

Sublime and spirited script symbolizes sentiments

Entrants from Tennessee to Australia illustrated, embellished and mailed their handcrafted masterpieces in an annual competition that celebrates the art of written correspondence. The Graceful Envelope Contest, now in its 20th year, is sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers in conjunction with the Washington Calligraphers Guild.

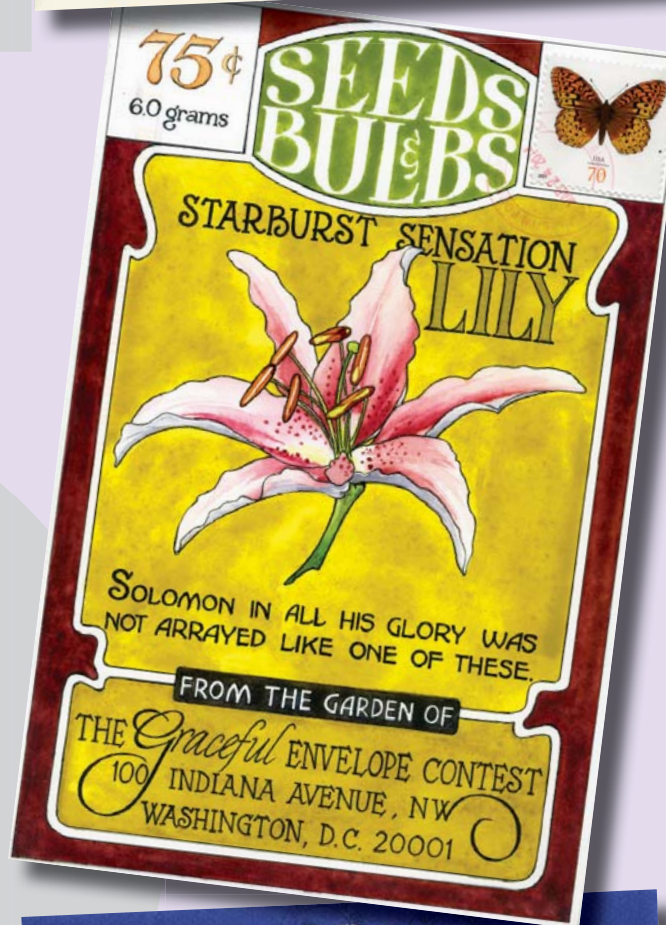
The 2014 theme, “The Superlative Letter ‘S,’” inspired designs about snails, Superman, snowflakes, samurai, superstitions and the symphony, among the many other ideas that participants selected to sketch.

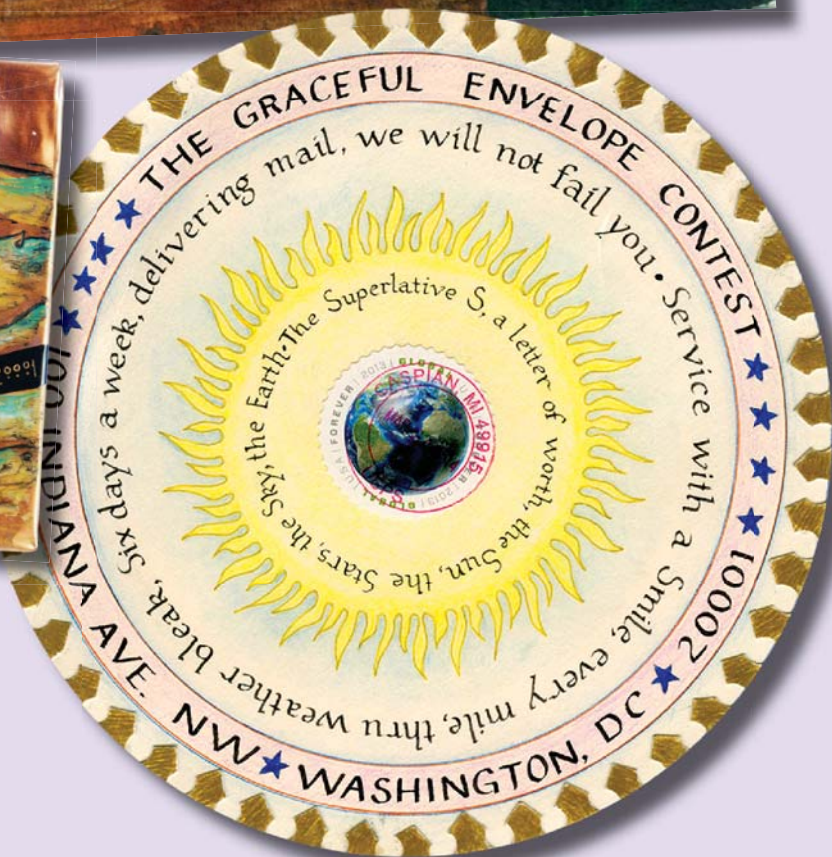
A trio of judges selected this year’s contest winners: White House Chief Calligrapher Pat Blair; former *Letter Arts Review* editor Rose Folsom; and National Association of Letter Carriers Designer/Web Editor Mike Shea. They looked for creative interpretation of the theme, skill in lettering and illustration, and effective use of color and design, among other criteria.

The top prize was awarded to Julie Gray of Sandia Park, NM, for a skilled and creative entry that honored military service. Other unforgettable entries translated the theme to include a variety of subjects, such as a shark attack, social media and the Smoky Mountains. As always, the submissions themselves were envelopes that passed through the regular mail stream.

Out of almost 100 entries received in the adult division, one envelope was selected as “Best in Show,” nine more were selected as “Winners” and 13 were given the distinction “Honorable Mention.” The judges also picked student winners from more than 300 entries in grades 1-4, grades 5-8 and grades 9-12 youth divisions.

Some of the winning envelopes are shown on these pages. All winning adult entries are on display in the lobby of the NALC Headquarters building in Washington, and winning entries in all of the categories can be seen at calligraphersguild.org. Information about the 2015 contest will be in a future issue of *The Postal Record*. **PR**





Top: Best in Show by Julie Gray of Sandia Park, NM
 Above: Janet Kasper of Friendsville, TN
 Right: Paul Terry Lynn of Caspian, MI
 Opposite page, top: Paula Vena of Queensland, Australia
 Opposite page, middle: Hannah Holder of Knoxville, TN
 Opposite page, bottom: Carol DuBosch of Portland, OR