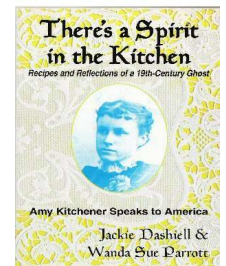




**MEETING THE MUSE SECTION. . .** The think tank of Amy Kitchener's Angels Without Wings Fdn.

**We welcome your comments. Send to the addresses shown on page 1. Please keep criticism 3 words or less in length.**

**NOTES & QUOTES:** From time to time, we receive requests and unsolicited manuscripts from new poets who want to break into print. Lately we have also been getting poetry submissions from young people incarcerated in prison. As a small non-profit literary foundation, we are not publishers, per se, but we don't like to be discouraging to those who are looking for guidance. Consequently, we send out copies of "A Letter from the Editor" which I first presented as a speaker four years ago at the 6th Annual Convention of the Missouri State Poetry Society, and which we reprint in this newsletter from time to time. Because about 35 new readers will be receiving this June edition of The Diplomat for the first time, it seems appropriate to include a reprint of "A Letter to the Editor." Its back side features an inspirational message from our honorary Chief Executive Officer, Amy Kitchener, who dictated it to me for sharing on February 16, 2004. See the insert to read both of the letters. **GOLDEN PEN AWARD NEWS:** We received a letter from Sylvia Haney Sampson, daughter of our late 2004 National Senior Poet Laureate, Barbara Ruth Sampson, suggesting we establish a **Golden Pen Contest** for poems of deceased poets whose spouses or children can submit entries written by their late loved ones. Traditionally, two **Golden Pen Awards** have been given in conjunction with the annual Senior Poets Laureate competitions, with one posthumous award presented and one award for a living poet being published in the **GOLDEN WORDS** chapbook containing the winning poetry of the current year's contest. We will not be issuing a hard copy chapbook this year (see Page 1), so propose that a **GOLDEN PEN** Section be established on our website. For a \$5 posting/entry fee, you may submit one poem by a deceased relative or friend. The money will be used to support our website, for which we pay \$8.95 per month. To post your loved one's poem, send one copy by 8/31/08 and \$5 to: **Amy's Golden Pen**, 1325 W. Sunshine St., #168, Springfield, MO 65807. Include your relationship to the poet whom you wish to honor and a brief bio note about the poet, including his/her honors and date of death. Golden Pen Award winner for best posthumous poem will be named in September on our website at [www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org). (This is a high honor, and no cash prize is associated with the award.) **HOW TO MEET AMY:** The fascinating story about how our own Amy Kitchener first appeared in my life can be found in "**There's a Spirit in the Kitchen**" by my editor Jackie Dashiell and Wanda Sue Parrott, the patriotic cookbook dictated to us by Amy in 1973-1974, at which time our incorporeal visitor who identified herself as "the spirit of a humble farm woman from Iowa who lived from 1820 to 1889." Then, in "Year 2K" after the contentious presidential election in which Al Gore won the popular vote but George W. Bush got the presidency by a Supreme Court decision, our beloved Amy returned and directed the founding of this non-profit literary foundation; she remains the symbolic, though usually invisible, president. To obtain your own copy of "There's a Spirit in the Kitchen" please send an \$18 check payable to Amy Kitchener Book, 1325 W. Sunshine St., #168, Springfield, MO 65807. Price includes postage & handling. There are only seven copies left in stock at this special price, so order early. Also available from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) at \$16.95 plus shipping.) **WSP**



**Story Stanza Contest Continuation Winners...**

Only \$10 in entry fees was received, so no cash prizes were awarded. The \$10 was used to pay our website fee of \$8.95 for the month of May 2008. Poetry is fun, but one can't count on getting rich from it!!

**NIGHTMARE**

I  
often longed  
to win a  
lottery, to see what  
life is like in luxury.  
Until I had this terrible dream,  
the numbers I picked won, it seems.  
I'm not quite sure how big the pot,  
but my dream revealed it was an awful lot.  
My relatives arrived; so many heard I won the game.  
Strangers to me; knocking on my door, they came.  
My dear sweet wife bought everything in sight--  
we were in stores day and night.  
My complaints she would not heed;  
junk, we did not need.  
When I awoke again  
I thanked God  
I never  
win!

Henry Newton Goldman  
Augusta, Georgia

This edition winds up our 1-year celebration in which we introduced the new 100-word literary form known as the Story Stanza to the world-at-large. Thanks for helping us kick off this project you can read in full in the Story Stanza Section, [www.amykitchenerfdn.org](http://www.amykitchenerfdn.org)

**TO ASHLEY:  
THOUGHT CULMINATED AFTER GRANDMAMA'S DEATH**

How old is your soul, Child?  
We discuss life's philosophies. You respond with wise acumen. Your matured spirit completely perplexes me.  
What other lives primed this intuitive knowledge? Angelic face, intent with all sincerity, speaking empathically; I accept my thirty years senior inferiored by your outstanding ability to grasp the truth and reinforce the obvious.  
Expressions of ideas are more suitable to instruct me. Mind races, heart quickens with obscure, unbelievable possibilities that just perhaps in some time before I wasn't parent, nor you daughter, but instead my guide and guardian to lead me watchfully - training, encouraging my new soul.

**Sylvia Sampson Haney,  
Stockbridge, Georgia**