

# The Graceful Envelope

## Designed, Sealed and Delivered!



## 25 Years of the Graceful Envelope Contest

*Scripsit*

Vol. 41, No. 2 • Fall 2019 • Washington Calligraphers Guild

## From the editor

The Graceful Envelope Contest challenges lettering artists to display their skills and creativity on a very small canvas: the envelope. To mark the contest's 25th year, the Washington Calligraphers Guild, which administers it, is pleased to publish a selection of winning envelopes from all 25 years. Because the top entries from earlier competitions were showcased in four previous Scripsits, this issue devotes extra space to highlight winners from the past five years.

The Graceful Envelope Contest began almost by accident in 1995, when the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum decided to mount an informal display of expert calligraphy to accompany one of its workshops. Hundreds of calligraphers responded to the museum's invitation to mail in envelopes artfully addressed to "The Graceful Envelope." The result was an annual contest and exhibition celebrating hand lettering, design and the art of written correspondence. In 2000 the museum turned the competition over to the Washington Calligraphers Guild, and two years later the National Association of Letter Carriers signed on to help administer it and to exhibit the winners.

Each year the contest inspires an outpouring of artistry and imagination, as entrants from across the country and around the world mail in their envelopes interpreting a specific theme through hand lettering and design, often incorporating postage stamps into their artwork. Tens of thousands of envelopes have been entered over the quarter century.

To engage students in lettering and design, the Graceful Envelope Contest invites them to enter their creations in three grade categories. See pp. 44-46 to enjoy the creativity of these young artists.

The theme and call for entries are announced each autumn on the Washington Calligraphers Guild's website, where all the winning envelopes since 2001 can be viewed online: [www.calligraphersguild.org](http://www.calligraphersguild.org).

*Lorraine Swerdloff*  
Contest Coordinator, 2007-18



Linae Frei —  
Janesville, WI

# 2019 Put Your Stamp On It

Celebrating 125 years of Commemorative Stamps  
and the 25th year of the Graceful Envelope Contest

Each year the Graceful Envelope Contest's Call for Entries urges calligraphers from around the world to incorporate the given theme in a creative design while using artistic hand lettering to address the envelope.

The 2019 theme, "Put Your Stamp On It," celebrates 25 years of the Graceful Envelope Contest and 125 years of US commemorative stamps. Artists were challenged to create an envelope commemorating anything of their choosing — to Put Your Stamp On It.

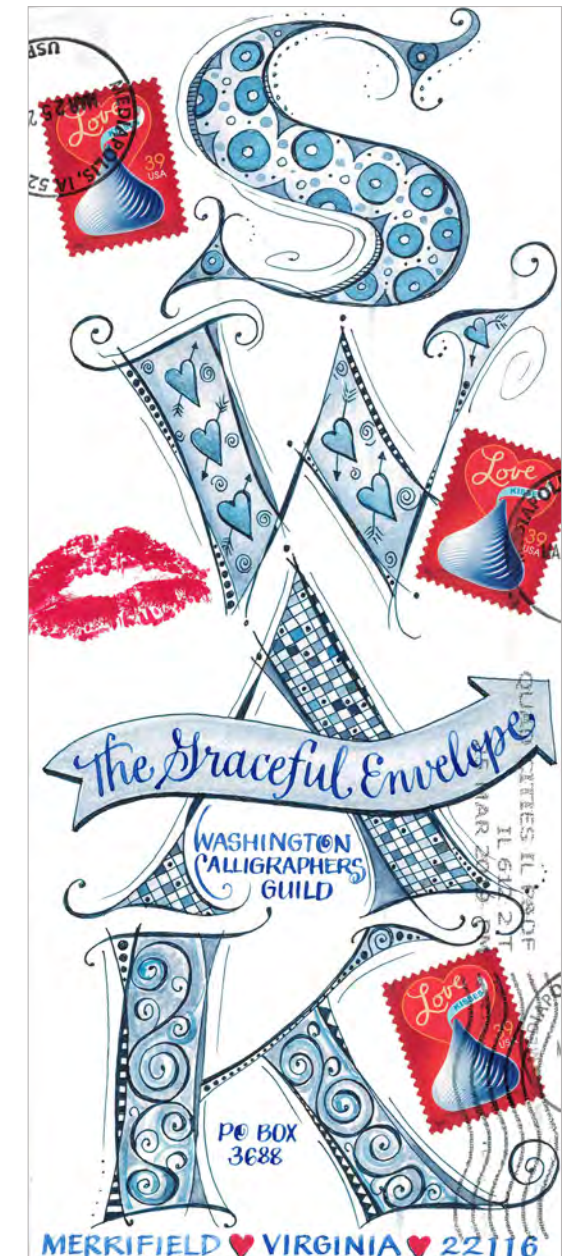
The Graceful Envelope's expert judges look for creative interpretation of the theme, skill in lettering and illustration, clever incorporation of postage and effective use

of color and design, among other criteria.

Adult entries were juried this year by retired White House Chief Calligrapher Pat Blair and professional calligraphers Sammy Little and Erin Cassidy, who now serves as Graceful Envelope Contest coordinator. Their comments about the experience can be found on the inside back cover.

The judges named two entries Best in Show:

**Sherri A. Trial** — Carlisle, PA (cover)  
**Christy Robb** — Morning Sun, IA (right)



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Scripsit is the journal of the Washington (DC) Calligraphers Guild and is among the many benefits available through membership. See [www.calligraphersguild.org](http://www.calligraphersguild.org). Send inquiries and address changes to:  
Lee Ann Clark, WCG Membership, P.O. Box 425, Stevenson, MD 21153-0425, USA.

To order additional copies of this issue as well as selected past Scripsits, see [www.calligraphersguild.org](http://www.calligraphersguild.org).

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# 2019 Put Your Stamp On It



1

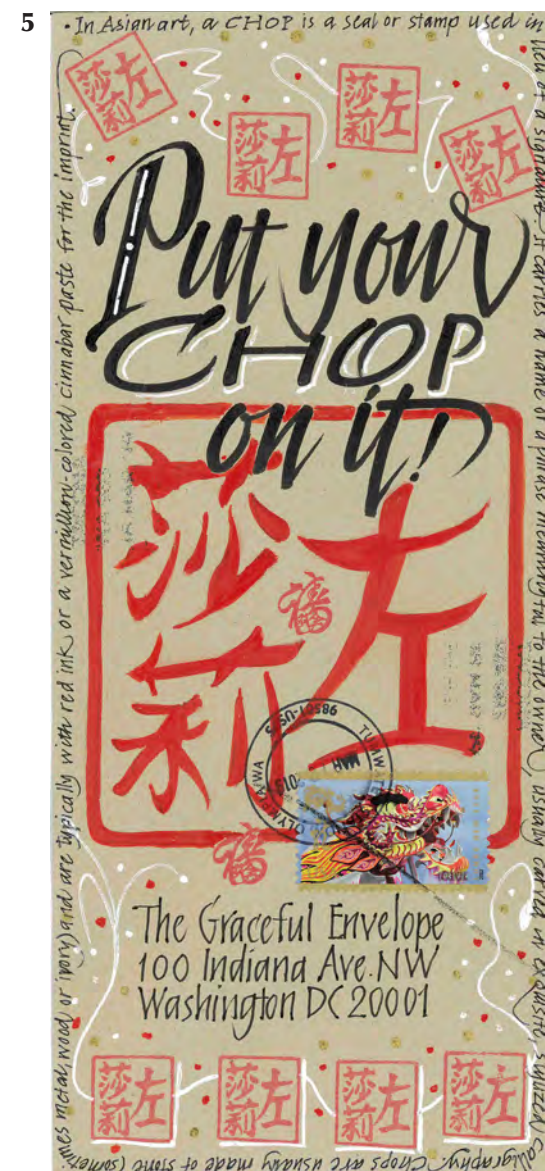
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|--|--|
| 1. Shari Jobst<br>Aberdeen, WA               | 6. Tori Bell<br>Tacoma, WA                 |
| 2. Laura Burney Nissen<br>Portland, OR       | 7. Annabel Delgado<br>Miami, FL            |
| 3. Catherine Langsdorf<br>Hendersonville, NC | 8. Ylenia Rivela<br>Stuttgart, Germany     |
| 4. P.L. Brooks<br>Weston, FL                 | 9. Gwenth Hibbit<br>Hertfordshire, England |
| 5. Sally Penley<br>Olympia, WA               |  |



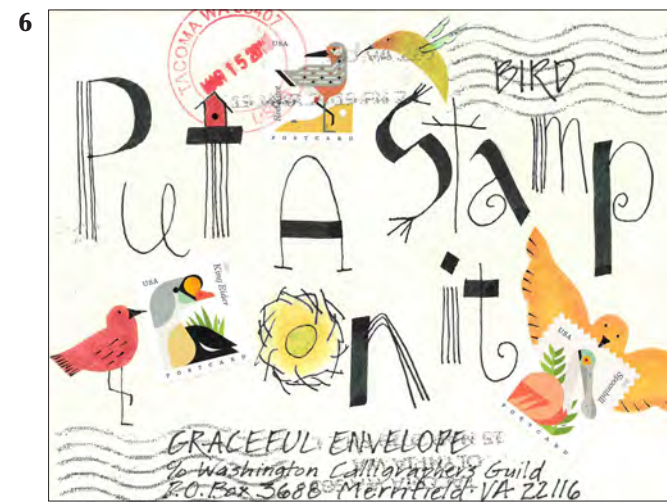
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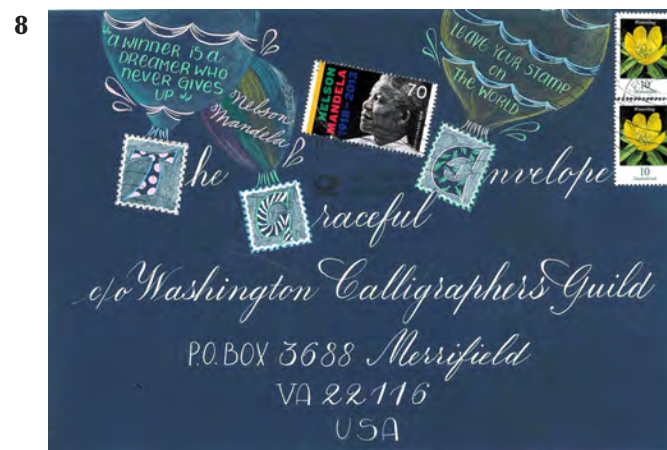
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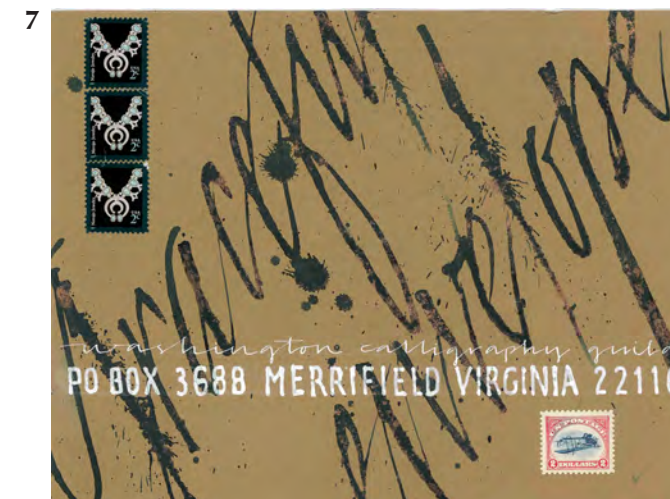
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# 2019 Put Your Stamp On It



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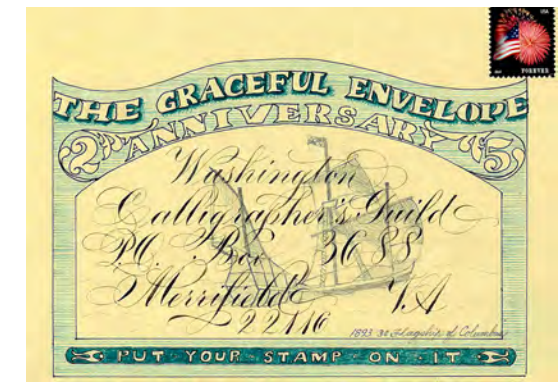
- 1. Regina Sanglier  
Bronx, NY
- 2. Marjorie Bannish  
Inverness, FL
- 3. Ruth Hutter  
Mundelein, IL

- 4. Patricia O'Donnell  
Fort Bragg, CA
- 5. Brigitte Stermann  
Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 6. TJ Klajnbart  
Colorado Springs, CO

- 7. Elizabeth Walsh  
Olympia, WA
- 8. Lisa Leong-Tsang  
Bellevue, WA
- 9. Hannah Claire Weston  
Lancaster, PA



10



11



4



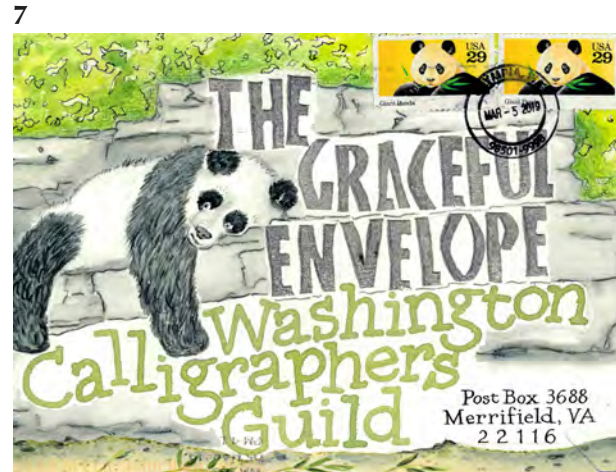
5

- 10. Jane Andrie Gillette  
Port Aransas, TX
- 11. Jane Matsumoto  
San Jose, CA
- 12. Betty Locke  
Duncan, BC, Canada
- 13. Julie Kechele  
Plainwell, MI
- 14. Jeanette Rapp  
Los Gatos, CA

12



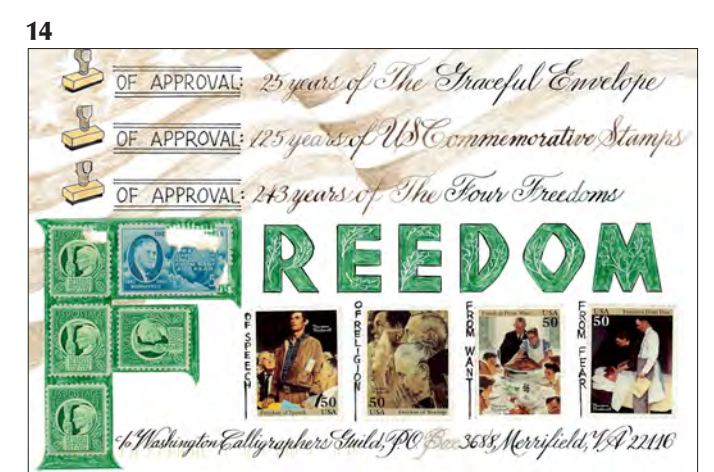
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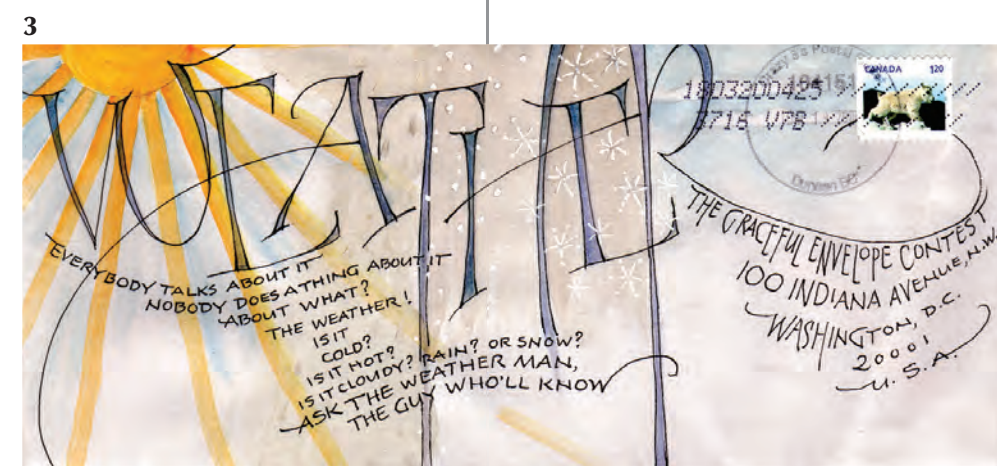
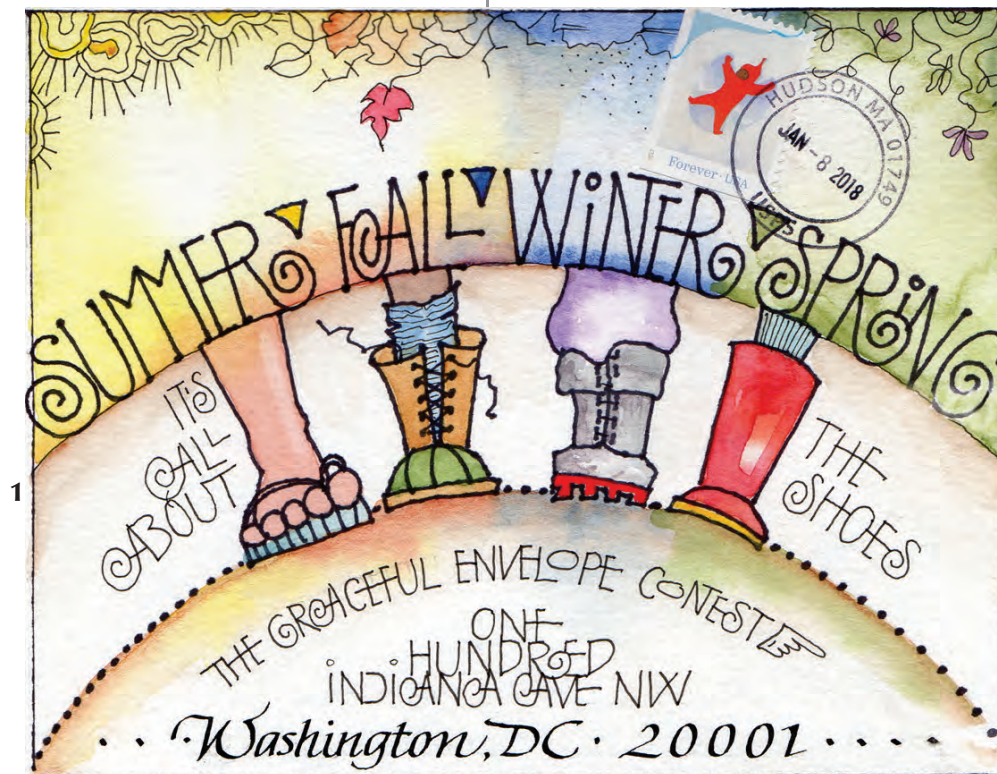
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# 2018 Whatever the Weather

When dressing for all kinds of weather, "It's all about the shoes" proclaims the whimsical Best in Show winner (r) by Gerry Jackson Kerdok. Because everyone has something to say about the weather, the 2018 theme inspired a brainstorm of colorful designs from footwear to flowers, climate change to seasons, sunny to snowbound. Entrants from Minnesota to Hong Kong illustrated, embellished and sent their handcrafted masterpieces through the mail stream, per the competition's rules.



1. Gerry Jackson Kerdok (Best in Show) Hudson, MA
2. Carol DuBosch Portland, OR
3. Betty Locke Duncan, BC, Canada
4. Margaret Kubisch Nuriootpa, SA, Australia
5. Linea Frei Janesville, WI
6. Kathy Barker Bellevue, WA
7. Kathy Froerer Provo, UT
8. Brecken Cook Kaysville, UT

# 2018 Whatever the Weather

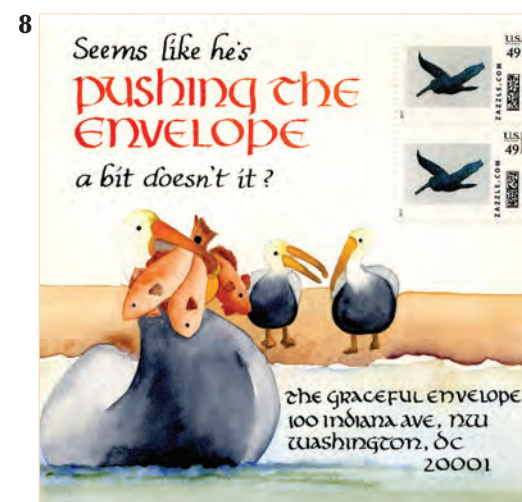
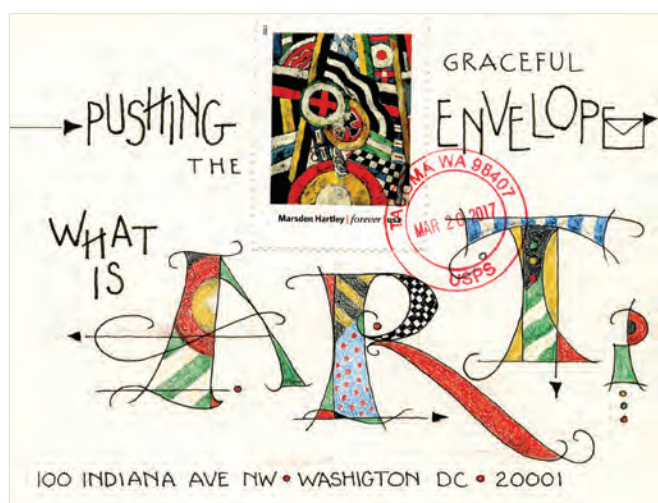


1. P.L. Brooks  
Weston, FL
2. Kathryn Darling  
West Chester, OH
3. Laura Nissen  
Portland, OR
4. Debbie Ruggles  
Sykesville, MD
5. Christy Robb  
Morning Sun, IA
6. Ko Hiu Kwan  
Kowloon,  
Hong Kong
7. Kathy Barker  
Bellevue, WA
8. Hannah Claire Weston  
Lancaster, PA
9. Sally Penley  
Olympia, WA
10. Elizabeth Walsh  
Olympia, WA
11. Mary DeChellis  
Fort Worth, TX



# 2017 Pushing the Envelope

For her simple and elegant rendering of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Christy Robb of Morning Sun, IA, received "Best In Show." With corresponding architecture-themed stamps, impeccable calligraphy of a quote from neo-futuristic architect Eero Saarinen (who designed the arch), and the slight extension of the arch beyond the edge of the envelope's border helped Robb's artwork connect with the judges.



1. Christy Robb (Best in Show)  
Morning Sun, IA
2. Tori Bell  
Tacoma, WA
3. Patricia O'Donnell  
Fort Bragg, CA
4. Brigitte Stermann  
Vancouver, BC, Canada
5. Carol Meetze-Moates  
Julian, NC
6. Cynthia Schubert  
Portland, OR
7. S. Utermann  
Hamburg, Germany
8. Jane Andrie Gillette  
Port Aransas, TX
9. Debbie Ruggles  
Sykesville, MD

# 2017 Pushing the Envelope



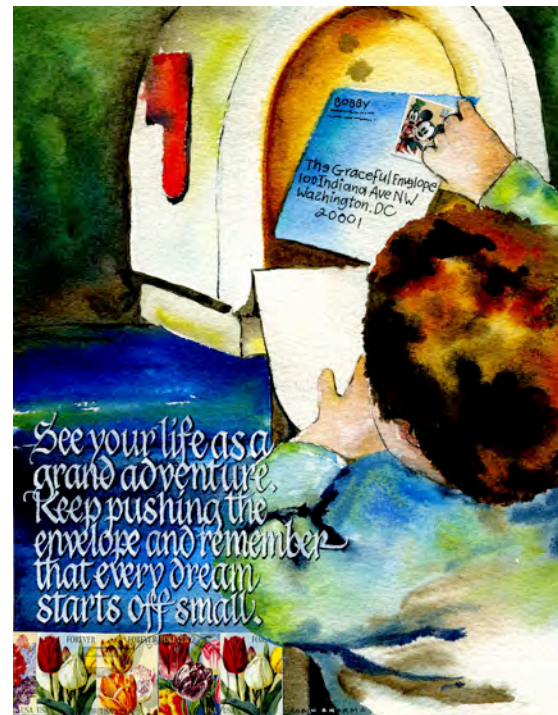
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- |                                      |                                   |   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1. Margaret Long<br>Curtis, WA       | 4. Zarabeth Duell<br>Lincoln, VT  | 7. Elizabeth Nuttle<br>Brooklandville, MD |
| 2. E. L. Sizemore<br>Carson City, NV | 5. Claire Griffin<br>Franklin, MA | 8. Hannah C. Weston<br>Lancaster, PA      |
| 3. Julie Gray<br>Sandia Park, NM     | 6. Charity Goodwin<br>Albany, MO  | 9. Nancy Anderson<br>Maple Valley, WA     |



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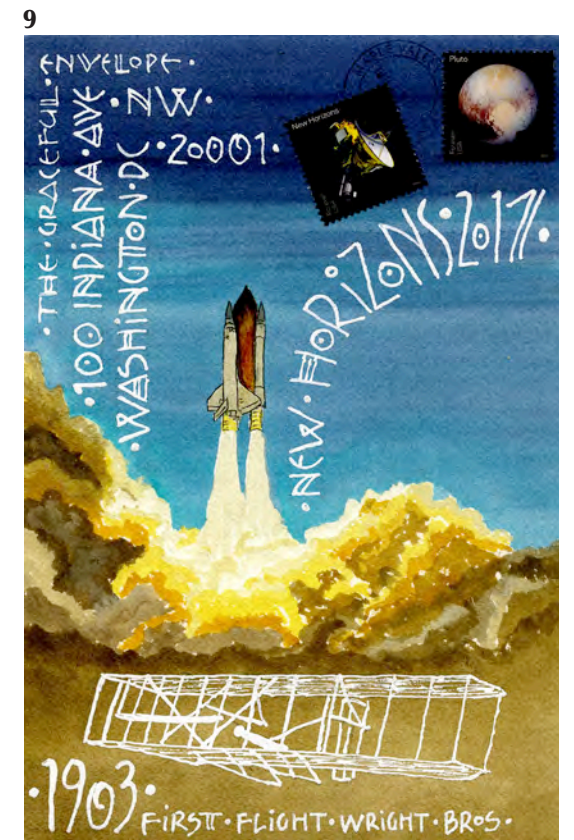
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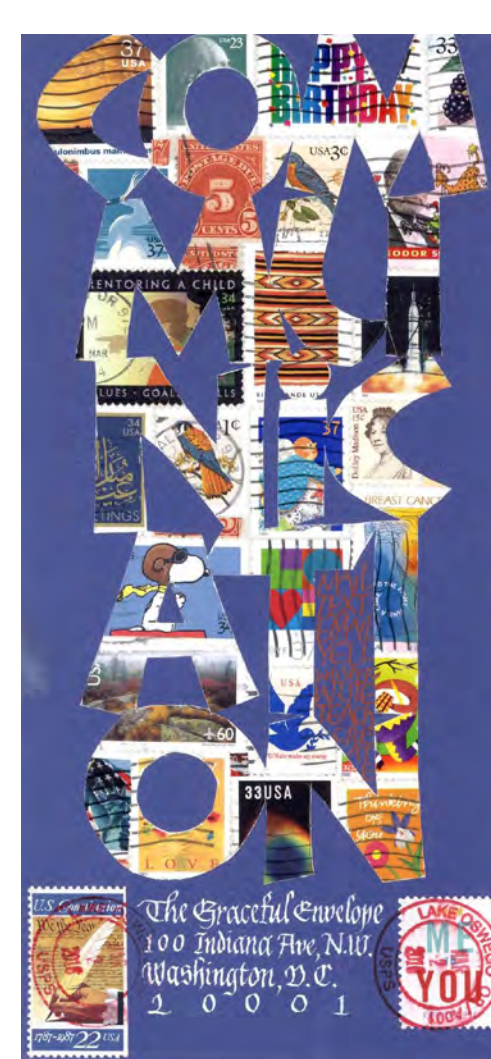
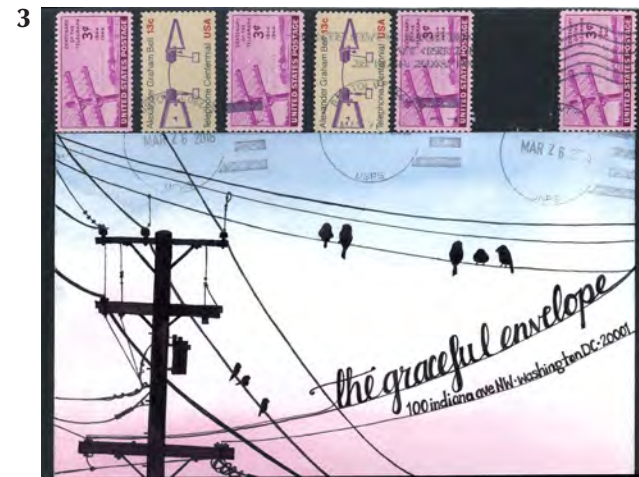
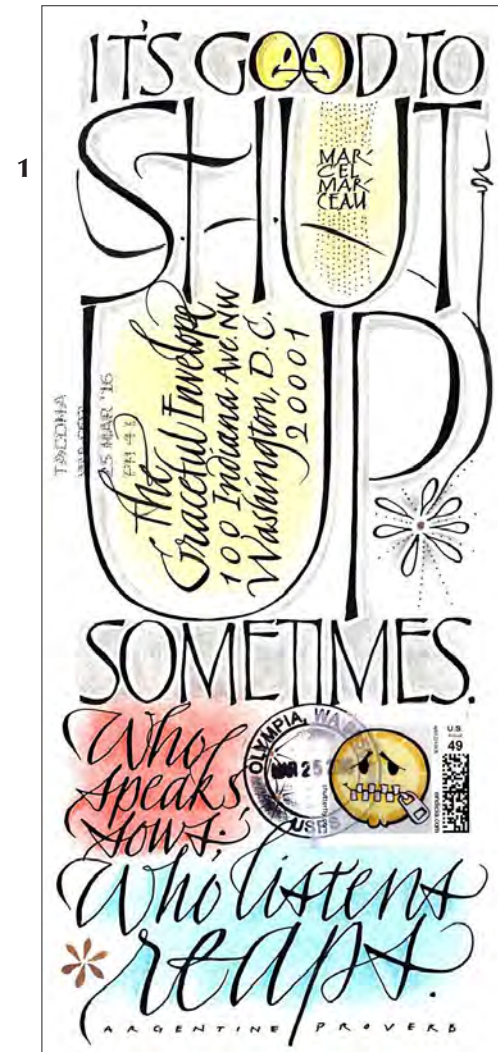
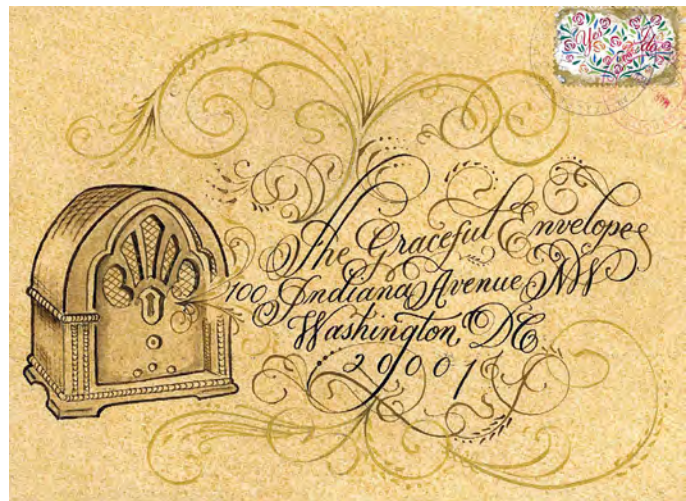
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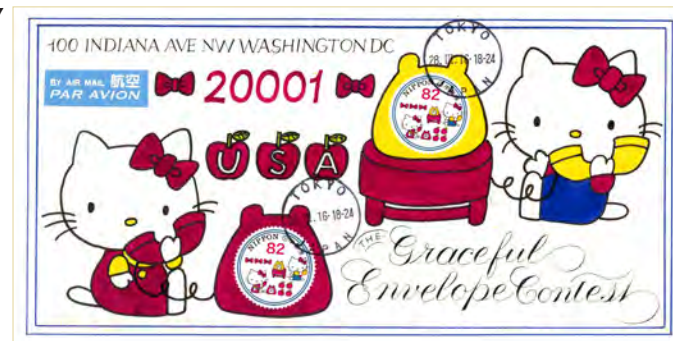
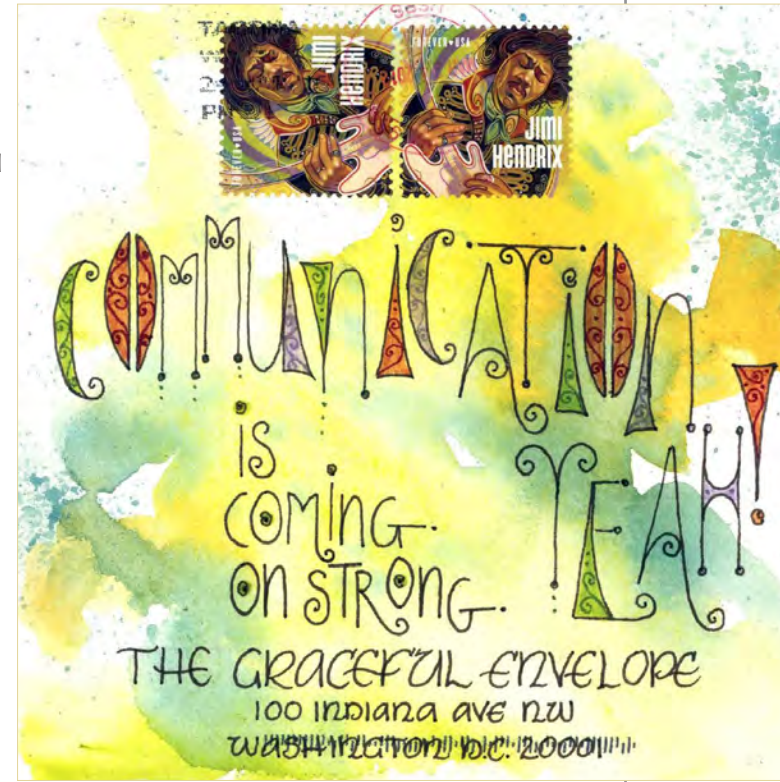
# 2016 Communication

Sometimes you communicate best when you say nothing at all — a sentiment shared by the “Best in Show” winner of the 2016 Graceful Envelope Contest. Beautifully designed and lettered by Sally Penley of Olympia, WA, the envelope (r) references famed mime Marcel Marceau: “It’s good to shut up sometimes,” and the Argentine proverb: “Who speaks sows; who listens reaps,” to make the point that one of the most important aspects of communicating with one another comes in listening.

1. Sally Penley  
(Best in Show)  
Olympia, WA
2. Janet Kasper  
Marysville, TN
3. Zarabeth Duell  
Lincoln, VT
4. Christy Robb  
Morning Sun, IA



# 2016 Communication



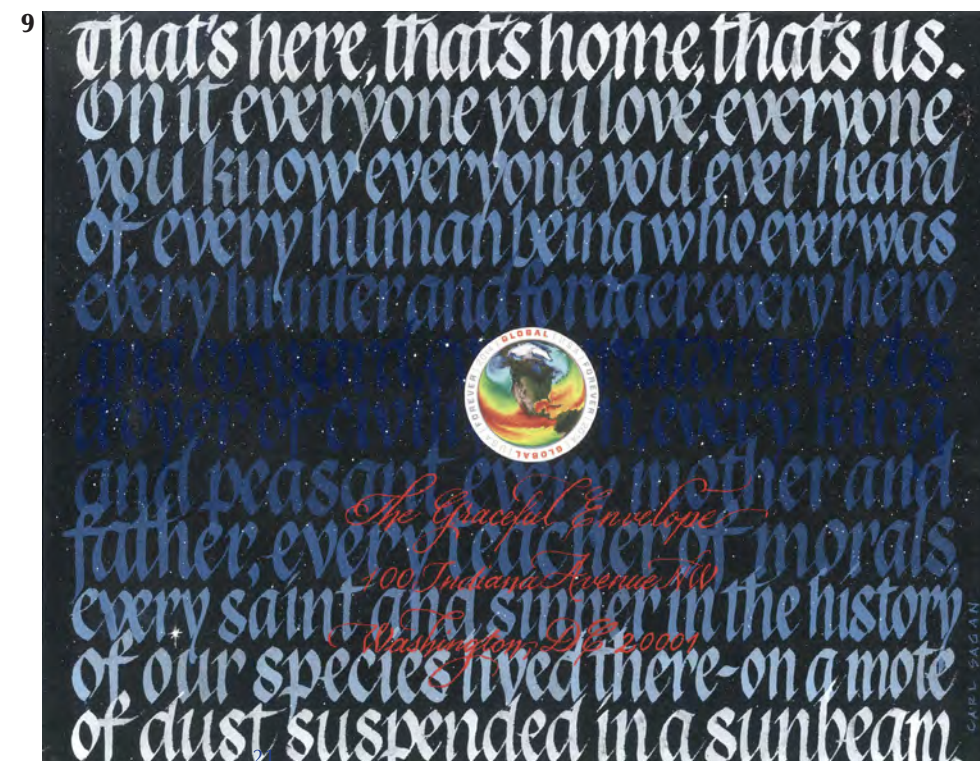
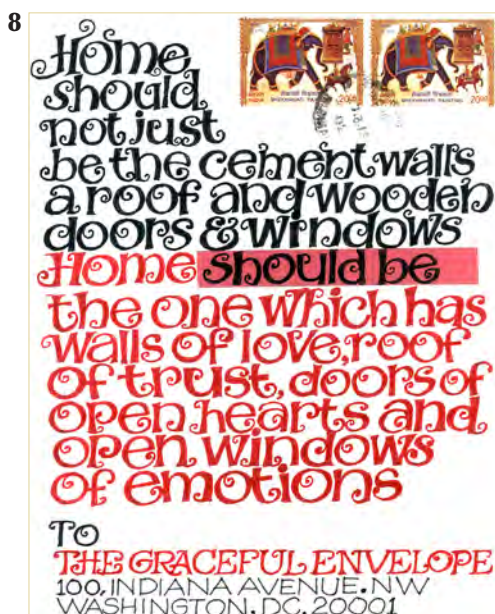
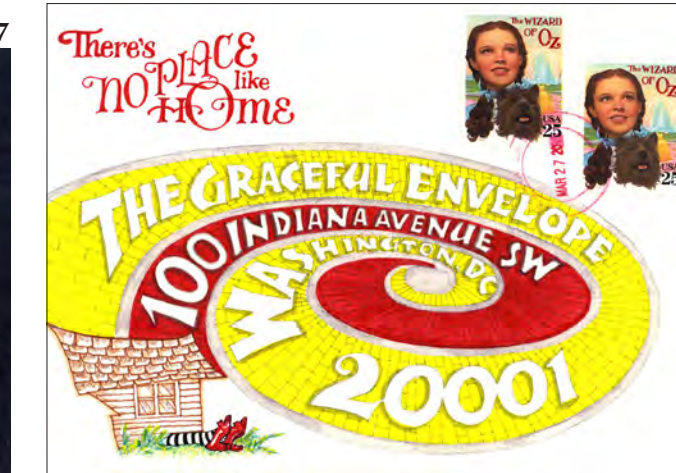
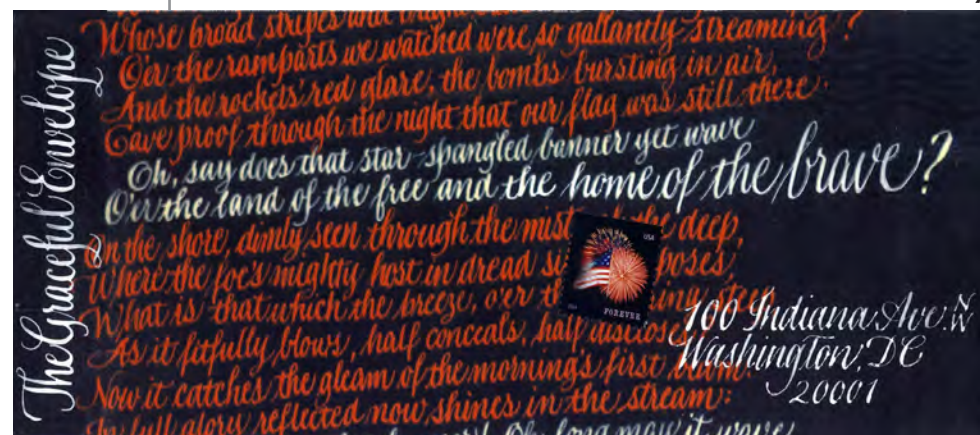
1. Tori Bell  
Tacoma, WA
2. Julie Gray  
Sandia Park, NM
3. Susan Gale Welch  
Seattle, WA
4. Nancy Anderson  
Maple Valley, WA
5. Mary DeChellis  
Fort Worth, TX
6. Paula Vena  
Townsville, QLD,  
Australia
7. Yumie Tanaka  
Tokyo, Japan
8. Jane Kent  
Lindfield, NSW,  
Australia
9. Brigitte Stermann  
Vancouver, BC, Canada
10. Karen Hewson  
Ontario, Canada
11. Chantelle Hoffmann  
Newark, CA
12. Linæ Frei  
Scottsdale, AZ



# 2015 There's No Place Like Home

The 2015 theme inspired designs about skylines, *The Wizard of Oz*, Planet Earth, baseball, mice and men and birds and bees, among the many other ideas that participants chose to represent Home. The top prize was awarded to Hannah C. Holder of Knoxville, TN, for a skilled and creative entry (r) that featured a homing pigeon carrying an important message. Entrants from Kansas to South Africa illustrated, embellished and mailed their handcrafted masterpieces in the annual competition that celebrates the art of written correspondence.

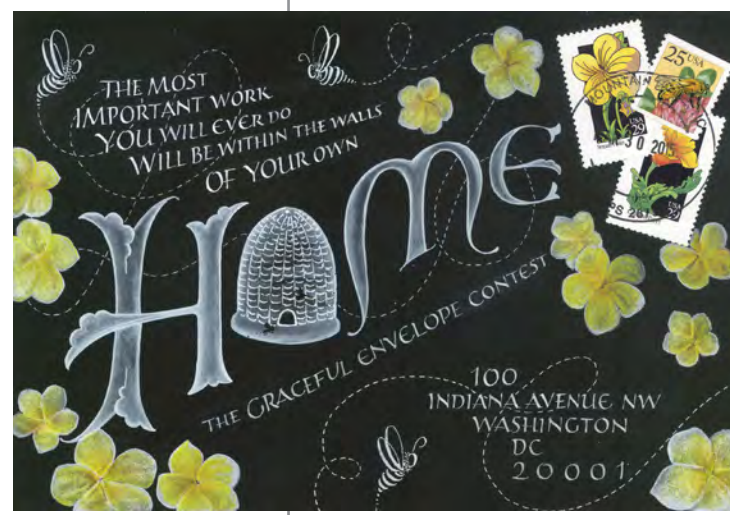
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Gerry Jackson Kerdok<br>Hudson, MA                  | 5. Larry Gabler<br>Cuyahoga Falls, OH       |
| 2. Nadejda Variouchitcheva<br>Nivelles, Belgium        | 6. Karin Gable<br>Reseda, CA                |
| 3. Pearl De Chalain<br>Witkoppen, South Africa         | 7. Ann Bain<br>Carlisle, OH                 |
| 4. Hannah C. Holder<br>(Best in Show)<br>Knoxville, TN | 8. Mohan Jayant Saraf<br>Maharashtra, India |
|  | 9. Julie Gray<br>Sandia Park, NM            |



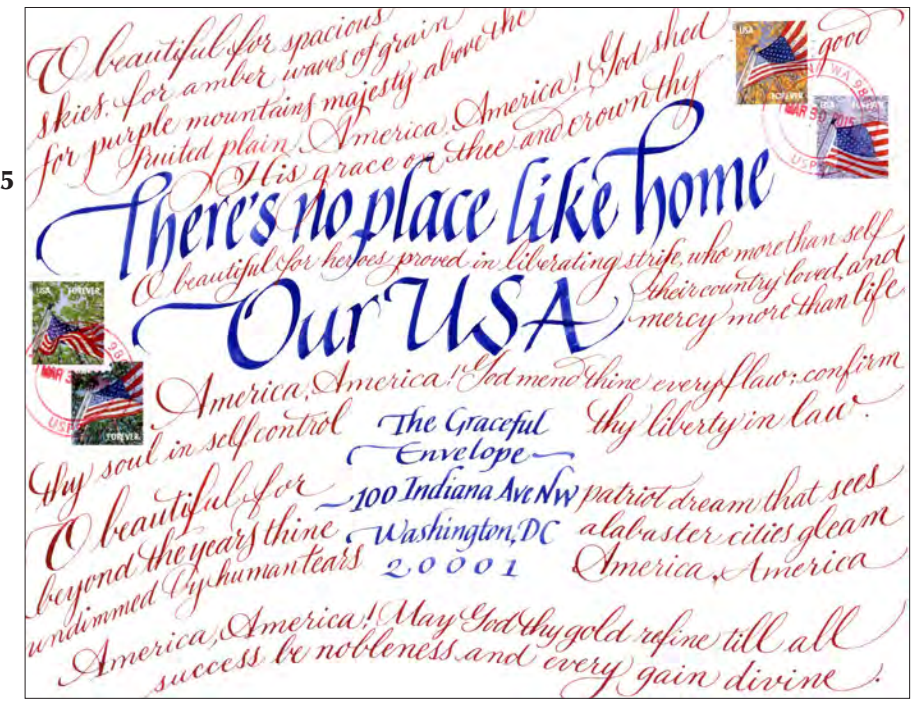
# 2015 There's No Place Like Home



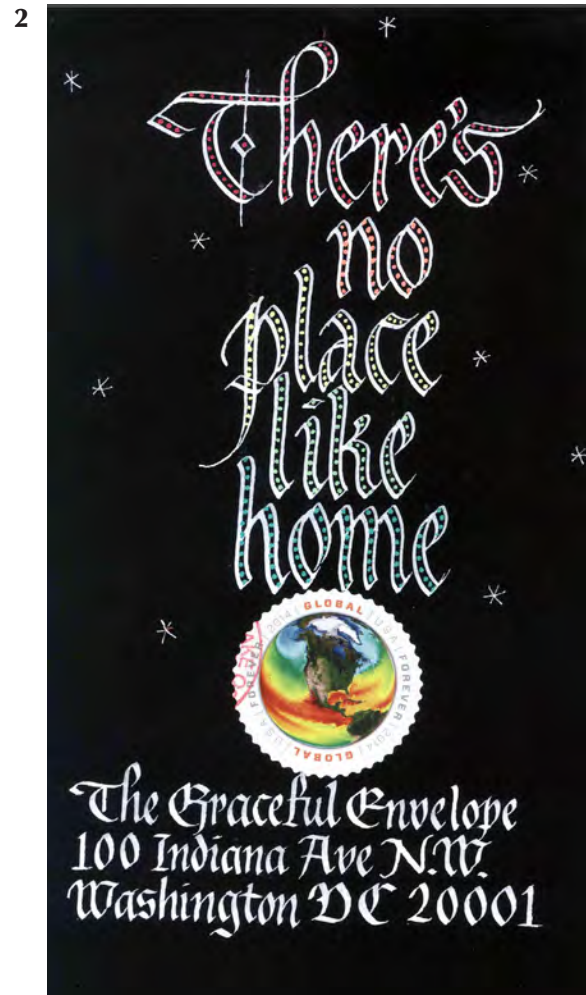
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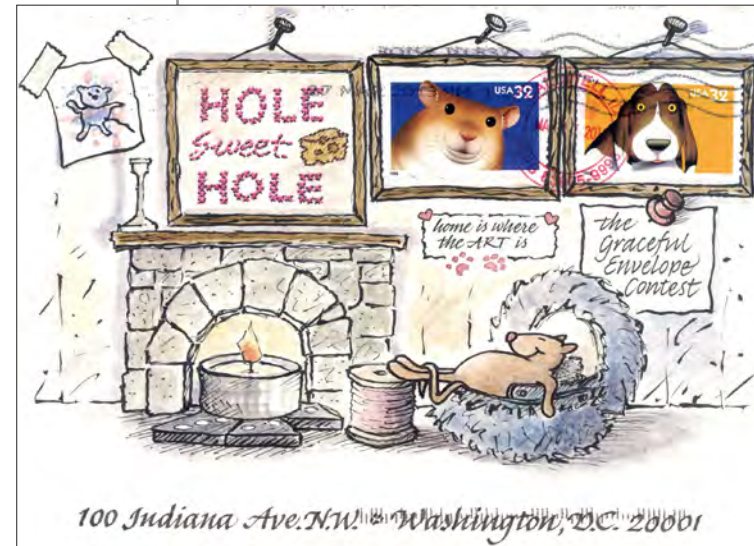


2

- 1. Sally Penley  
Olympia, WA
- 2. Carol DuBosch  
Portland, OR
- 3. Christy Robb  
Morning Sun, IA
- 4. Catherine Langsdorf  
Hendersonville, NC
- 5. Kathy Barker  
Bellevue, WA
- 6. Dawn Rochelle Davis  
Caldwell, ID
- 7. Amy Neubauer  
Chicago, IL
- 8. Lorrie Frear  
Canandaigua, NY



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6



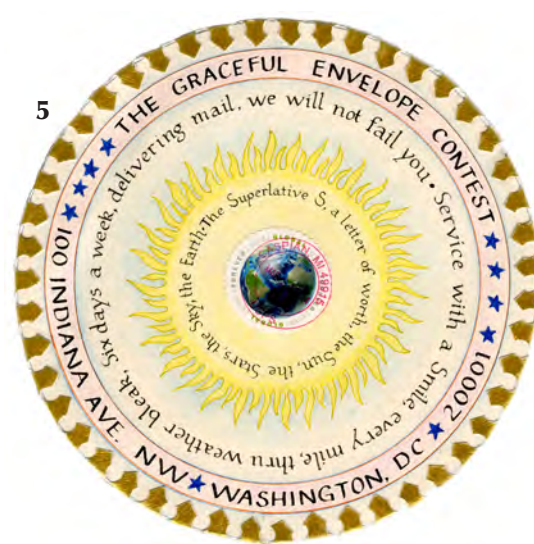
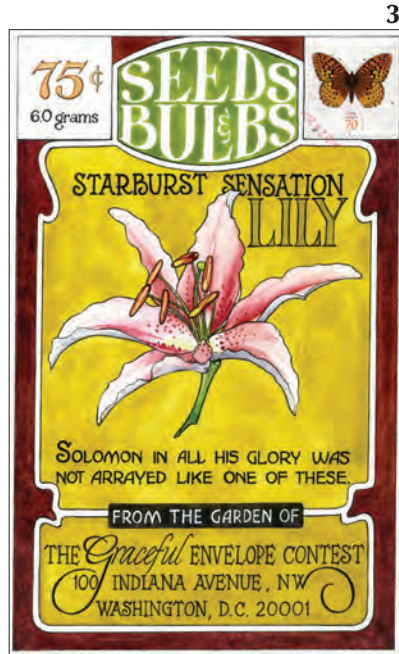
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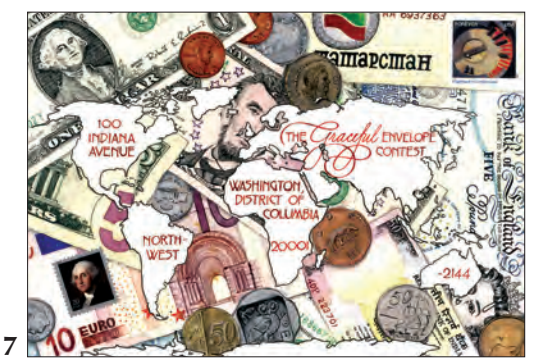
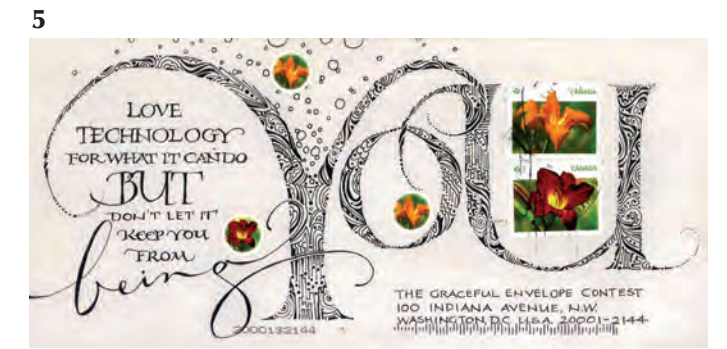
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# 2014 The Superlative Letter S

Envelopes on the following pages may have appeared in past Scripsits.



# 2013 A World of Change



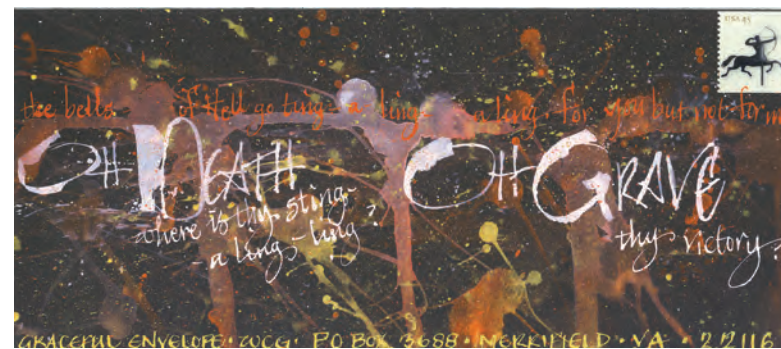
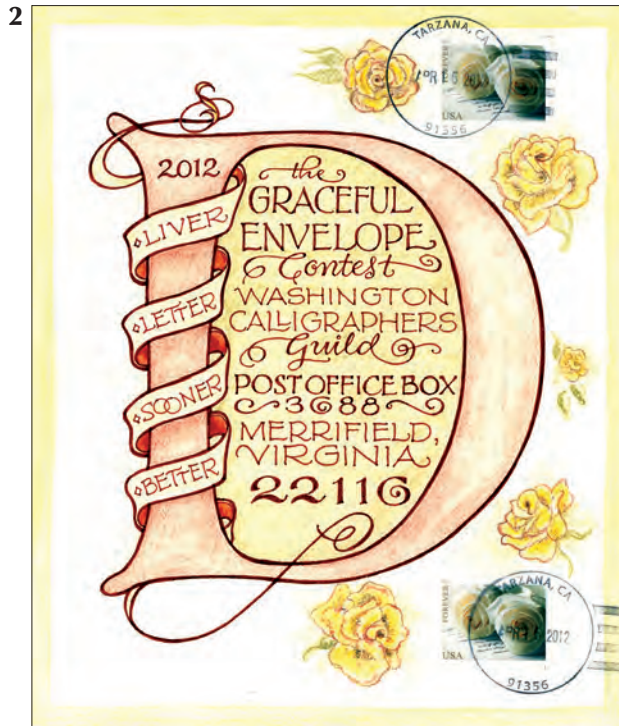
- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. Janet Kasper<br>Friendsville, TN          | 3. Hannah Holder<br>Knoxville, TN                  | 5. Paul Terry Lynn<br>Caspian, MI        |
| 2. Catherine Langsdorf<br>Hendersonville, NC | 4. Julie Gray<br>(Best in Show)<br>Sandia Park, NM | 6. Carol DuBosch<br>Portland, OR         |
|  |  | 7. Molly McNeece<br>Farmington Hills, MI |

- |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Kathy Barker<br>Bellevue, WA                           | 3. Carol Meetze-Moates<br>Julian, NC        | 6. P.L. Brooks<br>Weston, FL         |
| 2. Cheryl Tefft<br>(Best in Show)<br>Maryland Heights, MO | 4. Phyllis Macaluso<br>Ancaster, ON, Canada | 7. Hannah C. Holder<br>Knoxville, TN |
|   | 5. Betty Locke<br>Duncan, BC, Canada        | 8. Jeri Hobart<br>Iowa City, IA      |

# 2012 D-liver D-letter D-sooner D-better

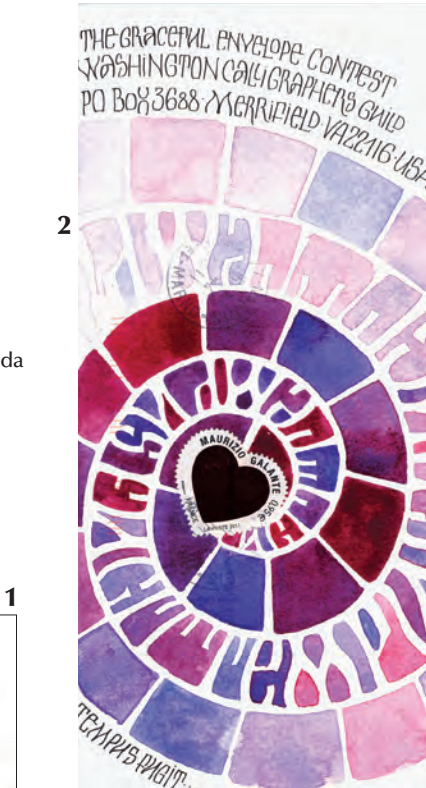
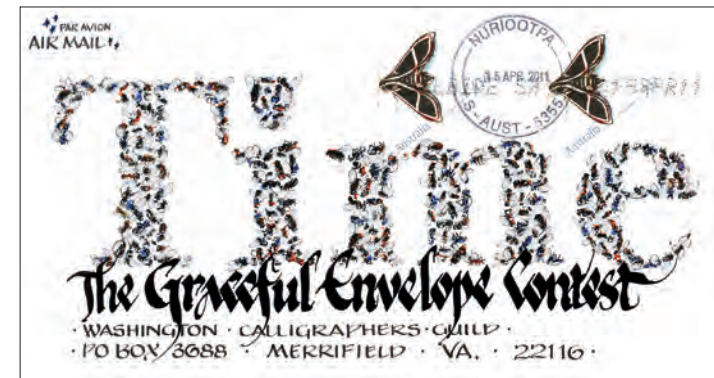
Anything beginning with the letter D

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Ruth Korch (Best in Show)<br>Santa Cruz, CA | 4. Judith Leitch<br>Lake Mary, FL  |
| 2. Karin Gable<br>Reseda, CA                   | 5. Jill Norvell<br>Reston, VA      |
| 3. Sue McKendrick<br>Mechanicsburg, PA         | 6. Rose M. Smutko<br>San Diego, CA |



# 2011 Time Flies

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Margaret Kubisch (Best in Show)<br>Nuriootpa, SA, Australia | 5. Julie Gray<br>Sandia Park, NM                |
| 2. Louise Jolly<br>La Chapelle-Rablais, France                 | 6. Joan Gooderham<br>St. Catharines, ON, Canada |
| 3. Kath Harney<br>Bothell, WA                                  | 7. Gloria Eckart<br>Plantation, FL              |
| 4. Yumie Tanaka<br>Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan                    | 8. Beverly Womack<br>Placentia, CA              |





# 2008 C's the Day

Anything beginning with the letter C



- |  |  |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Yukimi Annand<br>(Best in Show)<br>Torrance, CA | 3. Catherine Langsdorf<br>Hendersonville, NC | 6. Deb Strawn<br>Manitou Spring, CO |
| 2. Jeri Hobart<br>(First Place)<br>Iowa City, IA   | 4. Carol DuBosch<br>Portland, OR             | 7. Marn Majeski<br>Lacey, WA        |
|  | 5. Cheryl Cary<br>Colorado Springs, CO       |                                     |



30

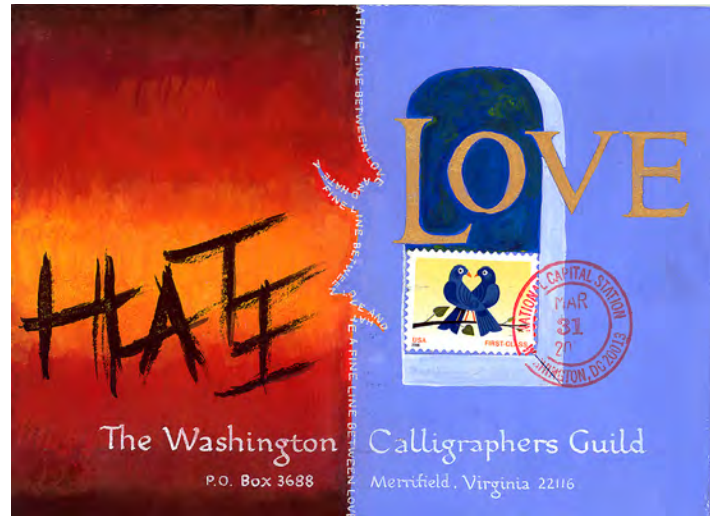
# 2007 A Mailable Feast

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Rhonda Robison<br>(Best in Show)<br>Hilton, NY | 4. Jan Boyd<br>West Roxbury, MA     |
| 2. Jeri Hobart<br>Iowa City, IA                   | 5. Linae Frei<br>Scottsdale, AZ     |
| 3. Peggy Shields Schiefelbein<br>Washington, DC   | 6. Patti Peterson<br>Colfax, CA     |
|   | 7. Dawn Rochelle Davis<br>Boise, ID |



# 2006 A Fine Line

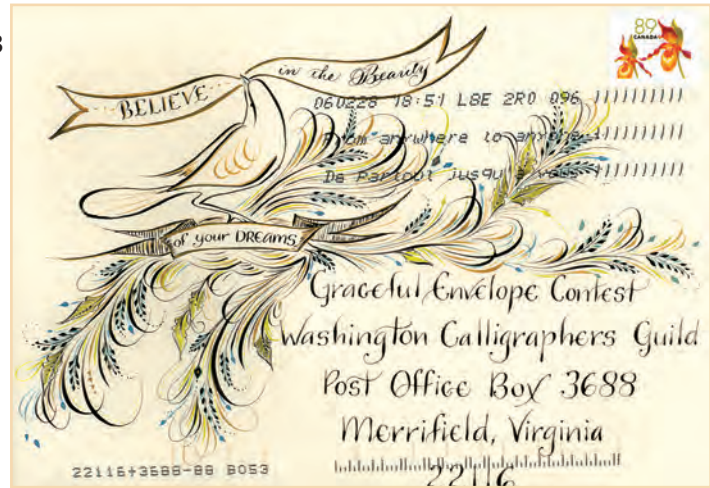
1. Shane Perry  
(Best in Show)  
Cheverly, MD
2. Julie Gray  
(Best in Show)  
Sandia Park, NM
3. Heather Victoria Held  
St. George, ON, Canada
4. Flo Wilkins  
Everett, WA
5. Susan Miller  
Parkville, BC, Canada
6. Ruth Korch  
Santa Cruz, CA
7. Gloria Austern  
Secaucus, NJ



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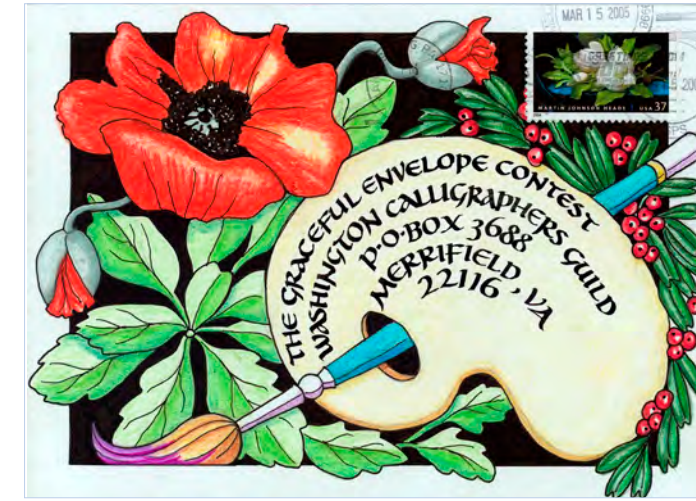
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# 2005 The Letter P



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1



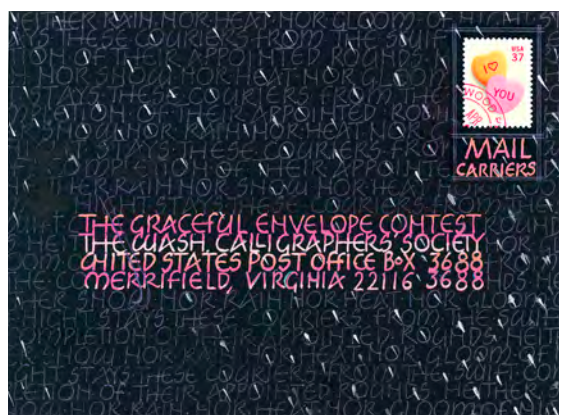
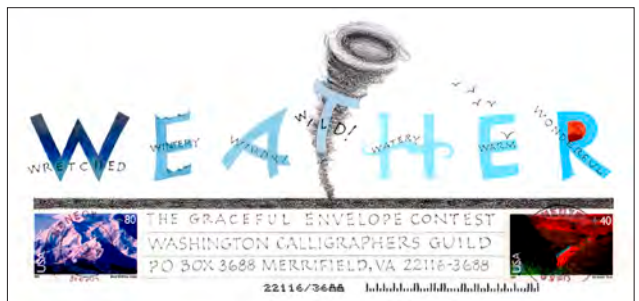
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# 2004 The Weather

1. Ruth Schellbach (Best in Show) Salem, OR
2. Sheryl Bracey Hendersonville, TN
3. Virginia Meltzer Missoula, MT
4. JoAn Forsyth Shoreline, WA
5. Yukimi Annand Torrance, CA
6. Lorrie Frear Canandaigua, NY
7. Dick Borgstrom Fountain Hills, AZ
8. Carole Maurer Wynnewood, PA



# 2003 The Written Word

This year the National Association of Letter Carriers joined the Washington Calligraphers Guild to help administer the contest and exhibit the winners. The themes from 2003 to the present celebrate the role of letters in binding people together and salute postal employees who take pride in their work and care about the communities they serve.

1. Ruth Korch Santa Cruz, CA
2. Peggy Shields Schiefelbein Washington, DC
3. Jean Wilson Des Moines, IA
4. Cynthia Schubert Portland, OR
5. Carol Sabo Sheffield Lake, OH
6. Jeanette L. Mustacich Santa Barbara, CA
7. Elaine Beermann Enumclaw, WA



# 2002 Greetings from America

The US Postal Service requested a Graceful Envelope Contest theme based on its "Greetings from America" commemorative stamps. Winning envelopes were on display at the USPS headquarters lobby.

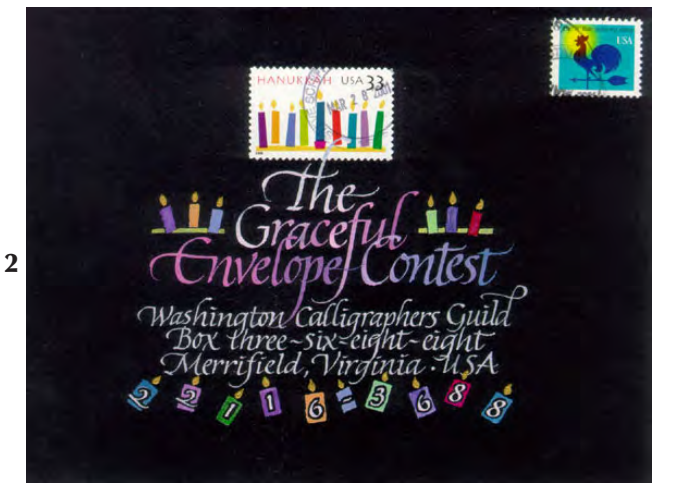


1. Ann R. Erickson Vidalia, GA
2. Debra Lyman San Diego, CA
3. Glorie Austern Secaucus, NJ
4. Peggy Shields Schiefelbein Washington, DC
5. Virginia Meltzer Missoula, MT
6. Ginger Carrle Havertown, PA
7. Delphine Vasquez Davenport, IA
8. Catherine Hibbitt Bristol, RI



# 2001 Washington Milestones

Celebrating 200 Years of Washington as the Nation's Capital or the 25th Anniversary of the Washington Calligraphers Guild



In 2001 the National Postal Museum turned over the Graceful Envelope Contest to the Washington Calligraphers Guild.

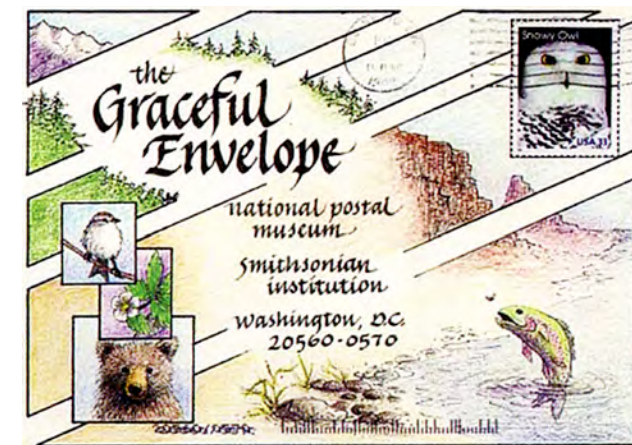
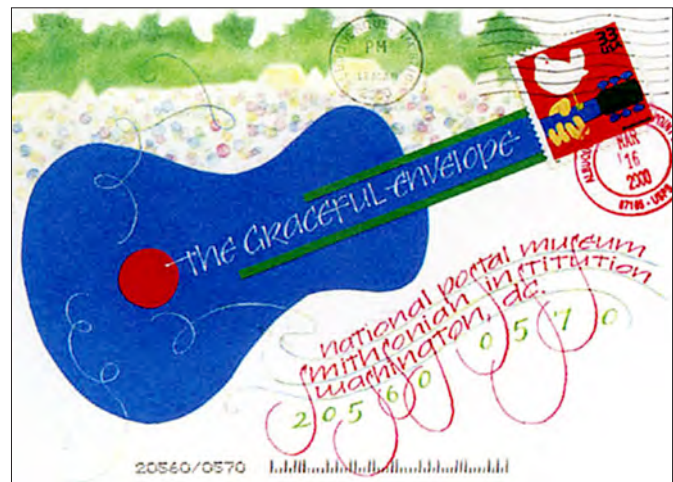


1. Sandra Callahan Carlisle, IA
2. Amy Jones Albuquerque, NM
3. Jane L. Stanfield Waco, TX
4. Myrlin Von Glahn Bay Village, OH
5. Susan Fay Encinitas, CA
6. Jeanette L. Mustacich Santa Barbara, CA
7. Debra Yellick Manly Grinnell, IA
8. Ella Jankowiak Baltimore, MD
9. Dorothy A. Boyd Southport, NC

# 2000 Significant Events of the 20th Century

Envelopes from 1995 through 2000 were addressed to the National Postal Museum, which created the Graceful Envelope competition.

# 1999 The Beauty in Nature



1. Amy Jones  
Albuquerque, NM

3. Joanne Chynoweth  
Cranbourne, VIC,  
Australia

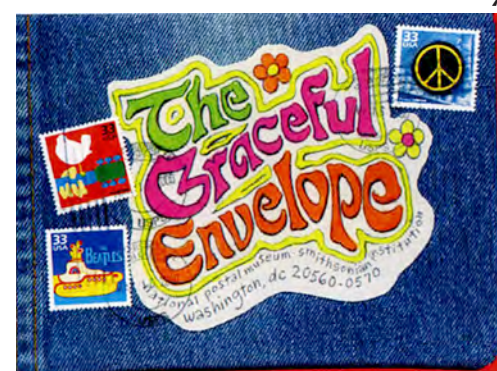
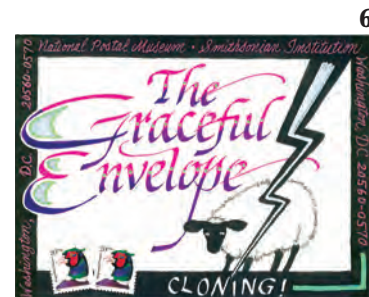
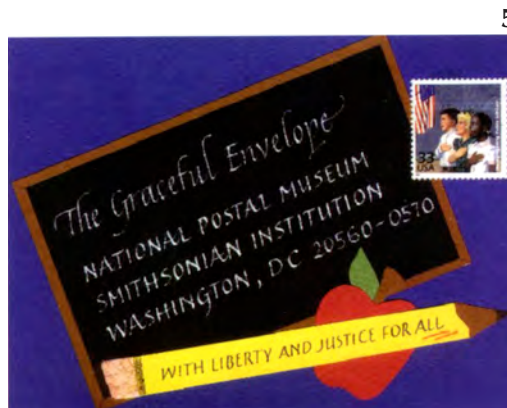
5. Cindy G. Yount  
Frederick, MD

7. Ginger Meidel  
St. Petersburg, FL

2. John DeCollibus  
Southboro, MA

4. Gerry Jackson Kerdock  
Hudson, MA

6. Lorraine Swerdloff  
Washington, DC



1. Dawn Davis  
Boise, ID

2. Larry Gabler  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

3. Marilyn Gray  
Plantation, FL

4. Kath Harney  
Bothell, WA

5. Karen Renay White  
Sunnyvale, CA

6. Kate L. Boyer  
Kingston, NY

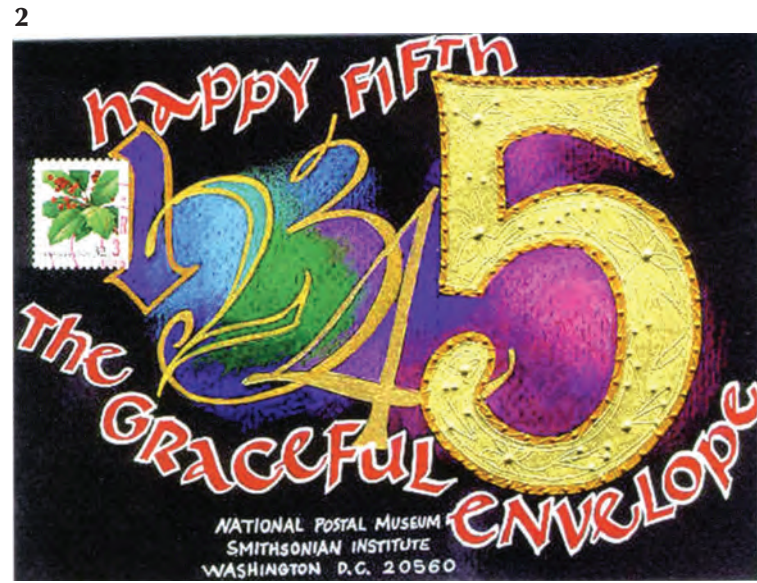
7. Myrlin von Glahn  
Bay Village, OH

8. Joanne Chynoweth  
Cranbourne, VIC,  
Australia

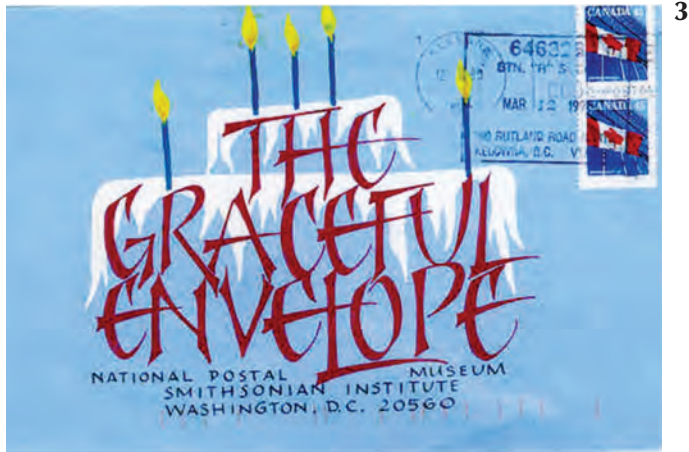
# 1998 5th Anniversary Smithsonian National Postal Museum



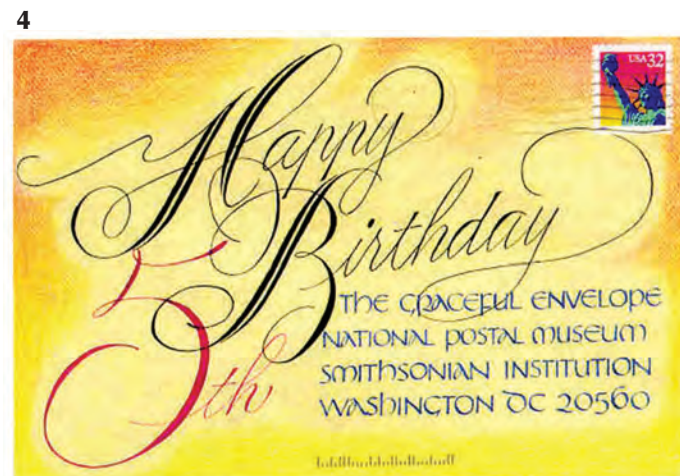
1



2

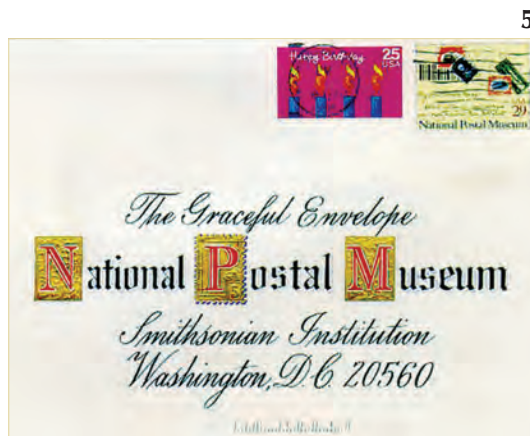


3



4

- 1. Cindy Romo  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada
- 2. Donna Sabolovic  
Richardson, TX
- 3. Jacquie Myers  
Kelowna, BC, Canada
- 4. Flo Cole  
Kent, WA
- 5. David Hobbs  
Washington, DC
- 6. Wilma Hardenburgh  
Missoula, MT



5



6

# 1997 Pushing the Envelope

For the Graceful Envelope Contest's third year, the National Postal Museum urged lettering artists to think outside the box. On this page are several artists who pushed the envelope. One lettered on fabric, another on embossed metal — and a fan of the Paul Bunyan stamp illustrated the renowned lumberjack crumbling a calligraphed envelope.

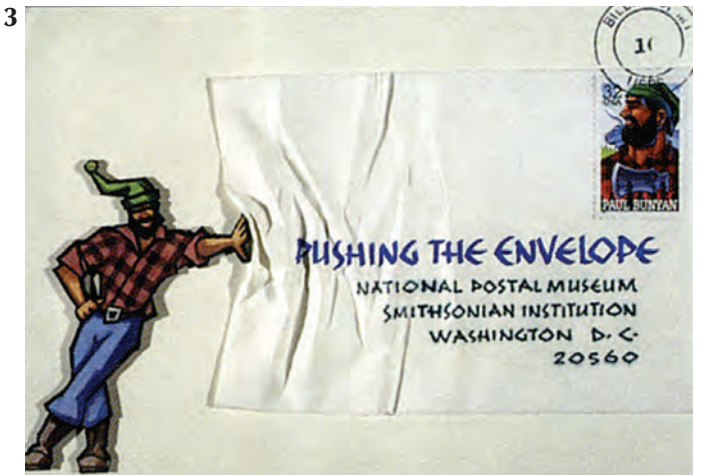
- 1. Karen Leigh and Gini Ogle  
Kalispell, MT
- 2. Jean Wilson  
Des Moines, IA
- 3. Robert Clifton Morrison  
Billings, MT
- 4. Sheila Richter  
Dumont, NJ
- 5. Lisa Englebrect  
Long Beach, CA



1



2



3



4



5

# 1996

For the contest's second year, the National Postal Museum asked lettering artists to have the stamps they chose inspire the design of their envelopes. In subsequent competitions, entrants expanded on this creative approach, often with clever results.

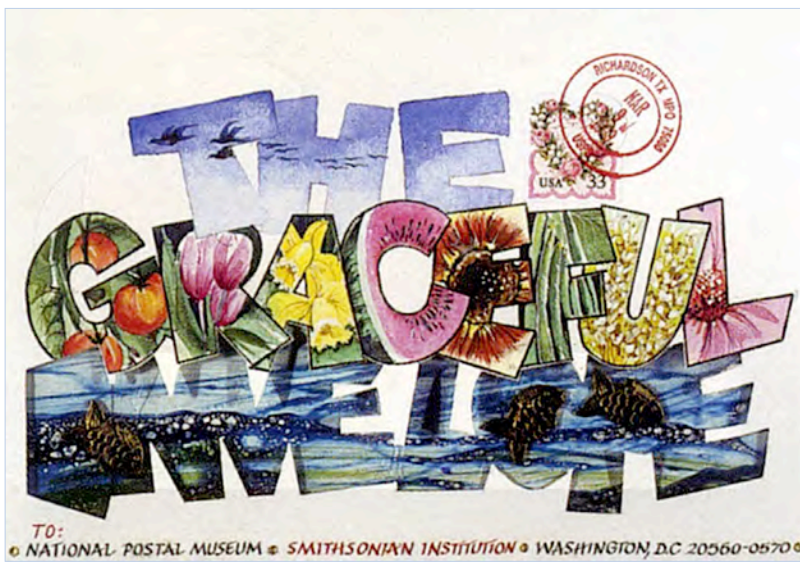


1



1. Rowena Federico Finn  
Virginia Beach, VA
2. Jerry Naylor  
Mt. Pleasant, IA
3. Donna Sabolovic  
Richardson, TX
4. Renee B. Gibbons Sammartino  
Lyndon Station, WI

4

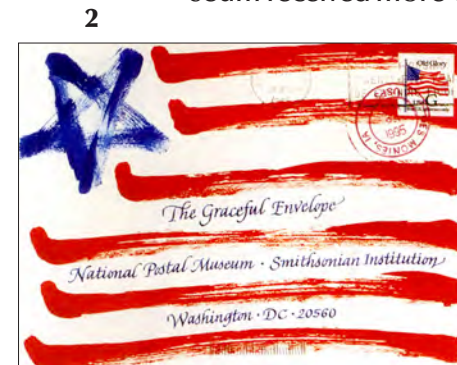


3



# 1995

The Graceful Envelope competition began in 1995 when the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum decided to mount an informal display of expert calligraphy for museum workshop participants to see. But what followed was altogether unexpected. The museum received more than 200 stunningly



2

crafted envelopes from around the world.

It was apparent that the design and visual appeal of the envelopes was as important and engaging as the calligraphy.

The remarkable assortment of artful covers inspired the museum to offer the challenge annually and, from each year's best, produce an art exhibition.

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Wilma Hardenburgh<br>Missoula, MT | 4. Gerry Jackson Kerdok<br>Hudson, MA |
| 2. Cheryl Adams<br>Des Moines, IA    | 5. Brenda Casey<br>Plantation, FL     |
| 3. Gwen Weaver<br>Virginia Beach, VA | 6. Phoebe Wong<br>Valencia, CA        |



5



1



3



4



6

# Student Winners 2015-2019

The Graceful Envelope Contest expanded in 2005 to include student entries – at the same time that countless school systems were dropping art from the curriculum. Many elementary schools have also discontinued teaching cursive. And, in this era of electronic mail and text messages, rare is the young person who knows how to address an envelope.

Yet children and teens continue to tap their creativity and submit Graceful Envelopes that delight and surprise us, as you can see from the sampling of winning entries on these two pages from the Grades 9-12 division. (Selected winners from 2019's Grades 5-8 and 1-4 divisions are on p. 46.)

All student winners of the Graceful Envelope Contest can be enjoyed online at [www.calligraphersguild.org](http://www.calligraphersguild.org).

## 2015 There's No Place Like Home

Abby Mazlin – Valley Village, CA  
Xindi Chang – Ann Arbor, MI



## 2016 Communication

Jennifer Khorramian – Encino, CA



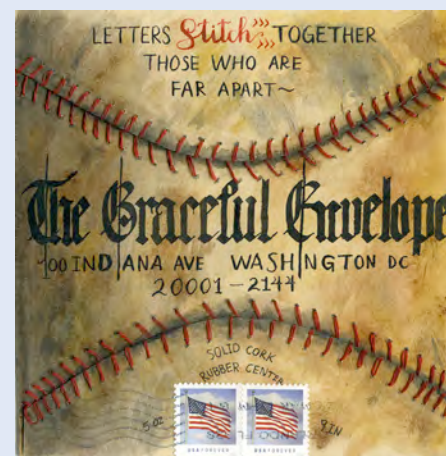
Tehila Eglanov – North Hollywood, CA



44

## 2017 Pushing the Envelope

Jasmine Nasser – Tarzana, CA  
Lucy Long – Toronto, ON, Canada  
Kevin Chiang – Orlando, FL  
Menucha Winchell – Valley Village, CA



45

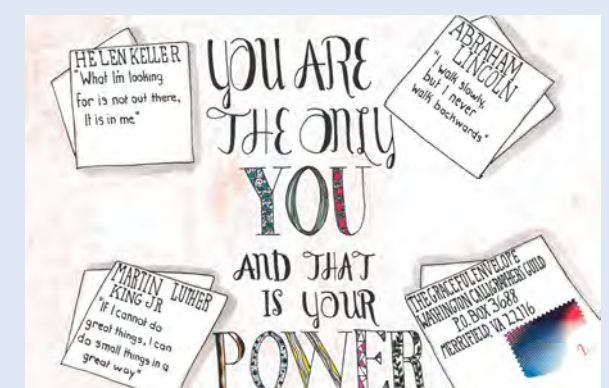
## 2018 Whatever the Weather

Syeda Ullah – Monterey Park, CA  
Hilary Bareiss – Stafford Springs, CT  
Katie Zhang – Potomac, MD  
Leetal Kohanzadeh – Los Angeles, CA



## 2019 Put Your Stamp On It

Syeda Ullah – Monterey Park, CA  
Jade Franson – Lakewood, CO  
Stacy Barth – Esopus, NY  
Shira Sandler – Northridge, CA



# Youth

To further encourage young people to gain appreciation for lettering, art and design, in 2019 the Washington Calligraphers Guild recruited a separate panel of judges for the student divisions. Professional calligraphers and art educators Kacie-Linn Engle, Susan Easton and Nahid Tootoonchi reviewed hundreds of entries and selected winners for Grades 1-4, 5-8 and 9-12.

At right are some 2019 winning envelopes by students in Grades 1-4 and 5-8 (Grades 9-12 appear on p. 45).

## Grades 1-4 >

Kayden Tsang Hay Men – Kwa Wan, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
David Wang – Rockville, MD  
Annya Kay Vasquez – Colorado Springs, CO

## Grades 5-8

Avery Lerderman – Bellevue, WA  
Wai Sum Venus Lam – Hong Kong  
Michaela Potvin – Bellevue, WA



# Judges' comments, 2019

The contest this year was judged by three accomplished calligraphers: retired White House Chief Calligrapher Pat Blair and professional lettering artists Sammy Little and Erin Cassidy, who now serves as Graceful Envelope Contest coordinator. They looked at several key areas in their selection. Pat summarizes their approach:

What a treat for the eye to look upon a table filled with the imaginative and colorful entries of the 2019 Graceful Envelope Contest! We used a combination of criteria to determine the winning entries.

First, interpretation and adherence to the theme. This year's theme, "Put your Stamp on It," has been a dual celebration, 25 years of the Graceful Envelope Contest and 125 years of US commemorative stamps. We looked for an imaginative and clever interpretation of the theme. The ideas were abundant! The entrants used and celebrated the postage stamp in their designs, but also "put their own stamp" of artwork on each piece. The top entries also creatively incorporated the design of the stamp into the overall design of the envelope.

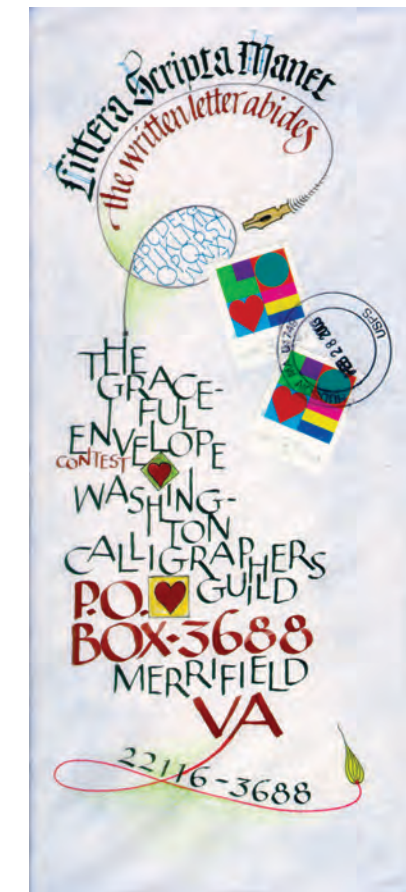


Catherine Langsdorf  
(2012 theme: anything D)  
Hendersonville, NC

Second, overall layout. Some entries immediately stood out and caught our attention. Did the artist incorporate all the elements in an effective and thoughtful way? Was there a reason each element was included, and did they relate to each other? A good layout should capture attention, and move the eye around the design effectively, with attention paid to the negative space as well as the design elements. A well-defined color palette is a plus, adding to the effectiveness of the design and message.

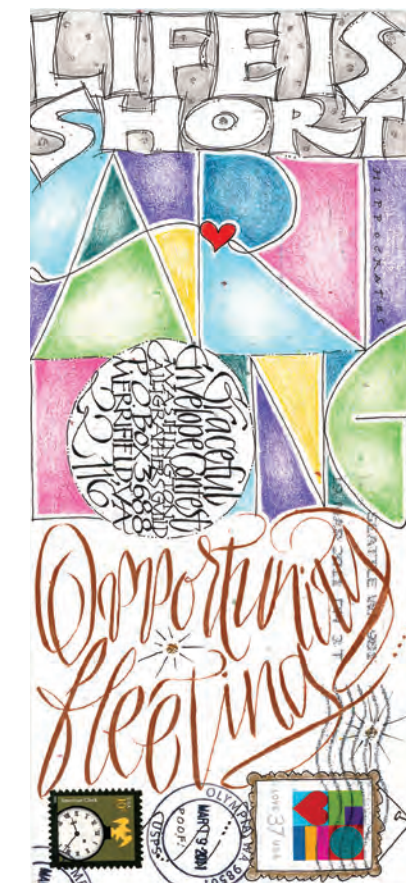
Third, skill in execution of the calligraphy and illustration. The choice of lettering style should meld with the design, but also be well-constructed and pleasing. While not necessary for a winning envelope, any illustration added should be original and executed well. It is the pleasing combination and skill of both which determines the best entries.

The artwork submitted has been fun, colorful and a joy to review. The clever choice and incorporation of the stamps into the designs, the exuberant use of color, and the display of creative and skilled calligraphy are a testament to the contributing artists. And let us also recognize the US Postal Service employees who enabled our colorful envelopes to find their way to us!



Gerry Jackson Kerdok  
(2003 theme: The Written Word)  
Hudson, MA

Sally Penley (2011 theme: Time Flies)  
Olympia, WA



# Graceful Envelopes in Singapore

The international appeal of the Graceful Envelope Contest inspired the Singapore Philatelic Museum to mount a nearly year-long exhibit of 200 winning envelopes from the Washington Calligraphers Guild's competition. By the time it closed in March 2019, the exhibition, titled "Art on Envelope: Send Your Love the Write Way," had been viewed by more than 150,000 visitors.

Organizers wanted them not only to admire the beautifully crafted envelopes, but also to better appreciate letter writing so that they might choose to communicate with friends and loved ones by picking up a pen instead of a mobile device.



1995 Karen Leigh and Gini Ogle  
Kalispell, MT



Gini Ogle's calligraphy became the contest's logo

# 25 Years of Graceful Envelopes: A Quarter Century of Creativity



2019 Carol DuBosch  
Portland, OR