – This is the writer’s personal spacing as they move across the page...with consists of the width of the letters, the space between the letters, and the spacing between the words. It shows the writer’s demand for elbow room, for freedom of thought, and freedom from supervision. Here’s what indicators you need to observe, below.

Remember a wide Horizontal Expansion shows that writer operates *at his own best speed*, indicates confidence and determination. (A narrow horizontal expansion shows negatively because it indicates anxiety, which inhibits their progression. The close horizontal expansion, where letters touch or nearly touch, indicates the writer is compelled to be with others, relies on other’s opinions, is unsure of their own decisions, seeking direction and constant reassurance.) *Nothing should be “excessive.”*

-
- Moderately Wide space between letters
 - Moderately Wide space between words
 - Middle Zone Width is at least “Average”
-

3) **Right Slant and Right Trend** – This is the measure of the writer’s emotional response to others and to life’s situations. Even in printing, you will see somewhat of a right slant. Here’s what to observe in both cursive and printing:

- Last downstroke of the lowercase letter m’s & n’s have a moderate to strong right slant
 - Overall writing has a right slant appearance. (Right Trend is average to strong)
 - I-dots to right of the stem
 - T-bars to the right of the stem
 - No leftward tails/endings
 - Wide Left Margin with an average to narrow Right Margin

Drives, Motivations and Vitality

Continued from page 11

4) **Pressure:** This is the measure of vital energy, physical drive, and sexual intensity. This is a good indicator of “competitiveness” and leadership. It is also a great indicator of personal determination to finish things. Here’s the level of indicators

- Average Embossing = adequate determination/energy
- Heavy Embossing = Leadership potential, focused on achievement of goals
- Shading (light upstroke, heavy downstroke)
 - When the shading is off, there’s usually a health issue (or influenced by drugs/alcohol, physical health or brain trauma)

5) **Pastiosity:** This is the writer’s susceptibility to influences of the senses. Earthy, love of Beauty, Love of the way things feel, smell, taste, sexually demanding, may be violent, crude. These are the drives and motivations for this person. Here is the list of indicators. Remember, the more the indicators, the more intense the writer is motivated (compelled) by the need to experience these sensations.

- Flooded ovals and loops
- Heavy down strokes
- Blurred or fuzzy ductus

- Ink blobs
- Cross-outs, patches
- Heavy shading

6) **Lower Zone Length:** This measures the importance to the writer of material/physical/sexual needs as a driving force in the writer’s personality.

- Lower Zone is at least 2x the Middle Zone Height
- Exaggerated (more than 2x MZH) shows this drives everything they do. (Compelled to succeed in satisfying this need to feel accomplished/powerful/goal-driven)

7) **Lower Zone Elaboration/Fullness:** This factor enhances imagination and creativity. May be flamboyant, eccentric, full of bluff. Sexual, material, physical aspects of life may dominate actions and thoughts.

- Average fullness (width of Lower Zone Loops)
- Greater than average fullness (indicates a greater need to succeed)
- Lower Zone Elaborations (bizarre or attention catching designs, swirls/loops, claws, angles) tell the writer needs to encapsulate or suppress memories. Negative when left trending. Still it shows creativity and the ability to think outside normal to achieve goals.
- Heavy pressure in the lower zone indicates a determination to succeed.

Drives, Motivations and Vitality

continued from page 12

What Motivates this Writer? For Employers that's the million dollar question. That's what makes you, the graphologist, so helpful to them. This is nothing they can see on an initial interview, or even after a few months of the writer working for them.

Below are a few of the motivators that will help you to identify what the employer needs to know:

- **Approval** (rounded writing, strong garlands, long lead-in strokes, bowed t-bars, variable baseline)
- **Money/Possessions** (Heavy Pressure, overblown LZ, pastiosity) (Remember: Money Bags are shown for people that WANT material possessions. Once they ~~gt~~ get them, the bags deflate.)
- **Pleasure/Comfort** (Large MZ&LZ, pastiosity, loose rhythm, ending strokes turn to left, extra large capitals, narrow right margin, narrow line spacing)
- **Recognition** (moderately strong pressure, large capitals, good rhythm, Princess wave endings)
- **Power** (Some people just want to dominate others, some make great leaders. You'll see this in heavy pressure, angled right downward t-bars, heavy punctuation.)

Goals and Goal Setting? This is one of those questions that everyone needs to know about themselves. It will help them to improve by recognizing their own goals and ambitions, as well as how to utilize goal setting for improvement, motivations and working towards new achievements.

- **Goal Directed:** (strong L-R movement, pressure, balanced margins, mod-straight baseline).
- **Goal-setting:** Uses imagination and willpower for setting goals? (Well-formed UZ, strong horizontal movement, good pressure)

Understanding how a writer uses his own vitality (inner strengths, liveliness) to pursue their goals, to know what motivates them, and to understand the drives them to succeed is an amazing gift of information you can give to your writer or their potential boss. I hope you will find this information helpful with all your reports! - Val Weil

*Credits: Joan Cook's "Graphic Indicator Clusters"
Sheila Lowe's "Complete Idiots Guide to Handwriting Analysis, © 1999"
Sr. June Canoles's "Drives and Motivations"*

BEGINNER'S CORNER

Written by Cindy G. Cheaves

Helping members that are new to the study of graphology is an important goal of AAHA. In that effort, we are re-instituting THE BEGINNER'S CORNER that was created in the early years of the Dialogue. Join us each quarter for topics geared for the beginner and as a refresher for all.

Choose the best answer. Answers below.

Becoming familiar with AAHA's recommended reading list is a good way to build your graphology library and your knowledge. The books on the reading list cover a majority of the topics on AAHA's suggested core curriculum and provide some guidance on various topics AAHA tests on the Accreditation exams.



Challenge: Match the author with the title of their book.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. "Experiments with Handwriting" | A. Amend & Ruiz |
| 2. "Gestalt Graphology" | B. Jane Green |
| 3. "A Key To Personality" | C. Reed Hayes |
| 4. "Symbolism of Handwriting" | D. Sheila Lowe |
| 5. "Personality in Handwriting" | E. Alfred Mendel |
| 6. "Advanced Graphology" | F. Klara Roman |
| 7. "You and Your Private I" | G. Felix Klein |
| 8. "The Definitive Book of Handwriting Analysis" | H. Betty Link |
| 9. "The Complete Idiots Guide to Handwriting Analysis" | I. Renna Nezos |
| 10. "Handwriting Analysis - The Complete and Basic Book" | J. Max Pulver |
| 11. "Graphology Volume 1" & "Advanced Graphology 2" | K. Robert Saudek |
| 12. "Between the Lines: Understanding Yourself and Others Through Handwriting Analysis" | L. Marc Siefer |

1K, 2G, 3F, 14, 5E, 6H, 7B, 8L, 9D, 10A, 11I, 12C

Handwriting in the Future?

by Edda Manley

We assume that handwriting will always be taught in our schools. For over one hundred years it was considered one of the pillars of a basic education, along with reading and arithmetic. Change is a constant, and so it is for handwriting.

For over a decade some of us in the handwriting community have been working hard to try to prevent first, the decline of cursive handwriting, and then the elimination of it completely from our schools. There were many successes when state by state leaders voted to keep cursive handwriting in the curriculum. Sadly however, the reality is, that even with politicians interceding to the point of enacting legislation to maintain this skill for their young citizens, the decline continues.

On January 23, 2012 I was privileged to attend **Handwriting for the 21st Century? Summit** meeting in Washington DC. Notice that there was actually a question mark put in the conference title. Wonderful presentations were given by several highly qualified educators and researchers. Everyone who participated in this Summit meeting knew how important being able to write by hand is to the development of young minds and also to the future of our countries.

As is customary at the end of such meetings, a final statement is made by the leaders of the meeting. I was not able to get the exact words to "quote" the statement, but my shock at what the statement was seared it in my mind. The final statement was to the effect, *ideally, we would like all children to be taught both printing and cursive handwriting so when they are older, they can choose which*

style of handwriting they prefer to use. Then came the very last statement, the one that shocked me so greatly, *at least let the children write by hand.* My first thought was, of course they will always be taught to write by hand! The complete elimination of all forms of handwriting was unfathomable to me.

Now, a decade later, I look back at what was said, and I truly wonder if they were foreshadowing? Much greater minds than mine already knew there could be the possibility of the complete elimination of the teaching and use of ALL handwriting!



I believe we are at a crossroad. We can continue to go down the present road towards the elimination of handwriting, or we can encourage parents, teachers and children to demand better and make sure children are taught handwriting, then required to use it until writing by hand is automatic for all children.

What we are up against is the technology Goliaths who are encouraging younger people to use their voice to text devices such as Siri or Alexa rather than even keyboarding in information. Grammar, spelling, handwriting are no longer required in these behemoths' minds.

Recently there have been some rumblings and demands for drastic change in the public education system. Both parents and teachers are banding together in some areas throughout the country and have won higher pay for teachers and other positive changes. It is the first glint that people are demanding

Handwriting in the Future

Continued from page 15

better from the public education system for the children today.

Change is coming slowly, and we see this on many fronts. In the last few years there have been some articles published in mainstream newspapers that have been pro handwriting. This is the complete opposite from what we saw one decade ago. In past years the media was complicit in telling the public that handwriting was not a necessary skill to maintain.

In the past few years, we have also seen the effects of putting all our eggs in the technology basket. There is ever increasing evidence of the precariousness of our technology whether through regularly occurring hacks, shutdowns, ransomware, and yes, even weather event related occurrences. Having the ability to write by hand makes the difference between people being able to remain productive or not.

Through this past decade we have also witnessed an increase in children attending private schools and the forming of home school organizations. These two areas are thriving because parents and teachers know this is the only way their children can get a much higher quality education. Interestingly these Independent schools continue to teach and maintain handwriting. Parents and teachers in public school systems need to demand the same for their children.

A quality education will always ensure children know how to write by hand. Each of us need to find a way to make a contribution to this effort to keep handwriting being taught in the public school system.

- Edda Manley



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