

Envelope contest reveals worlds we wish to see



The best in show envelope by Cheryl Tefft of Maryland Heights, MO.

The phrase “a world of change” may evoke feelings of anxiety or uncertainty, but to the artists who entered the 19th annual Graceful Envelope Contest, it brought forth designs of beauty and hope. Entrants from the United States and around the globe embellished and mailed their hand-crafted masterpieces in the annual competition that celebrates the art of written correspondence, sponsored by the National Association of Letter Carriers in conjunction with the Washington Calligraphers Guild.

The 2013 theme, “A World of Change,” inspired designs about the change in seasons, the evolution of

art, the advancement of racial equality, and—in one mournful piece—the Postal Service’s desire to eliminate Saturday mail delivery, among the many other ideas that participants decided to develop. A trio of judges selected this year’s contest winners: calligrapher Gilda Penn; calligrapher and chairman of workshops for the Washington Calligraphers Guild Christine Tischer; 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 went to Cheryl Tefft of Maryland Heights, MO, for a striking circular design that illustrated the changing phases of the moon. Other unforgettable entries used Mahatma Gandhi’s famous quote, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world,” highlighted the need for ecological progress, or illustrated planets made up of coins and other currency—a literal world of change.

As always, the submissions themselves were envelopes that passed through the regular mail stream. Out of 90 entries received in the adult division, one envelope was selected as “Best in Show,” eight more were selected as “Winners” and 10 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 also are on display in the lobby of the NALC Headquarters building in Washington, and winning entries in all of the categories can be seen online at calligraphersguild.org. For information about the 2014 contest, see the inside back cover of this issue of *The Postal Record*. PR

Below: Phyllis Macaluso of Ancaster, ON, Canada
 Middle: Toi Clawson of Fairport, NY
 Bottom: Carol DuBosch of Portland, OR



Top: Lynda Demke of Moorhead, MN
 Above: Hannah C. Holder of Knoxville, TN

