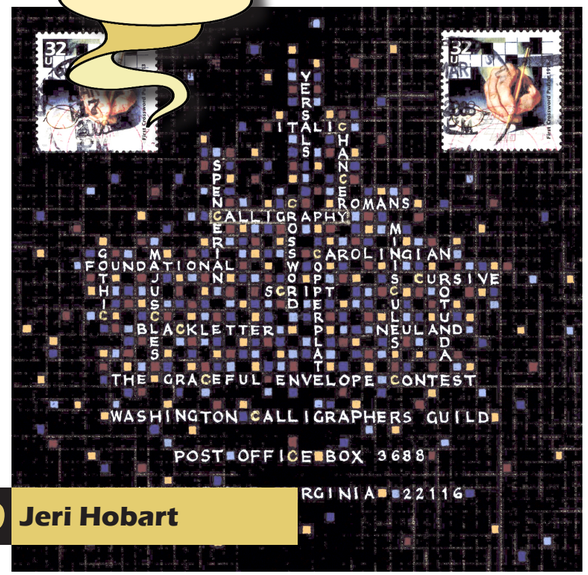
Top 10 Graceful Envelope Contest Winners

From top: Jeri Hobart's entry scored First Place in 2008; she won several more times, including 2005 and 2013.



#10 Jeri Hobart

Gloria Eckart's glorious paintings and calligraphy scored winning votes from the judges in (from top r.) 2009, 2005, 2007, 2011 and many other years.





#8 Gloria Eckart









#9 Brigitte Stermann

Brigitte Stermann's winning Graceful Envelopes are printed on the front cover and on many of these pages. This popular pigeon received Honorable Mention in 2017.



Congratulations to the Top 25 Graceful Envelope Winners, 1995-2025

***How the Graceful Envelope Contest winners were ranked:**
Each Best in Show was awarded 4 points; each Winner designation merited 2 points; each Honorable Mention earned 1 point.

1- Julie Gray
Lincoln, Nebraska
Best in Show: 2006 2014
Winner: 1999 2020/2021 2002 2003 2009 2010 2011 2013 2015 2016 2017 2019 2023
Hon. Mention: 2004 2005 2007 2008 2012 2018 2025

2- Gerry Jackson Kerdok
Teaticket, Massachusetts
Best in Show: 2005 2009 2018
Winner: 1995 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2003 2007 2015 2016 2023
Honorable Mention: 2011 2012 2014 2022

3- Carol DuBosch
Portland, Oregon
Best in Show: 2003
Winner: 1998 2000 2004 2010 2013 2014 2015 2016 2018 2019 2025
Hon. Mention: 2005 2008 2009 2020/21 2022 2023

4- Kathy D. Barker
Bellevue, Washington
Best in Show: 2020/2021
Winner: 1998 2002 2009 2010 2013 2018
Honorable Mention: 2014 2015 2017 2023

5- Christy Robb
Morning Sun, Iowa
Best in Show: 2017 2019 2022
Winner: 2015 2016 2020/2021
Honorable Mention: 2018

6- Hannah C. Weston (Hannah Holder)
Manheim, Pennsylvania
Best In Show: 2015 2022
Winner: 2013 2014 2017 2018 2020/2021
Honorable Mention: 2019

7- Catherine Langsdorf
Charlotte, North Carolina
Best In Show: 2005
Winner: 1999 2001 2008 2012 2014 2015 2019
Honorable Mention: 2006

8- Gloria Eckart
Plantation, Florida
Winner: 2000 2001 2003 2004 2005 2007 2009
Honorable Mention: 1996 2006 2010 2011

9- Brigitte Stermann
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Best in Show: 2022 2024
Winner: 2016 2020/2021 2023
Honorable Mention: 2017 2019

10- Jeri Hobart
Iowa City, Iowa
First Place: 2008
Winner: 2005 2007 2011 2013 2014
Honorable Mention: 2006 2010

11- Sheryl Bracey
Hendersonville, Tennessee
Winner: 1998 1999 2000 2001 2003 2004 2008
Honorable Mention: 2005 2006

12- Linae Frei
Janesville, Wisconsin
Winner: 2007 2008 2009 2011 2012 2016
Honorable Mention: 2006 2014 2018 2020/2021

13- Lorrie Frear
Canadaigua, New York
Winner: 2003 2004 2005 2007 2011 2015
Honorable Mention: 2006 2008 2010

14- Jo Forsyth
Shoreline, Washington
Winner: 2004 2005 2007 2008 2011
Honorable Mention: 2006 2010 2015 2016

15- Yukimi Annand
Torrance, California
Best in Show: 2006 2008
Winner: 2004 2005
Honorable Mention: 2007

16- P.L. Brooks
Weston, Florida
Winner: 2018 2019 2020/2021 2023
Honorable Mention: 2013 2014 2015 2016 2022

17- Donna Sabolovic
Richardson, Texas
Winner: 1996 1998 2000 2003 2005 2006

18- Marilyn Gray
Coral Springs, Florida
Winner: 1996 1999 2002 2003 2009
Honorable Mention: 2005 2007

19- Elizabeth Walsh
Olympia, Washington
Winner: 2008 2018 2020/2021
Honorable Mention: 2010 2014 2015 2019 2022 2023

20- Peggy Shields Schiefelbein
Washington, DC
Best in Show: 2003
Winner: 2001 2002 2005
Honorable Mention: 2007

21- Sally Penley
Olympia, Washington
Best in Show: 2016
Winner: 2018 2019
Honorable Mention: 2009 2011 2015

22- Carol Moates
Julian, North Carolina
Winner: 2010 2024
Honorable Mention: 2006 2007 2008 2011 2013 2017 2022

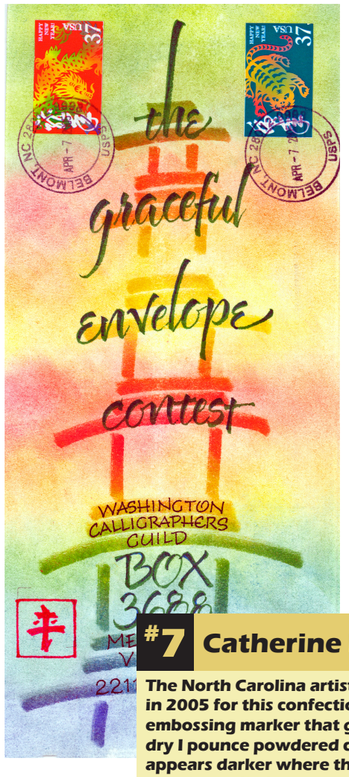
23- Cynthia Schubert
Portland, Oregon
Best in Show: 2003
Winner: 2004 2017
Honorable Mention: 2005 2014

24- Dawn Rochelle Davis
Middleton, Idaho
Winner: 1999 2000 2015
Honorable Mention: 2005 2006 2007

25- Virginia Meltzer
Missoula, Montana
Winner: 2001 2002 2003
Honorable Mention: 2004 2005 2006

*Forgive me if I missed some winning envelopes and therefore underestimated your place in this list. Moreover, I do not have access to contest files before 2001, when WCG took over the GEC from the NPM. – Lorraine

WCG Scripsit Spring 2025 use this - Graceful Envelope.indd 28-29 8/14/2025 10:10:57 PM

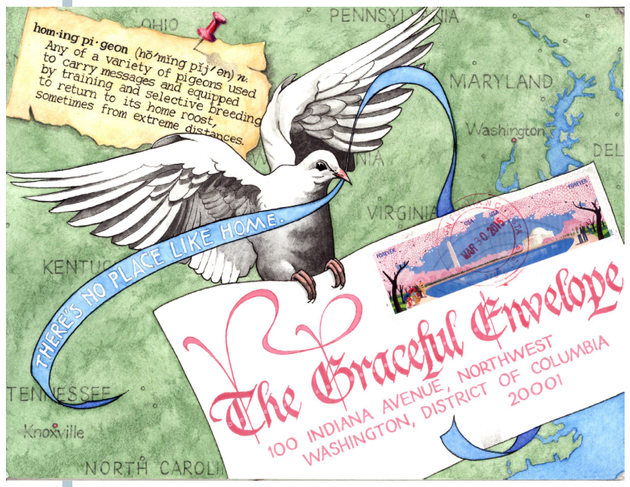


#7 Catherine Langsdorf

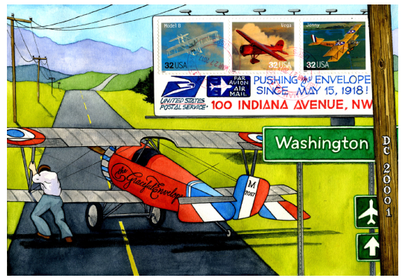
The North Carolina artist won Best in Show in 2005 for this confection ("I draw with a Zip embossing marker that goes on clear. When dry I pounce powdered chalk. It adheres and appears darker where there was fluid"). Catherine's entries have won seven other times, including 2014 (below) and 2019 (bottom).





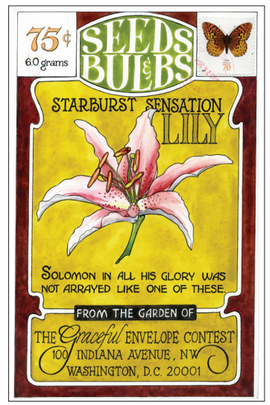


#6 Hannah C. Weston



As Hannah Holder in 2015, this talented artist won Best in Show (No Place Like Home, top). As Hannah Weston, she chalked up a Best in Show in 2022 (p.9).

Quality lettering and colorful art secured Hannah's other winning envelopes, including: 2017 (above, Pushing the Envelope); 2018 (Whatever the Weather, right); and 2014 (the letter S, a clever seed packet).







#5 Christy Robb



In 2017, for her impeccable calligraphy and elegant rendering of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Christy Robb scored Best in Show.

Two years later, she received the same honor (top right) and again in 2022 (p. 8).

In 2015 (r.) she was a winner for the theme, No Place Like Home.

The Morning Sun, Iowa calligrapher fetched a win with this doggone interpretation of the 2016 theme, Communication (below).







#4 Kathy D. Barker

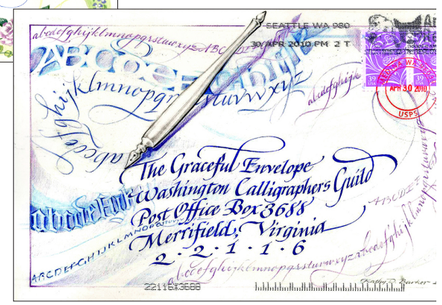


In addition to a Best in Show on the front cover, Kathy Barker has received a string of Graceful Envelope wins, including her floral-filled artwork that integrates postage stamps. Her lovely lettering and breezy design choices unite the whole.

From the top: Kathy's Graceful Envelopes from 2013, 2014, 2018, 2017 and 2010.







WCG Scripsit Spring 2025 use this - Graceful Envelope.indd 30-31
8/14/2025 10:11:17 PM

#3 Carol DuBosch

Carol repeated "words" in blackletter so that it reads as "word sword."

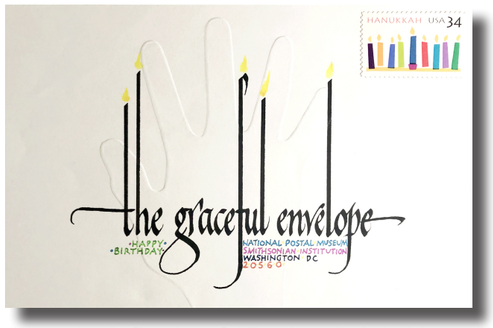


In 2003 the theme was The Written Word, and Carol DuBosch discovered that when she repeated in blackletter "words" in the background, the pattern read as "word sword." That revelation alone deserved a Best in Show, but between the lines Carol lettered the alphabet in tiny white Italic to contrast with the blackletter and complement her stamp selection. In Carol's pen, the word is indeed mightier...

"My first Graceful Envelope entry was done the day before it was due. I raced and put together my 1998 entry (below) and sent it on its way. It was a winner, and I was hooked!

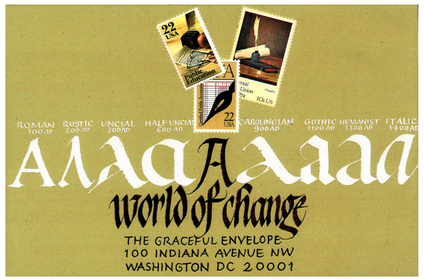
I think of the contest as a game that I get to play using my vast collection of postage stamps, my lettering and layout skills along with my imagination. I look forward to the challenge each year. I often jump on the project the day the theme is announced and finish my entry way ahead of time. I then worry that I might lose it while it waits to get mailed.

I am a lifelong calligrapher and teacher and keep my pens wet by having two or three projects going at all times.



Above, Carol's first Graceful Envelope, in 1998 (theme: 5th birthday of National Postal Museum) featured an embossed hand and extended ascenders. Below, 2019 theme, Put Your Stamp on It, the Portland artist again demonstrated her love of lettering by separating real and created stamps with diverse calligraphic hands in white.





Right, from top: 2013 (A World of Change), for the evolution of "A"; 2005 (the letter P) for her origami symbol of peace; 2018 (Whatever the Weather) for Carol's colorful pinwheel of weather swirling around our precious globe.





#2 Gerry Jackson Kerdok

"I was attracted to the Graceful Envelope Contest for two reasons: I was excited to create art and lettering on a small canvas and pop it in the US Mail; and to honor my dad, a Letter Carrier, who passed away when I was 5. I think he helped me win!

I am still lettering and continuing to learn. There is always something new as well as something old that I did not know, endless fascination.

Professionally I have many recurring customers from fancy medical awards to gallery lettering as well as personal commissions.

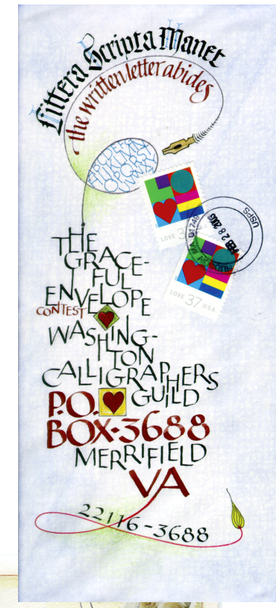
Personally, I have had the support and encouragement of my husband (57 years!) and family to pursue this different path. I have also been a longtime member Scribbled Lives, a study group led by the talented and patient Carol DuBosch. Sharing thoughts and work with other artists is a real treat.

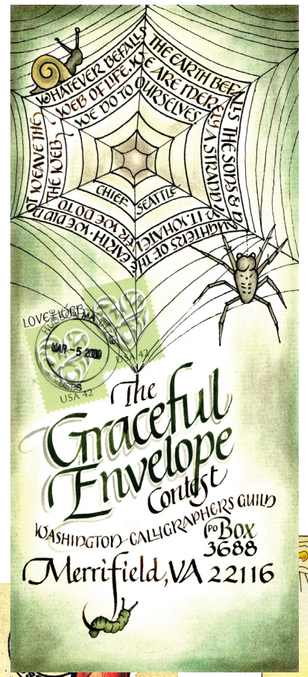
Finally, I am grateful to all the Graceful Envelope folks who kept this special contest alive and thriving.

We are grateful to you, Gerry, and to all who take on this annual creative challenge.

Clockwise from right: 2015, No Place Like Home; 2003, The Written Word; 2014, the Superlative Letter S.



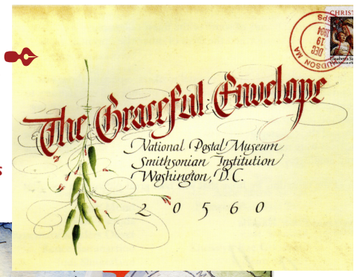






Professional calligraphers judge the contest each year and select the Best in Show from among the designated winners. Gerry Jackson Kerdok's Best in Shows to date are: 2009, Address the Environment (right); 2005, the letter P (below); and 2018, Whatever the Weather (corner).

Gerry responded to the National Postal Museum's 1995 call for "Graceful Envelopes" with elegance. That was the start of the contest, now in its 31st year. The Smithsonian entrusted it to the Washington Calligraphers Guild in 2000.







WCG Scripsit Spring 2025 use this - Graceful Envelope.indd 33 8/14/2025 10:11:31 PM

Top 10 Graceful Envelope Contest Winners



#1 Julie Gray

"My life has revolved around my calligraphic journey for more than 50 years now, and I'm proud that the Graceful Envelope Contest has been a part of that creative growth for more than 25 of those years!

The best thing I can say about the contest is that it challenges me. The design, the lettering style, working the stamp into the design, solving the theme, seeing if it even gets to its destination, and the thrill of winning is all so much a part of the challenge. I look forward to it every year!

WCG member Julie Gray, who lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, won Best in Show both in 2006 (above, for the theme A Fine Line) and 2014 (below, for The Superlative Letter S).



Right, from top: 2013 (A World of Change), for Julie's stamp gallery of agents of change; in 2004 Weather was the theme, and Julie cut from fabric an umbrella atop mesmerizing words from the unofficial USPS motto; she wrote 2007's theme, A Mailable Feast, on chocolate squares as The Very Hungry Caterpillar stamp emerged from its snack, body "addressed" in undulating white calligraphy.



Below, another clever use of stamps. Time Flies was 2011's theme, and Julie Gray lettered in red Roman capitals "Time Flies When You Are Doing What You"—with the word "Love" supplied by the stamp.







The Washington Calligraphers Guild administers the Graceful Envelope Contest ~ www.calligraphersguild.org