



Spring 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
SENIOR POET
LAUREATE

CONTEST RULES

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!!! Calling all Sonnet Lovers !!!

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... FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Challenge: Judge a Homeless Writers Slogan Contest

Ever wonder what it's like to be a literary contest judge? If yes, now you can find out by trying it. You are invited to serve as a judge in the world's first—and probably only—"Kites without Tails" slogan-writing contest that's unlike any other literary competition in history. Signs are cardboard panels from dumpsters.

What is so unique? The writers are homeless panhandlers whose slogans are handwritten in marker ink on pieces of salvaged cardboard. Sole purpose of such short jingles or slogans is to sell pedestrians and drivers on giving cash to those "flying" (holding or waving) the signs. Why this contest?

After I retired as producer of the Senior Poets Laureate competition last year, I became a volunteer performer with The Tap Bananas, the Monterey Peninsula's troupe of senior women who tap dance for charitable causes and institutions, a fact you may know. What you don't know is about my newspaper column.

The weekly "Homeless in Paradise" column in the *Cedar Street Times*, Pacific Grove, California's hometown newspaper, covers the epic-proportion national homeless phenomenon that's impacting the Monterey Peninsula's income-generating tourism industry. Steinbeck's famed Cannery Row town, Monterey, has been invaded by hustlers flying signs asking for cash. Visitors to the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance drive Bentleys and Rolls-Royces through streets teeming with beggars. Even visitors to the races in the country at Laguna Seca aren't immune.

Panhandlers' signs fascinated me, so I wrote my column featuring the best of the sign messages I found on a sunny day in February and invited the public to pick its top favorite. Joining our panel is easy. Just read the three finalists, then e-mail your favorite to me within 24 hours of receiving this newsletter. Select only one winner. Send the number of your choice to amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com. Please include your name and a comment, if desired.. You won't get a certificate or cash award, but you will gain experience in judging and you will receive my gratitude. Here are the finalists in the "You be the Judge" challenge:

- #1—Sign on bike with attached cart packed with tent and blankets: *Travel partner—girlfriend needed.*
- #2—Sign held by sunburned man sitting on a bus bench: *Ex-wife had a better day.*
- #3—Sign on sleeping bag of youth and black lab mix outside PetSmart: *Share a buck/Change our luck.*

Thanks, and 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.

E N T R Y F E E S: \$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. 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 with "SPL query" in the subject line.

THE PISNONNET REVIVAL

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.)

The World's First Pissonnet (see example below) was invented in 1998 by Wanda Sue Parrott, with help of Vera-Jane Goodin Schultz and nudging of Tom Withers, over coffee in Springfield, Mo.

Wanda invented the Pissonnet as Diogenes Rosenberg, promising to reveal her true identity only if the form went into Public Domain during her lifetime.

She was surprised in 2004 when Claude Blackwood of Memphis, Tenn. submitted a Pissonnet in the annual Senior Poets Laureate contest. It is now a specialty form featured in contests across America and

Wanda is the recognized inventor. Since "Pissonnet" may sound offensive to those of refined taste, Pissonneteer Sherlu Rardin Walpole suggested it be pronounced with a French accent as "pee-so-nay."

The last Pissonnet contest was held in 2008 in celebration of its tenth anniversary. It is being revived here to honor two-time Pissonneteer Sherlu Walpole who died in December 2014 at age 90. See Sherlu's memorial on page 4 and read her remarkable winning Pissonnets.

Since Pissonnets are often hard to write, entrants may submit traditional 14-line sonnets as entries, or may mix and match both forms.

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)



THE PISNONNET/SONNET CONTEST RULES

Example: The World's First Pissonnet

MALE BONDING IN THE WILD

Bright May day fright; brush shakes, makes rush; bear growls; howls scare.

"RUN, son!"

Wanda Sue Parrott and Vera-Jane Goodin (1998)

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT: 5/20/15 --- ENTRY FEE: \$5 for 1st entry, + \$2 per each add'l entry

AWARDS

Pissonneteer: \$50

Sonneteer: \$50

Other awards at Judges' discretion

Send entries, one #10 SASE, and check payable to Wanda Sue Parrott Literary Fund to:

Sonnets

P. O. Box 1821

Monterey, CA 93942-1821

- Send one copy of each entry typed or neatly handwritten on standard white paper.
- In upper right corner, please include your identification:
 - Name (and pen name if different from your legal name).
 - Mailing address.
 - E-mail address
 - Telephone
- Each poem should be on a separate page, not combined with other entries.
- You must own the copyright and be author of the original submissions.
- Previously published poems are OK, but please note under the poem where it appeared.

Winner will be published in The Diploemat (June 2015) unless DO NOT PUBLISH appears on the poem.

Winners will appear in June on our website at www.amykitchenerfdn.org

ALERT:Due to computer difficulties, Barbara Quin, Great Spirit Publishing, may be slow to correspond.

This contest is open to poets of all ages and locations.

All entries must be written in English.

Handwritten entries are acceptable if they are neatly printed in black ink on one side of 8-1/2 x 11 in. white paper.

No limit to number of entries allowed.

THE POETS' PAGE

**SHERLU RARDIN WALPOLE****Two-time winner of Pissonneteer Award dies**

One of the world's only poets to have won two Pissonneteer Awards during the first ten years of existence of the world's shortest sonnet died suddenly in Springfield, Mo. on Dec. 22, 2014.

Sherlu Walpole, as she was professionally known, was 90 at the time of her death in a rehabilitation center where she was recovering from a fall taken in her home in 2012. A prolific writer, she was planning to produce a grammar guidebook at the time of her death.

During her latter years, Sherlu Walpole was best known as a prominent journalist in Greene County, Mo.. She served as restaurant reviewer as well as photographer and feature writer for *Springfield! Magazine*.

Since 1981 until a few years ago, she also owned Shirley's Old Books, a popular writers' gathering place at the time bookstores were starting to decline and vanish.

Prior to purchasing the used-books store in 1981, she had a two-decade career in television which included everything from TV sales and writing to broadcasting. She performed as a teacher in KOLR-TV's "Romper Room" series.

The only child of a banker was born in 1924 as Shirley Lou Rardin in Missouri, to which state she returned following a divorce after many years in upstate New York and Chicago. Her professional name "Sherlu" was a combination of her first and second names. Eventually she adopted her new name and kept it the rest of her life.

Sherlu was a graduate of Northwestern University and member of many academic orders and sororities. She belonged to Greene County chapter of MENSA and was an Honorary Life Member of Springfield Writers' Guild chapter of the Missouri Writers' Guild.

She was preceded in death by her equally talented son, musician-composer Hugh Nelson Walpole, who was reputed to do on a keyboard and other musical instruments what Sherlu did with words: *make magic*. In January 2004 she won 1st Place in our "My First Poem" contest with the first poem she ever wrote. She said, "This poem was written when I was in third grade at Rochester, New York. I had learned to read more than a year before I started school and I loved books of fairy tales—especially Oriental stories about genies and the Arabian Nights."

CHANDU

*Chandu was a Hindu boy,
of gardener's caste was he.*

*He worked in the garden of the Great Mogul
and was as happy and contented as a honeysuckle bee.*

No service was held at the time of Sherlu Walpole's death. The PISNONNET Revival and Contest is a belated memorial to honor Sherlu Walpole. Goodbye, Friend! See details on page 3.



SHERLU WALPOLE, above, and with **TOM WITHERS**, upper right. In 2008. Tom, a past president of Springfield Writers' Guild, is a mischievous retired school psychologist who dared Wanda Sue Parrott in 1998 to name her newly invented poetry form the Pissonnet because of its shock value in sounding like "piss on it." Wanda, shown with Sherlu in left photo below, kept Pissonnet as the short sonnet's name, but changed her name as inventor to **DIOGENES ROSENBERG**. **VERA-JANE GOODIN SCHULTZ**, in photo below at right on bottom of the page, helped co-create the world's first Pissonnets in Starbucks coffee shop at Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Springfield, Mo. in 1998.

Sherlu Walpole's PISNONNETEER AWARD Winners**A LA CARTE**

Meal: ale, quail, eel, beans, lamb, ham, greens, deer, kraut, trout, beer.
Ill. Pill.

VICTORY

Teams. Brags. Flags. Screams. Prize prods squads' tries. Game done. Won fame.
Up cup!

About the Pissonnet

It is a 14-word, 2-line horizontal poem in single syllables, with a title that can be any length and any number of syllables the poet prefers.

Format is: Line 1—3 quartets; words 1 & 4 rhyme and words 2 & 3 rhyme.

Line 2—2-word couplet.

