Envelope contest shows the comfort of HOME

Entrants from Kansas to South Africa illustrated, embellished and mailed their handcrafted masterpieces in the annual competition that celebrates the art of written correspondence. The Graceful Envelope Contest, now in its 21st year, is sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers in conjunction with the Washington Calligraphers Guild.

The 2015 theme, “There’s No Place Like Home,” inspired designs about skylines, “The Wizard of Oz,” Planet Earth, baseball and penguins, among the many other ideas that participants chose to showcase.

A trio of judges selected this year’s contest winners: professional calligraphers Marta Legeckis and Maureen Squires, and National Association of Letter Carriers Designer/Web Editor Mike Shea. They looked 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.

The top prize was awarded to Hannah C. Holder of Knoxville, TN, for a skilled and creative entry that featured a homing pigeon carrying an important message. Other unforgettable entries translated the theme to include a variety of subjects, such as full refrigerators, Hogwarts and military service members.

As always, the submissions themselves were envelopes that passed through the regular mail stream. Out of about 100 entries received in the adult division, one envelope was...
selected as “Best in Show,” 11 more
were selected as “Winners” and 15
were given the distinction of “Honorable Mention.” The judges also picked
student winners from more than 350
entries in grades 1-4, grades 5-8 and
grades 9-12 youth divisions.
Some of the winning envelopes are
shown on these pages and the back cover
of this magazine. All
winning and honor-
able mention adult
entries are on display
in the lobby of the
NALC Headquarters
building in Wash-
ington, and winning
entries in all of the
categories can be seen
at calligraphersguild.
org. Information about
the 2016 contest will be
published in a future
issue of The Postal
Record.