



illinoispoets@gmail.com  
2013, Issue 5  
Editor, Kathy Cotton

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## Wanted: Photos, News, Features

While the new header for this issue features the skyline of Chicago, future newsletters will spotlight other Illinois vistas or art. Your editor is also looking for fresh ideas for feature stories, interviews, and writing prompts, as well as news and photos of chapter meetings and events.

Email photos (jpg or tiff) or an idea or news for consideration to kacotton7@frontier.com. Please send photo files as attachments. ✍

## Taking the Reins: New Board Begins Work



President  
Susan Moss



Vice President  
Jim Lambert



Secretary  
Wilda Morris



Treasurer  
Judith Tullis

The first gathering of the new ISPS dozen-member board of directors (see page 7) is slated for September 22 in Evanston. Officers beginning their two-year terms include our president, Susan Moss, and secretary, Wilda Morris. Both have previously served as ISPS president. Also a seasoned member is Judith Tullis, the 2011-13 ISPS vice president, a position now held by Jim Lambert, founder of the state's most recent addition, the Southern Illinois Chapter. The board will discuss a state convention, writing and publishing workshops, possible second anthology, sponsorship of a NFSPS contest, and creating an online critique opportunity for members. ✍

## A Message from the President

By Susan Moss

With September comes a series of changes as already noted in the different slant of sun, cooler mornings and evenings, and fewer conversations among birds. There begins to be something in the air which signals fewer days with green, leafy trees and blooming roses. Poets have responded to these actual changes with their various writing styles and often with philosophical and emotional content.

### Nothing Gold Can Stay

Nature's first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf's a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.

The concept of change can be a good topic and guiding force for creating poetry. In a deviation from Robert Frost's usual poetic form, "Nothing Gold Can Stay" embodies not only the more obvious reference but also the deeper motivations and consequences of change that move from allusions to nature to the whole human set of realities and myth that ultimately end one way or another.

Perhaps our poetry incorporates the theme of change more often than we realize. So much is written about everyday things that, although they are repeated out of habit, are never quite the same. Maybe we have even tried different styles of writing poetry and thus, have attempted to vary our predictable patterns of thought and technique. One ISPS member related the story of how he used to write in free verse but after attending a workshop on rhyme, he completely reinvented his form and how he thinks about ideas.

With the insight that change is constant, in what new ways might we explore writing patterns, themes, topics and possible metaphoric outcomes? How might we hear our inner voice speaking to us in a different way? Happy writing, SM ✍

## ISPS Poetry Contest

### Four Categories

1. Free Verse
2. Formal Verse
3. Humor
4. Haiku: modern (17 or fewer syllables) or traditional (5-7-5 syllables)

### Prizes, Each Category

1. First Place \$50
2. Second Place \$30
3. Third Place \$15
4. Three Honorable Mentions

### Contest Rules

1. Contest is open to anyone.
2. One poem per 8.5x11 page.
3. Use 12 or 14 point type.
4. Poems must be in English.
5. No simultaneous submissions; no poems that have been published or have won monetary awards.
6. Poems will not be returned.
7. In a single category, no poet can be a multiple winner.

### Submission Rules

Submit two copies of each poem:

**COPY 1:** Include category and name, address, and email address in upper left-hand corner.

**COPY 2:** Include ONLY the category in the upper left-hand corner.

### Entry Fees

**ISPS Members:** \$5 for up to five poems; \$1 each additional poem.

**Non-ISPS Members:** \$8 for up to five poems; \$1 each additional poem.

Make checks payable to:

**Illinois State Poetry Society**

### Mailing

Mail submissions with entry fees to:

Joanne Blakley  
ISPS Poetry Contest  
201 Michaelson  
Anna, IL 62906

### Submission Deadline

Entries must be postmarked by  
**NOVEMBER 9, 2013.**

## YOU Should Enter the ISPS Contest Because...

By Kathy Cotton

**Maybe you will win one of the 24 awards!** (And if you win first place in the haiku category, you will earn almost \$3 per syllable.) For decades I've been a non-contest poet, but two years ago I entered an ISPS contest to set a good example for my chapter and was surprised to be among the prize winners.

**Or maybe you won't win.** Last year I entered again and didn't win anything, but for just five bucks and a stamp I supported a big ISPS project. In 2012, poets from 15 states submitted 165 entries, but only 17 poets were Illinoisans. Now, couldn't our hundred-plus members do better than that? Let's ALL enter! We have until November 9 to come up with entries; that's time enough to craft either a winner or a supporter. That's win/win. ✍

### Northbrook

## ISPS Poets to Read at Night of the Arts

Northbrook Public Library extends a third-year invitation for ISPS members to participate in the annual Night of the Arts on October 4. Music, juried art, and poetry readings will be continuous from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Light food will be available beginning at 6:30 p.m.

To be included as a reader at the event, it is important to reserve a space. Contact Susan Moss at [stm48@hotmail.com](mailto:stm48@hotmail.com) or 847-475-6156. The library is located at 201 Cedar Lane. ✍

### Batavia

## Creative Spark Workshop Set

Carolyn Johnson will lead a poetry workshop at the Water Street Studios in Batavia on two Saturdays, Sept. 21 and 28, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Participants in "Poetry: Finding that Creative Spark" will explore how poets find inspiration, share in poetry exercises, and draft several poems.

Cost is \$30 for members; \$40 for non-members. Registration forms are available online at [www.waterstreetstudios.com](http://www.waterstreetstudios.com).

The studio is located at 160 S. Water Street in Batavia. ✍

### Highland Park

## Poetry That Moves

Highland Park Poetry is now accepting submissions for its 2014 Poetry That Moves Contest. Twelve short poems—not exceeding 16 lines—will be selected, one for each month of the year.

Highland Park High School graphic design students will design posters of the poems for North Suburban PACE buses operating between Evanston and Highland Park, including the Ravinia Festival parking shuttles. Selected poems will also be featured on [www.highlandparkpoetry.org](http://www.highlandparkpoetry.org). Selected poets will be recognized at a special event and will receive one copy of their poem poster. Deadline is September 30; information is available on the website. ✍

### Chicago

## Museum Outing

A Write!Chicago event is planned for Saturday, Sept. 14, at the DuSable Museum of African History. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the museum entrance. After viewing the exhibit, poets will reconvene to write.

RSVP to Caroline Johnson at [twinkcats@aol.com](mailto:twinkcats@aol.com) by September 10. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$7 for seniors and students. The museum is located in Washington Park at the corner of 57th and Cottage Grove. ✍

## ISPS Chapter Meetings



### Central Chapter, Pontiac

1:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 12, 2013

Pontiac Public Library

815-844-7229.

211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

### Hinsdale Chapter

1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 7, 2013

Hinsdale Public Library

630-986-1976

20 East Maple Street, Hinsdale, IL

Bring your own beverage, 12 copies of poems for critique, and a dish to share.

### Northern Chapter, Northbrook

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 8, 2013

Northbrook Public Library, Civic Room

847-272-6224

1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL

Bring your own beverage, 8-10 copies of poems for critique, and a snack to share.

### Southern Illinois Chapter, Carbondale

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013

Carbondale Public Library

630-986-1976

405 West Main, Carbondale, IL

Bring 8-10 copies of poems for critique and a snack to share.

### Southwest Suburban Chapter, Lisle

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 6, 2013

Lisle Public Library

630-971-1675

777 Front St., Lisle IL

Bring your own beverage, 20 copies of poems for critique, and a snack to share.

## GOOD NEWS! Notes from ISPS Members

**JACOB ERIN-GILBERTO**, Carbondale, will be the featured poet with three pieces published in the premiere issue of *The Verse: A Poetry Journal*. He will also have a feature interview in the October issue of the *Torrid Literature Journal*.

**JOAN COLBY** of Elgin is a new member with an impressive bio. She has to her credit 11 books of poetry, numerous literary awards, and more than 2,000 poems in journals. The recently released *Selected Poems* draws from her 35-year body of published work. Colby was a finalist for the 2012 Nimrod International Pablo Neruda Prize and the 2013 Atlanta Review International Poetry Contest. Since 1983, she has been editor of *Illinois Racing News*, a monthly publication focused on the breeding and racing of thoroughbreds in the Midwest. She lives with her husband on a small horse farm. Read more about Joan Colby at [www.pw.org/content/joan\\_colby\\_1](http://www.pw.org/content/joan_colby_1).

**PHIL EGELSTON** of Jonesboro has a selection of poems forthcoming in *Anglican Theological Review*, and had poems recently published in *Four and Twenty* and *Passager Poetry*.

**ROY HENRY** of Oak Park is a new member of the Hinsdale Chapter. "As a novice and hobbyist," Henry says, "I have throughout life sought the expression of poetry as a way to reveal succinct, dense and emotional meaning through the visual imaging of words. As a painter performs the colors and strokes, or a musician their combination of notes, I 'see' the word's meaning, juxtaposition, experience. In this, I find a profound connection with the rest of humanity."

**GARY KETCHUM** of Naperville, a new ISPS member, is a retired manager from a major airline with a liberal arts

degree, majoring in communication and minoring in English. Ketchum says, "I have written verse since I was a teen and enjoy creating everything from form poetry to free verse and prose poetry. I was an award-winning performer of oral interpretation of poetry in festivals and competitions during college and still enjoy performing readings of my own and others' work. My favorite poets include E. E. Cummings, T. S. Eliot, John Donne, Robert Frost and William Shakespeare."

**GEORGINA MILSTED** of Chicago is a new member. She is the daughter of ISPS member John Mahoney of Westmont. [No bio available.]

**PATTY PIECZKA**, Carbondale, will be the featured poet with 20 new poems in the spring issue of *The Bitter Oleander*. Her new book, *Painting the Egret's Echo*, which won the \$1,000 Bitter Oleander Library of Poetry Award, will be released this month.

**DOYLE RAYMOND VINES**, Cobden, published a unique memoir, *Winter Soup*, that features his poetry. It is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**GUS WHILHELMY** of Round Lake is a new member of the Northbrook chapter. His interesting life includes becoming an ordained monk; co-founding the Safer Foundation, one of the nation's largest criminal justice nonprofits; starting a corporation to assist nonprofits; creating an NGO incubator in Russia; promoting The Logic Model, an outcome measurement tool; and founding the Philanthropy Club of Chicago. His hobbies include watching his grandchildren grow up, writing and publishing poetry, and fishing. Check our website for more about Gus.

Send your News Notes for the next issue to [kacotton7@frontier.com](mailto:kacotton7@frontier.com).



## Recommended Reading

### High Five!

This issue's High Five! recommended reading list comes from members of the Southern Chapter. We invite you or your chapter to submit a list of five favorite poetry books or online poetry sites to recommend to readers of upcoming newsletters.

1. *Carolina Ghost Woods*, poetry of witness by Judy Jordan, a sharecropper's daughter who currently teaches creative writing at Southern Illinois University.
2. Poem-A-Day, a daily email from the Academy of American Poets. Subscribe free at [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org).
3. *The Art and Craft of Poetry* by Michael Bugeja, a book to help poets "compose and publish good poems."
4. Camille Paglia's *Break, Blow, Burn*, in-depth critiques of "43 of the world's best poems."
5. *A Book Of Luminous Things*, a collection of 300 poems from writers around the world, selected and edited by Nobel Laureate Czeslaw Milosz. ✍

## Makanda

### Matt Brown Headlines

Matt Brown of Nashville, Tenn., will be the featured poet along with readings by ISPS Southern Chapter at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at Renaissance House in Makanda. Brown is the author of *Glory, Glory*, and has worked as editor of *Crab Orchard Review* and *The Bellingham Review*. He teaches at Middle Tennessee State University.

Renaissance House, adjacent to the Makanda Boardwalk, is a 113-year-old church renovated to an arts center. ✍

## Westmont

### Poets and Open Mic at Brewed Awakening

Featured poets will read at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy (across from the train station), Westmont, on Sunday, Sept. 29, and Sunday, Oct. 27. Readings begin at 12:30 p.m.; there will also be an open mic. Cover charge of \$7.00 includes coffee and a snack. The event is sponsored by ISPS and Brewed Awakening.

#### Sept. 29, Featured Poets

**SANDRA MARCHETTI** teaches writing and literature at Elmhurst College. Her volume, *The Canopy*, won Midwest Writing Center's 2011 Mississippi Valley Chapbook Contest, and a full-length manuscript, "Confluence," was a quarter-finalist for Able Muse's 2012 Book Award. Marchetti was also a finalist for Gulf Coast's 2011 Poetry Prize. You can find her on Facebook at [sandrapoetry.net](http://sandrapoetry.net).

**NINA CORWIN** is the author of two books of poetry, *The Uncertainty of Maps* and *Conversations With Friendly Demons and Tainted Saints*. Her work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and appears in several journals. Corwin is an advisory editor for *Fifth Wednesday Journal* and curates readings at Woman Made Gallery in Chicago. You can read and listen to her work at [www.fishhousepoem.org/archives/nina\\_corwin/index.shtml](http://www.fishhousepoem.org/archives/nina_corwin/index.shtml).

#### October 27, Featured Poets

**CAROL GLOOR** is a semi-retired attorney. Her work has appeared in many print and online journals. Her chapbook, *Assisted Living*, published by Finishing Line Press, won the publisher's Starting Gate Award. She is a member of the Chicago poetry collective, the Egg Money Poets.

**SUSANNA LANG**, a Chicago public school teacher, is the author of three volumes of poetry: *Tracing the Lines*, *Even Now*, and *Two by Two*, as well as translations from French of Bonnefoy's *Words in Stone* and *The Origin of Language*. Her poems and essays have been published in numerous literary journals. ✍

## Highland Park

### Readings at Art Center

#### Sept. 20, Featured Poet

Readings by Andrea Witzke Slot will be featured at an open-mic event at 8:00 p.m., Friday, Sept. 20, at the Art Center of Highland Park, 1957 Sheridan Road.

Slot is the author of *To Find a New Beauty*, and her poetry can also be found in numerous journals. She teaches at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is the book review editor at *Fifth Wednesday Journal* as well as an associate editor at *Rhino Poetry*.

#### October 11, Featured Poet

Deborah Nodler Rosen will be featured at the 8:00 p.m., Friday, Oct. 11, open mic event. Rosen is editor of the award-winning poetry journal *Rhino*. She is also the author of a poetry volume, *Sight/Seer*; and the books *Where We Find Ourselves* and *Jewish Women around the World Write about Home*. Rosen's poems have been widely published in literary journals. ✍

## Illinois Poets Online

The next bimonthly submission period for member poetry on the ISPS web site is Monday, Sept. 23 through Sunday, Oct. 6.

Members may submit one piece of original work, maximum two pages, to Alan Harris at [oasis@alharris.com](mailto:oasis@alharris.com) or by mail to Alan Harris, 543 E. Squirrel Talk Dr., Tucson, AZ 85704. ✍

## Spotlight on ISPS Poet Jennifer Dotson



Jennifer Dotson, author of *Clever Gretel*, lives in Highland Park with her husband and two children. In 2007, Dotson created [www.HighlandParkPoetry.org](http://www.HighlandParkPoetry.org) as a local celebration of National Poetry Month. It evolved into a successful, year-round program of poetry events, workshops, and contests—such as the upcoming Poetry That Moves Contest, a collaboration that installs poetry posters in North Suburban PACE buses (see events, page 4).

### **What inspires you to write?**

Often I respond to a challenge or a prompt. I recently tried working on a cento, and my friend Pam Larson recommended experimenting with a bob-and-wheel poem. I find that bad jobs, bad dreams and fears make for good material.

### **When did you first start writing poetry?**

I never meant to become a poet. My career path was clearly focused on acting and theatre. Not long after getting my MFA in drama from the University of Virginia, I moved to Chicago for its vibrant storefront theatre scene. Then life took some detours. An artist friend encouraged me to write a poem for the Gross Park Sculpture Invitational. I'd never written a poem before. She said, "It's just word art, Jen." Anyway, I wrote "Poem for a Corn-Fed Girl" and I got hooked.

### **Which poets are among your favorites?**

I've always admired Kay Ryan and her beautifully crafted Fabergé egg poems—small, compact and complex. I like Denise Duhamel and Wendy Cope for their wicked sense of humor, though expressed very differently. At the moment, I'm reading Carol Gloor's *Assisted Living*.

### **Have you published any of your poetry? If so, where?**

My poetry has been published in *After Hours*, *East On Central*, *Poetry Cram*, *Her Mark 2005* from Woman Made Gallery and in *A Midnight Snack*. *Clever Gretel*, my debut collection, was awarded the first Journal of Modern Poetry Book Award and was published in April by Chicago Poetry Press.

### **What is your advice to aspiring poets?**

Read poetry. You will encounter poems that you don't like or understand and poems that resonate deeply in your core—a sounding for your soul. Whenever possible and your finances allow, support your fellow poets and buy poetry books. The market for poetry is pretty small—if we don't support each other, who will?

### **Do you have any advice about how to get published?**

*Clever Gretel* was a journey that took several years. I'd been tweaking and sending out the manuscript for a while. Eventually, the planets aligned with the right publisher at the right time for me. It still feels like a miracle.

### **What are you working on now?**

I just registered to compete in the Waiting4TheBus Poetry Pentathlon at Powell's Books in Hyde Park. I might try to create a similar event in Highland Park.

### **Do you ever get "writer's block"? How do you overcome this?**

I like lists and keep lists of poem ideas. When I'm blocked, I go back and remind myself what I thought would be a good poem. Also, when wrangling with rhymed verse, I spend a lot of time making lists of rhyming words.

### **Do you write every day?**

A recent New Year's resolution is to write each year at least the same number of poems as the last two digits of the year. I've written 9 of the 13 poems for 2013. I do carry a notebook with me in my bottomless purse wherever I go. ✍

## Poetry by Jennifer Dotson

### **A Sonnet for Lost Glasses**

How do you suppose I lost my glasses?  
To make it even worse, gone are my spare.  
Now street signs appear as blurry masses.  
Please believe me, I have looked everywhere.  
A shrink might think I do not wish to see  
a thing within my current circumstances.  
My losing lenses automatically  
restricts the scope of all my glances.  
Should I seek meaning in my fractured sight  
or is it merely absentmindedness?  
I will blame this on a meddling sprite  
and vow to nevermore be so careless.  
Still, dear, I do desire your permission  
to focus on our love, not my vision.

### **Storm Is Coming**

Storm is coming  
Thirsty leaves turn over  
Craving the sky's wet kiss  
Trees hum and thrum  
Whisper in urgent rustlings  
And sudden swaying

Storm is coming  
Warm summer air  
Drives a Harley  
Across the prairie  
Birds chatter in code  
Do you hear it?  
Can you smell it?

Storm is coming  
Distant deep rumbles  
Of heavenly indigestion  
Time slows with waiting  
We hold our breath  
Wonder if it will pass  
Over us as we exhale

Storm is coming  
Temperature plunges  
From dryer vent exhaust  
To goosebump chill  
Light grows green edges  
Wind becomes aggressive  
With nervous agitation

Storm is coming  
Random drops fall fat  
In heavy surprise  
Before the syncopated  
Strumming cascade of  
Torrents and streams  
And it's here



# Illinois State Poetry Society Gallery



Column 1: National Poetry Month display, Winnetka. NFSPS Convention in Albuquerque: Jim Lambert, Kathy Cotton, Tabitha Tripp. Poetry and art reception, Masters Center in Anna.

Column 2: National Poetry Month displays in Winnetka, Wilmette, and Carbondale. Manningham Contest: Lisa Gong, Katie Ford, Kuilin Li, Gail Goepfert.

Send your chapter's photos and identifications to [kacotton7@frontier.com](mailto:kacotton7@frontier.com).

## ISPS Board Members

President, Susan Moss  
stm48@hotmail.com

Vice President, Jim Lambert  
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twinkscat@aol.com

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Southern Illinois Chapter (Carbondale)  
Facilitator Kathy Cotton  
kacotton7@frontier.com

Southwest Suburban (Lisle)  
Facilitator Barbara Eaton  
eatonb1016@aol.com

Past President Mardelle Fortier  
fortier@cod.edu

At Large Member  
TBA

At Large Member  
TBA

## Poetry perks worth sharing

Your membership in ISPS shows us that you value your association with Illinois poets and the perks of belonging to the state and national societies. Who do you know who would also benefit from belonging to ISPS and enjoying the support of an area chapter of poets? Please share the information on this page (also available online) to invite a fellow poet to join you.

### A year of privileges for only \$20

- Triple membership: the Illinois State Poetry Society AND the National Federation of State Poetry Societies AND any of the six chapters.
- ISPS bimonthly newsletter plus email notices of poetry events throughout the state.
- NFSPS quarterly publication, *Strophes*.
- Special submission rates for annual ISPS and NFSPS contests,
- Free admission to ISPS seminars and lectures and all chapter meetings.
- Chapter meetings in locations across the state where members share and gently critique their poetry.
- Bimonthly publication of a poem submitted to the ISPS website:  
[www.illinoispoets.org](http://www.illinoispoets.org).

### ISPS History

The Illinois State Poetry Society was chartered in 1991 at the yearly convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) held in Madison, Wisconsin. ISPS was formed “to encourage the crafting and enjoyment of poetry in the State of Illinois....” From its twelve charter members, ISPS has grown to a membership of about 120, and is actively working at its mandate.



### Join ISPS or Renew Your Membership

Complete the information below (please print) and send the form with a check for yearly (July 1 - June 30) dues of \$20.00 to the address below. New members please send also a short bio for our newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP (SELECT ONE):**    New Member    Renewal

**Voting Chapter (select one):**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SW Suburban Chapter (Lisle) | <input type="checkbox"/> North Suburban Chapter | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Illinois Chapter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hinsdale Chapter            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pontiac Chapter        | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large Chapter          |

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone (home or cell)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Judith Tullis, 6455 Big Bear Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525