



Time Flies when you're being creative

ENTRANTS FROM NEW YORK TO Japan designed, embellished and mailed their handcrafted masterpieces in an annual competition that celebrates the art of written correspondence. The Graceful Envelope Contest, now in its 17th year, is sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers in conjunction with the Washington Calligraphers Guild.

The 2011 theme, "Time Flies," was inspired by the marking of the 35th anniversary of the Guild. But since time is more than simply the passing of hours, days and years, the hundreds of entries the contest garnered explored good times, quality time, the times of our lives, time travel and other ideas that participants had time to develop.

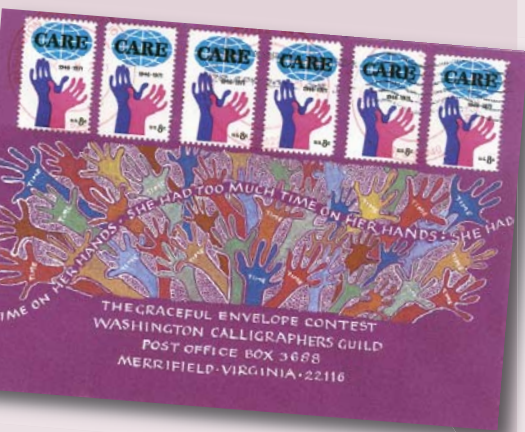
A trio of judges selected this year's contest winners: professional calligrapher Peggy Schiefelbein, whose clients include the National Gallery of Art, Freer and Sackler Galleries of the Smithsonian and the Folger Shakespeare Library; Shane Perry, calligraphy faculty member at the Smithsonian Institution and 2006 Graceful Envelope Contest best-in-show winner; and Alfredo Ratinoff, an internationally acclaimed ceramicist and Smithsonian faculty

member. They looked for creative interpretation of the theme, skill in lettering and illustration, and effective use of color and design, among other criteria.

The top prize was awarded to Margaret Kubisch of Nuriootpa, South Australia, for a skilled and creative entry that included a clever depiction of insects. Other unforgettable entries translated the theme to include a variety of subjects, such as too much time on one's hands, baseball, and time flies when you're having fun. As always, the submissions themselves were envelopes that passed through the regular mail stream.

Out of more than 140 entries received in the adult division, nine other envelopes were selected as "Winners" and 20 were given the distinction "Honorable Mention." The judges also picked student winners from more than 300 entries in the junior and children's divisions.

Some of the winning envelopes are shown on these pages. All winning adult entries also will be on display in the lobby of the NALC Headquarters building in Washington, and winning entries in all of the categories can be seen online now at calligraphersguild.org. Information about the 2012 contest will be announced early next year. ☒



Top: The best-in-show winner from Margaret Kubisch of Nuriootpa, Australia

Above: The entry by Jeri Hobart from Iowa City, IA



The winners from top right: Jolly Louise of La Chapelle Rablais, France; Julie Gray of Sandia Park, NM; Rhonda Cavanagh of Brunswick, GA; Linæ Frei of Scottsdale, AZ; and Beverly Womack of Placentia, CA.

