

Write stuff: Calligrapher to teach BC3 Lifelong Learning students ancient art of lettering

Aug. 20, 2019



Sandy Protzman-Cook, who will teach Lifelong Learning courses titled “Calligraphy for Every Occasion” and “Calligraphy: Renew & Refresh” this fall on Butler County Community College’s main campus in Butler Township, used the chancery italic style of lettering to decorate a kitchen table she refinished.

(Butler, PA) With pens and brushes characterized by chiseled tips and dipped in inks of black or gray or blue or “any color under the rainbow,” Sandy Protzman-Cook this fall will draw references to the past, before computer keyboards and cellphone touchscreens, when handwritten lettering showed “we cared how we presented ourselves to one another.”

Calligraphy, said Protzman-Cook, of Butler, “takes us back to a time period.”

That time period will be revisited this fall when Protzman-Cook teaches Butler County Community College Lifelong Learning courses titled “Calligraphy for Every Occasion” and “Calligraphy: Renew & Refresh.”

When students “take the time to send someone his or her name in decorative letters, (it’s) a work of art,” Protzman-Cook said. “Handwriting is no longer taught in many schools, which is a shame.”

BC3 this autumn will offer 130 Lifelong Learning classes in Butler County, said Paul Lucas, director of Lifelong Learning.

Among them, “Calligraphy for Every Occasion,” a six-session, 12-hour course beginning Sept. 10 and whose participants will learn the ancient art of lettering; and “Calligraphy: Renew & Refresh,” a four-session, eight-hour class starting Oct. 22 and whose students will brush up on old techniques and learn new ones.

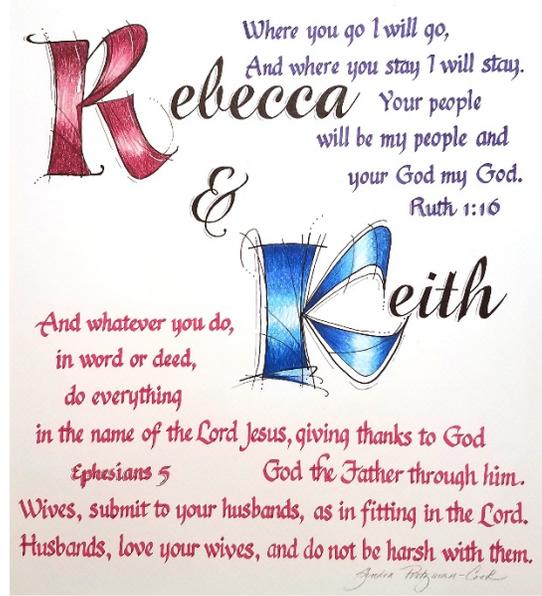
Both courses will be taught on BC3’s main campus in Butler Township.

Calligraphy, Protzman-Cook said, comes from the Greek words kallos, meaning beauty; and from graphein, meaning to write.

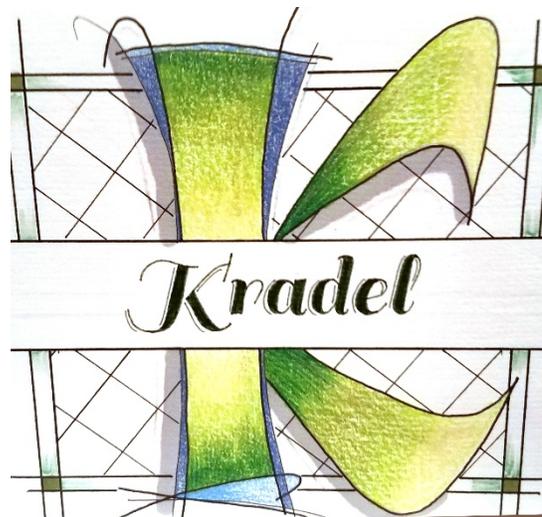
“Beautiful writing,” she said.

Her students will learn to write beautifully, she said, by holding the chisel-tipped pens and brushes at angles that change with the style of calligraphy, such as Roman, blackletter and italic.

In addition to Protzman-Cook’s calligraphy courses, returning Lifelong Learning favorites this fall in Butler County include “Floral Academy,” “Ancestry: An Introduction” and “Gentle Flow Yoga.”



Sandy Protzman-Cook, who will teach Lifelong Learning courses titled “Calligraphy for Every Occasion” and “Calligraphy: Renew & Refresh” this fall on Butler County Community College’s main campus in Butler Township, mixed the chancery italic and kersal styles of lettering to create a wedding program.



Sandy Protzman-Cook, who will teach Lifelong Learning courses titled “Calligraphy for Every Occasion” and “Calligraphy: Renew & Refresh” this fall on Butler County Community College’s main campus in Butler Township, used the kersal style of lettering to create a gift announcing the birth of a boy.

“50-Plus Computing,” “Cookology for Kids Grades 4-6,” “Intro to Aesthetic Photography,” “Nutrition for Mental & Brain Health,” and “Latin Dance: Merengue, Salsa, Mambo” are among BC3’s new Lifelong Learning selections in Butler County this fall.

BC3’s Lifelong Learning courses offer the community a wide range of opportunities to gain knowledge and competence, and a variety of skills, Lucas said.

“It’s also fun to be able to present the community with an affordable way to try new hobbies,” Lucas said. “Our students love the wide variety of classes. The classes are a wonderful way to stay active by continuing your journey of learning, broadening your life experiences, gaining skills to better your employment, or to enrich your life.”

Protzman-Cook holds an associate degree in graphic art and visual communication from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, and is a member of the Calligraphy Guild of Carnegie Mellon.

Practice, she said, is key for a beginner to draw those lines to the past.

“Six weeks,” she said. “I like to tell my students that you never stop learning. There is always room to grow and you only grow through practice. I start my students out lettering for 20 minutes at one sitting.

“One student said, ‘I never knew there was this much work. I thought you sat down and wrote letters.’”

“Calligraphy for Every Occasion” costs \$99 and “Calligraphy: Renew & Refresh,” \$69. The cost of both courses includes materials.

For more information on BC3’s fall 2019 Lifelong Learning courses, visit bc3.edu/lifelong-learning or call 724-284-8504.



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