



Thoughts are things  
sent down to earth  
on wings  
of men's  
own pens

Summer Edition

AMY KITCHENER'S ANGELS WITHOUT WINGS FDN.  
Post Office Box 1821 – Monterey, CA 93942-1821 USA



# THE DIPLOEMAT

World's most unique Literary Society  
where we turn Scribblers into Scribes and Meeting the Muse is a Way of Life



2015  
**PISSONNET CONTEST**  
WINNERS

Page 3

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!!! Last Call for American Poets Past 50 !!!

6/30/15 IS THE DEADLINE TO ENTER THE 2015  
NATIONAL SENIOR POET LAUREATE POETRY CONTEST

See Rules on Page 2



... FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

## Pissonnetry loses an Angel and gains four Pissonneteers

During the past six months, Pissonnetry lost two Pissonnet luminaries and gained four new Pissonneteers.

Sherlu Walpole, 90, winner of early Pissonneteer Awards, died in December 2014 in Springfield, Mo.

Tom Withers, 96, master mentor, also died in Springfield. Tom was the behind-the-scenes angel who gave the world the Pissonnet in the form of a challenge that dared me to do it.

The 14-word poetic form, known as the world's shortest sonnet, was invented by me (as Diogenes Rosenberg), with help from Vera-Jane Goodin Shultz, while Tom shared our lazy Saturday-afternoon of coffee and laughter at Starbucks. His mischievous nudging gave us the *oomph* to actually go public with the poem with the naughty-sounding name. Why? Because Tom loved to irritate people while also teaching valuable life lessons.

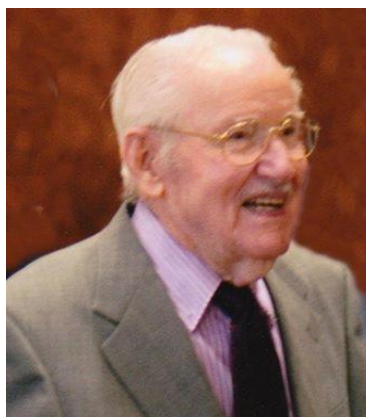
Pissonnetry entered the public domain in 2004 and has been a popular specialized poetic format ever since.

Tom married artist/poet Rue Ann Martin in 2000. Rue's eulogy, excerpted here, was delivered at his memorial service on June 3, 2015:

\*\*\*\*\*

*"What can I say about Tom to explain who he was? I can talk about his education and his careers. Tom had degrees in music, teaching, and psychology.*

**THOMAS R. WITHERS**  
Honorary Angel Without Wings  
1918--2015



*... we are all  
responsible  
for our own happiness,  
and the meaning of life  
is in the chase.*

Tom Withers



Tom and  
Sherlu Rardin.  
Walpole,  
one of the  
world's first  
Pissonneteers  
in 2009

*"He was first a teacher, beloved by his former students, attending their reunions into his 90s in Branson, Missouri. After moving to California, he became a school psychologist. . . . He would retire at the age of 70 from private practice. But, his appetite for learning was never quenched.*

*"He joined critique groups after moving back to Missouri, to improve his writing skills. One of his happiest moments was being published in Newsweek magazine. These were only his passions and pursuits.*

*"What I think defined Tom was the way he lived his life, peaceful and happy. He was a modest man and fiercely independent. He was kind and understanding, but above all he was honest with himself and as much as possible with everyone he met. His beliefs were simple: that we are all responsible for our own happiness and the meaning of life is in the chase.*

*"Even in his death, he wished to teach by donating his body to Genesis for research. He thought teachers could change the world. He was absolutely right. He changed mine."*

\*\*\*\*\*

Meet the 2015 Pissonneteers on page 3. May the Muse be with you.

Wanda Sue Parrott, Editor

## 2015 NATIONAL SENIOR POET LAUREATE POETRY COMPETITION

### **PUBLISHED & UNPUBLISHED Poems OK**

**DEADLINE 6/30/15**

**NO LIMIT to # of ENTRIES**

A literary contest open to all American poets age 50 and older who are U.S. Citizens regardless of where they are in the world. The 2015 SPL Contest will again mirror the SPL Contest of 1994 in which only two categories were featured, but with a bonus Native American category (explained below); Native American heritage is not required, but writing in the spirit of Great Spirit is necessary. It is privately administered by BARBARA CALLAHAN QUIN, and sponsored by Great Spirit Publishing, of Springfield, Missouri. Judges will include former Senior Poet Laureate contest co-founder Wanda Sue Parrott and members of the panel of judges to be convened in 2015. Entries will be accepted between January 1 and June 30, 2015. Entries may be submitted electronically according or by U. S. mail.

**A W A R D S:** All poems will be read and divided between General Poetry and Native American Poetry. Based on judges' scores, the top ten poems in each category will compete for: National Senior Poet Laureate (Best overall Poem: \$350 and Certificate); National Senior Poet Honor Scroll Award (Runner-Up: \$100 and Certificate); Native American Senior Poet Honor Scroll Award (Runner-Up: \$100 and Certificate); Other discretionary awards to be determined by the 2015 contest board.

**ENTRY FEES:** \$5 for first poem; \$3 each for second and all subsequent poems. 40-lines maximum per poem entry. All e-mail and paper submissions must be received by: 6/30/15.

**R U L E S:** There are two themes: *GENERAL POETRY* and *NATIVE AMERICAN*, including two categories: *RHYMED POEMS* and *UNRHYMED POEMS*. Subject matter and style are: *POET'S CHOICE*. An entry cannot exceed 40 lines plus title. Each entry must have a title, unless haiku or senryu. Single spaced; legible type, preferably 12 pt. size, black ink. No illustrations, fancy type, or shaped poems. If special formal format, include name of form such as "sonnet" or "triolet," etc., in upper left corner. Electronic submissions preferred.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS:**

Electronic submissions should be sent to: [bquin@ymail.com](mailto:bquin@ymail.com). We suggest you send yourself a copy in order to keep an entry record. Send only one poem per e-mail entry. In the Subject Line, state "2015 SPL (and your last name)"; at the beginning of your e-mail, show: **Your Name, Your Pen Name, if applicable, E-mail address.** Drop down 2 spaces and continue with **TITLE OF THE POEM** (IN CAPITAL LETTERS), **The Poem**, single-spaced. Include one electronic poet's bio cover sheet by following the HOW TO SUBMIT POET'S BIO COVER SHEET instructions herein. Please state in the subject line: 2015 SPL BIO and your full name. to address at bottom of this page.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT VIA U. S. POSTAL SERVICE:**

Send two copies of each submission, single-spaced, with category in the upper left corner of both copies, and your name and contact info in upper right margin of one copy; leave the other copy blank. Also enclose your entry fee check or money order, two #10 SASEs and a Bio Cover Sheet. Send to address at bottom of this page.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT POET'S BIO COVER SHEET:**

One bio page per poet, to include:

- A. Number of Poems submitted: \_\_\_\_;
- B. Are you a U. S. Citizen? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No;
- C. Personal Bio Information:
  - I. Your LEGAL NAME;
  - II. Your PEN NAME (by which you wish to be identified);
  - III. Your current RESIDENTIAL address;
  - IV. Your current E- MAIL address;
  - V. Your current phone number;
  - VI. Your DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year);
  - VII. Gender;
  - VIII. OCCUPATION, career type, now working or retired;
  - IX. Personal data such as hobbies, publication credits, children, etc.
- D. Publication Consent: Do you give permission for the contest administrator to publish your poem in an online and/or print format in the event enough entries are received to complete an anthology? [All rights will revert to poets.]
  - \_\_\_\_ Yes, publish my poem whether I win or not.
  - \_\_\_\_ No, do not publish my poem, even if I win.

**HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY FEE OR HARD COPIES:** Make your check payable to: **BARBARA QUIN** and write "**SPL 2015**" in the memo space. Checks made out any other way will be returned for re-issue. Upon receipt of proper payment, your entries will be activated. Send payment to: **SENIOR POET CONTEST, c/o Barbara Callahan Quin, Administrator, 2517 S. Pickwick Avenue, Springfield, MO 65804.** Winners will be notified on or about September 1, 2015. Winning poems may be published online and in the September 2015 edition of THE DIPLOMAT News Letter.

All rights revert to the poets. To print a copy of these Rules, **CLICK HERE** or visit <http://www.greatspiritpublishing.yolasite.com/golden-words.php>. For more information, please send an e-mail to [bquin@ymail.com](mailto:bquin@ymail.com) with "**SPL query**" in the subject line.

# Winners of the 2015

Tom Withers' Angel Without Wings Memorial

# PISSONNETEER AWARDS

The Pissonnet is the world's shortest sonnet (14 words) and the only known sonnet written horizontally like pissant tracks across the page in single-syllable words (except for the title, which is Poet's Choice.) Rules are:

### *The 14-word Pissonnet Format*

**TITLE**—No syllable or length restrictions (*Poet's Choice*)

**LINE 1**—3 single-syllable quartets—words 1 & 4 and 2 & 3 rhyme

**LINE 2**—2-word single-syllable rhyming couplet (*punch line*)

It is difficult to master, as meaning must be implied by words not there rather than words in the actual poem. The last Pissonnet contest was held in 2008 in celebration of its tenth anniversary. It was revived to honor two-time Pissonneteer Sherlu Walpole, who died in December 2014 at age 90, and the \$100 award has been divided among four poets as a memorial tribute to "angel" Tom Withers, who died May 30 at age 96. Congratulations, winners!



2015 PISSONNETEER

**EMERY L. CAMPBELL**

Lawrenceville, Georgia

### INCOMPATABILITY

High life wife. Buy ring, bag. Jag. Sing "Pay, dear." Hear "Nay!"  
Bloke broke!

2015 PISSONNETEER

**JOE CYR**

Sarasota, Florida 34239

### NUPTIALS

*Moon, he, she spoon, kiss; breast pressed, bliss. Bed fun, gun; wed.  
Dad glad.*



2015 PISSONNETEER

**GAIL DENHAM**

Sunriver, Oregon

### SAD END

Man thumps, jumps span; deer leap, keep clear; gun pops, stops run.  
Kill hill.

### GOTCHA!

*House creaks, squeaks mouse. I cussed, "Just die; this cheese, please kiss."  
Trap snap.*

2015 PISSONNETEER

**DENA R. GORRELL**

Edmond, Oklahoma



## THE POETS' PAGE



NEWS FLASHES: Dennis Maulsby writes: Having a bit of luck. My book of poetry: Near Death/Near Life has just been released. In May, I opened my first web page; [www.dennismaulsby.com](http://www.dennismaulsby.com). Thanks for all your support in the past. Also, [White County Creative Writers](#) Conference and 15 great contests 9/5/15. Click link for details. Let's all enter!

### GREEN RIVER WRITERS, INC. 2015 Writing Contest

c/o Charles Suddeth

9815 Farnham Dr., Louisville, KY 40223

**Mail fee and entries to the above address no later than 8/31/15**

**Original** work typed on white paper: **Poetry**, single-spaced; **Prose**, double-spaced.

**Submit** 2 copies. **Upper left** corner put number/title of category on 1<sup>st</sup> page of each entry. **Separate cover** sheet put name, address, e-mail, phone and list of numbers, category names and titles. **Indicate** whether a member or non-member of Green River Writers.

**Submissions:** Maximum 3 submissions per category. No submission may be entered in more than one category. No copies returned.

**Winners:** Announced 11/30/15 on GRW website: [www.greenriverwriters.org](http://www.greenriverwriters.org)

**Entry fees:** **Grand Prize**—\$3/entry for GRW members; \$5/entry for non-members. **Other categories:** \$2 or maximum \$12 members; \$3 each for non-members. Checks payable to Green River Writers, Inc. **Grand Prize Awards:**

**#1—President's Prize Fiction**—2000 words maximum--\$175/\$100/\$50.

**#2--Green River Grande—Poetry**—any form, to 50 lines--\$175/\$100/\$50.

#### Other Awards

**#3—Green River Lean**—Short-short fiction—1000 words max. \$50/\$30/\$20/HM\$10

**#4—Novel—1<sup>st</sup> Chapter**—26 pages max.--\$75, \$50, \$25

**#5—Rube Fowler Memorial Prize—Creative Nonfiction**—3000 words max.--\$50/\$30/\$20

**#6—Suzanne Suddeth Memorial Prize**—Prose or Poetry—500 words max. for children 12 and younger--\$30/\$20/\$10

**#7—Memorable/Unusual Friendship—Poetry**—50 line max.--\$50/\$25/\$10

**#8—Glenda Fowler Pearson Memorial—Poetry**—about diversity or social injustice--\$35, \$25, \$15

**#9—Jim O'Dell Memorial**—Poetry—Limerick--\$30/\$20/\$10

**#10—Sometimes You Can't be Saved from Yourself—Poetry**—40 lines max.--\$30, \$20, \$10

**#11—For the Birds—Poet's Interpretation**, any style--\$50, \$25, \$15, 2 HMs, \$5 each

**#12—Show Me Your Metaphors—Poetry**--no rhyming, 31 line max.--\$25/\$15/\$10

**#13—Snakes and Dragons, Oh My—Poetry**--40 line max.--\$30/\$20/\$10

**#14—Small Town Observations—Poetry**--unrhymed—40 line max.--\$30/\$20/\$10

**#15—Bang for the Buck—Poetry**—30 lines max., with no adverbs and 3 adjectives max.--\$35/\$25

**#16—Strange Duck, in Honor of Sue Bayes—Poetry**—32 line max. of witty, clever, ironic or documentation of one of life's tragic moments. No limericks. \$56.19/\$30/\$20

### SPRINGFIELD WRITERS' GUILD

#### 22nd Annual Prose and Poetry Contest

June 15 - September 15, 2015

[www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests](http://www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests)

#### Prose and Poetry Division

Fee \$5 per entry. No limit to number of entries, but the same entry may not be entered in more than one category.

**Prose:** Maximum 1,000 words, double-spaced

Category 1 – Fiction, any genre

Category 2 – Nonfiction, any subject

Category 3 – Humorous

**Poetry:** Maximum one page, single-spaced

Category 4 – Humorous, any form

Category 5 – Any subject, any form

**Awards** each category 1-5: \$50/\$25/\$15, Two Honorable Mentions

#### Jim Stone Memorial Poetry Division

Fee \$5, one entry per person. Entry must not have been entered in Categories 4 or 5. Poetry any subject, any form. One page, single spaced. Awards: \$150/\$75/\$50, Two Honorable Mentions

#### Best of Springfield Writers' Guild Award

SWG members who enter any category automatically will be considered for a \$100 award at no additional entry fee and in addition to other awards they may receive. This category judged separately.

Bonus for SWG Members: Submit two entries and receive a special link to submit a third entry free of charge. One free entry per member.

#### Submission Guidelines

1. Read these guidelines carefully. Failure to follow the guidelines may disqualify your entry.
2. Contest period is 12:01 a.m. Central Time, June 15, 2015, to midnight Central Time, September 15, 2015. **Entries and fees will be accepted only during the contest period and only at [www.Submittable.com](http://www.Submittable.com)**; see link at [www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests.html](http://www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests.html). Payment by debit card, credit card, or PayPal. Each entry must be unpublished, original work of contestant, and entered in only one category. You keep all rights to your entries; entries will not be published.
3. Double space prose, single space poetry. Title each entry except haiku. A list of your entries will be accessible at [www.Submittable.com](http://www.Submittable.com). Enter the prose word count or poetry form in the box provided. Number prose pages. Do not put your name on entries.
4. Once an entry is submitted to Submittable, it will not be extracted or exchanged for another entry for any reason. Writers may resubmit another entry accompanied with the \$5 fee.
5. Awards will be presented at the Springfield Writer's Guild meeting, October 24, 2015, or by mail for those unable to attend. For a list of winning entries and judges, visit [www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests.html](http://www.springfieldwritersguild.org/contests.html) after October 24, 2015.

**Questions? Contact Contest Chair, Yvonne Erwin:**  
[writer716@gmail.com](mailto:writer716@gmail.com)