



Letter carriers know a little bit about dressing for all kinds of weather, just as the “Best in Show” winner of the 2018 Graceful Envelope Contest exemplified. The colorful entry shows appropriate footwear for all four seasons—summer, fall, winter and spring—and proclaims, “It’s all about the shoes.”

The envelope was one of hundreds entered into the 24th annual Graceful Envelope Contest, a celebration of the art of written correspondence sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers in conjunction with the Washington Calligraphers Guild. The 2018 theme, “Whatever the Weather,” inspired a brainstorm of designs about climate change and rainbows, hurricanes and flowers, and, of course, showcases some trusty letter carriers. There’s always something to say about the weather.

Entrants from Minnesota to Hong Kong illustrated, embellished and sent their handcrafted masterpieces through the mail stream, per the competition’s rules. The three judges 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 judges were: professional calligraphers Gilda Penn and Felecia McBride, and longtime NALC Designer/Web Editor Mike Shea.

The top prize was awarded to Gerry Jackson Kerdok of Hudson, MA, for her arresting envelope. Ten more envelopes were selected as



“Winners” and 13 were given the distinction of “Honorable Mention.” The judges also picked student winners from hundreds of 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 inside back cover of this magazine. All winning and honorable mention adult entries are on display in the lobby of the NALC Headquarters building in Washington, DC, and winning entries in all of the categories can be seen at calligraphersguild.org. Information about the 2019 contest will be published in a future issue of *The Postal Record*. **PR**

The Best in Show winner was by
Gerry Jackson Kerdok of Hudson, MA.





Kathy Froerer of Provo, UT



Hannah Claire Weston
of Lancaster, PA



Sally Penley of
Olympia, WA

