



illinoispoets@gmail.com

2013, Issue 6

Editor, Kathy Cotton

In This Issue

President's Message	1
Deadlines	1
ISPS Poetry Contest	2
Board Plans Meeting	2
Chicago Poetry Events	2
Highland Park Events	2
Brewed Awakening	2
Carbondale Open Mic	2
ISPS Poetry Contest	2
Meet Carolyn Jevelian	3
Member News Notes	4
Chapter Meetings	4
High 5 Recommended	5
Where We Submit Poetry	5
DuPage Deadline	5
Member Books	5
ISPS Online Deadline	5
Photo Gallery	6
Board Member List	6
Membership Application	6

WANTED: PHOTOS, NEWS, FEATURES

While the header for this issue features a Chicago skyline, future newsletters can 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 poetry events.

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

A Message from the President

BY SUSAN T. MOSS



The power of poetry should never be underestimated. Recently, the BBC interviewed several veiled women in Kabul, Afghanistan, who meet to recite their poems condemned by warlords. One woman wrote of such things as smoking with a lover and thereby broke taboos and was forced to flee for her life. These women write of forbidden freedoms commonly embraced by Western cultures, and with their poems they attempt to break down barriers and shift moral judgments.

While most of us are not living behind a literal veil, when we write we too need to cross barriers, whether they be internal blocks or a hesitation to declare truths against issues that threaten society's wellbeing, for example. Poetry has the capacity to analyze, persuade, initiate, captivate, assuage and entertain, among others. Possibilities are only limited by our imagination and ability to formulate ideas.

When we are complicit in writing what touches us and which insists on being said, personal insights can be revealed. With a willingness to open ourselves to deeper knowledge which we intentionally or unconsciously hide, our poetry can grow in previously unsuspected ways. The process of continually unmasking and experimenting, delving deeper and pushing the limits of self-expression can help us discover our own freedom to communicate. It can be a pleasant surprise to meet a stranger speaking of more than "shoes and ships and sealing wax, of cabbages and kings..." and realize that it is ourselves.

Now that fall is at full throttle and winter not far behind, I wish for each of you holidays filled with peace and joy. Happy writing, Susan T. Moss

Don't Miss the Deadlines

NOVEMBER 9

A postmark by Saturday, Nov. 9, will qualify your submissions to the 20th annual ISPS poetry contest. See contest categories and details on page 2 of the newsletter. Contest chair Joanne Blakley urges **EVERY MEMBER** of ISPS to support this contest. Send one to five poems for just \$5.00. You will be supporting one of the major ISPS projects as you become eligible to win cash prizes.

LAST CHANCE FOR RENEWALS

The ISPS program year starts July 1, and by that date the \$20 annual dues are payable for the year. If you are one of the 30+ members who have not yet paid renewal fees for 2013-14, we've been waiting to hear from you. We hope the many benefits of our six chapters and the dual ISPS/NFSPS membership (including this newsletter) will remind you to contact us.

Make your check (\$20 regular; \$30 Patron; \$50 Benefactor) payable to ISPS and send to ISPS c/o Judith Tullis, 6455 Big Bear Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525. Please indicate if you have had any changes in your contact information. If you are unsure whether you have already sent your dues, contact Judith: jtullis@ameritech.net or 708-784-9934. ✍

ISPS Contest Deadline Nov. 9th

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

Mail submissions, postmarked no later than November 9, with entry fees to:

Joanne Blakley
ISPS Poetry Contest
201 Michaelson
Anna, IL 62906

Board Plans Meeting



Judith Tullis, Wilda Morris, Susan Moss, Carolyn Jevelian, and Caroline Johnson lay out new year plans at the first board meeting, September 22, in Evanston.

The ISPS board of directors will hold their second meeting of the year November 23 in Indian Head Park at the home of Judith Tullis. The board will welcome new at-large member Sheila Kirscher of Wilmette.

Directors will discuss guidelines for an online critique chapter, possible ISPS convention, 2014 Poetry Month events, membership, reading and workshop opportunities for members, a second anthology, and election procedures. ✍

HIGHLAND PARK

Reading, Madame ZuZu's

Poets may bring up to six poems to share at an open mic hosted at Madame ZuZu's Saturday, Nov. 16, 8:00 p.m. The venue is located at 582 Roger Williams Avenue.

Holiday Reading

A free holiday open mic poetry event will be held Friday, Dec. 6, 8:00 p.m., at the Art Center, located at 1957 Sheridan Road. Poets may bring books to sell and up to six poems to share. ✍

WESTMONT

Holiday Open Mic at Brewed Awakening

An open mic seasonal and holiday poetry reading will be held at Brewed Awakening, 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 24. All poets are invited to bring winter poems or poems about winter holidays to read. Cover charge of \$7.00 covers coffee and a snack. Brewed Awakening is located at 19 West Quincy (across from the train station), Westmont. There will be no December event.

CHICAGO

Poetry Workshops

The Chicago Public Library will offer two November poetry revision workshops, both open to the public. Debby Rosen and Steven Schroeder will lead at the Lincoln Belmont branch (1659 W. Melrose Street) at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7. Schroeder will lead at the Back of the Yards branch (2111 W. 47th Street) Thursday, Nov. 14. For inclusion, email your poem to vacpoetry@vacpoetry.org and indicate the date of the workshop.

Museum Outing

A Write! Chicago event is planned for Saturday, Nov. 16, Intuit: Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, 756 N. Milwaukee, Chicago. Meet at 11:00 a.m. at the museum entrance. After viewing the exhibit, poets will reconvene to write. RSVP to Caroline Johnson at twinkscats@aol.com by November 10.

Open Mic at Powell's

An open mic poetry event is slated for Sunday, Nov. 3, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Powell's Bookstore, 1218 S. Halsted, Chicago. Poets will have a five-minute performance slot plus an opportunity to sell their books. RSVP by e-mail to Caroline Johnson at twinkscat@aol.com. ✍

CARBONDALE

Open Mic at Global

Open mic poetry is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. to midnight on Mondays, Nov. 4 and 18 and Dec. 2 at Global Gourmet, 102 E Jackson Street, Carbondale. ✍

Spotlight on ISPS Poet Carolyn Jevelian



Carolyn Jevelian is a retired elementary school teacher who has lived in Wilmette for more than forty years. Her interest in designing unique ways of presenting her poetry—using altered books, calligraphy, photography and handmade books—led Jevelian to create the hands-on workshop, "Getting Poetry Out Into the World: Beyond Publishing." She also serves on the ISPS board of directors as historian.

When did you first start writing poetry?

I enjoyed writing prose with an occasional poem punctuating the pages for many years, but began to be serious about poetry when I attended my first ISPS meeting in July 2009. I brought two poems to be critiqued and received gentle criticism which was very helpful.

What has helped you develop as a poet?

I learned that there are rules in poetry. You need to learn the rules and then you can break them. I continued to attend the ISPS meetings, bringing two new poems each time. I felt that I was learning and improving, but the poems didn't come easily. I might have a great idea—in fact, I had many ideas—but labored over the execution of them.

I signed on to take a week of poetry at The Clearing Folk School in Door County, Wisconsin. The part that stressed me was the idea of writing in class each day—"poems on demand." How surprised I was when I did produce a new poem each day and came home with a one-of-a-kind chapbook. I continue to go each spring to The Clearing's poetry camp, led by Wisconsin poet Robin Chapman.

Share some of your ideas for "getting poetry into the world."

In addition to being published in traditional media, I also enjoy creating alternative ways to showcase poetry. My most recent venture, along with poet friend Gail Geopfert, has been to conduct workshops featuring samples and hands-on creation of showcased poetry. Here are a few ideas (there are many more!):

- **Artist Trading Cards** with a photo on one side and a lune poem on the reverse.
- **Origami Book** with a poem or line on each page of the folded 8.5x11" paper.
- **Matchbox Poems.** Make an accordion book using matchbox dimensions, put reduced-size photos, drawings, poems, etc., on each page and fold into the box.
- **Brown-bag Books.** Use folded lunch bags as the pages. Open ends become sleeves for collectibles; on the flat pages, write poetry. Decorate the cover.
- **Poetry Post Cards.** With Picassa or other formatting software, print a poem over art work or a photo you have taken.
- **Display Poetry.** Frame a poetry broadside, make a stand-up accordion display, or create an altered book with photos and poems (I made a book about my grandchildren).

What is your job as ISPS historian?

When the ISPS board added the historian position in 2012 to archive its records, I co-chaired with Susan Moss. We collected and sorted items into archival albums, now held at Northbrook Public Library. I continue to archive our current records.

How does poetry enrich you personally?

Poetry brings joy to my life. Whether reading my favorite poets (Ted Kouser, Michael Glaser and Mary Oliver), listening to fellow poets reading their poems, or in the writing of my own, poetry completes me. ✍

By Jevelian

SUNFLOWERS

I follow the light
like sunflowers in the field
their ruffle of petals
golden halos
circling chubby brown faces
uplifted as one
to the sun

I go into the fog
in dark times
a haze that dims
all colors and
dulls my thoughts

I run into the field to
hide in the quiet
among the tall stalks
the jolly heads above
will shelter me
until I am ready again
to face the light

GINKGO

Your emerald leaves are
like geishas' fans
from ancient times.
Demurely they cover
your every limb
undulating in a soft breeze
breaking into dance
on blustery days and
blushing a bright yellow when
the fluttering falling fans
bare your boughs.

A QUERY

Quercus, don't you think it's
quirky that you tenaciously
hold on to your leaves all winter?

Have you no qualms that
your leaves turn brown and
curl quivering against cold?

That you only let go when
fresh young green buds appear
to quash the wrinkled old?

What a quandary!

ISPS CHAPTER MEETINGS

**CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC**

1:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013

Pontiac Public Library

815-844-7229

211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

HINSDALE CHAPTER

12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 2, 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, Nov. 10, 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.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CHAPTER, CARBONDALE

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

Sunday, Nov. 10, 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 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

ISPS holiday meeting; all members welcome. Danada House, 3S501 Naperville Rd., Wheaton (630-668-5392), located 1 mile north of I-88 or less than a mile south of Butterfield Road. Bring your own beverage, a dish to pass, and 20 copies of poems for critique.

News Notes from our ISPS Members

CANDACE ARMSTRONG is a recent transplant to Southern Illinois and a new member of the ISPS Southern Chapter. Her poetry was published in the summer 2010 issue of *The Lyric*, and both poetry and a prize-winning short story were published in the summer 2011 issue of *Muse*. Additional poems have appeared in *Muse* and the *Negative Suck*. She is currently seeking an agent for a completed novel and has written several short stories.

GAIL DENHAM, a new at-large member, has published stories, essays, poetry, news stories, and photos in magazines, books, and newspapers for 35-plus years. Now focusing on poetry, Denham belongs to a dozen state poetry associations, leads writing and photography workshops at Pacific Northwest conferences, and has won several prizes in recent poetry contests. Her "first love" is story telling and humor—thus her poems migrate toward those themes. Denham and husband live on two acres in Central Oregon.

PAMELA D. HIRTE, a new ISPS member, grew up in Florida where she lived in Jacksonville and St. Augustine. She later moved to the Midwest to earn a Masters in Business Administration. She is a poet and master gardener and likes to spend her time outdoors writing poetry or weeding. She currently lives in Ohio with her husband, two sons, and one attack cat.

IVAN PETRYSHYN, new member, Chicago, was born in Ukraine (ex-Soviet Union) and studied in four countries. He has scholar publications in translation and phonology and speaks fluent Italian, Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian, colloquial German, and some Spanish and French. A former news writer, radio announcer, and professor at three universities, Petryshyn is now an ELL teacher. His poetry

has been published in both Ukraine and the U.S. and in four languages. Read samples of his poetry at www.poets.com.

AMANDA WILLIAMS, a new member of the Southern Chapter, is a 23-year-old Alhambra, IL resident, who has lived all over the world as the daughter of an Army officer. She has bachelor degrees in both English literature and theatre arts from Illinois Wesleyan University. Amanda now works as a library assistant in Highland and is preparing graduate program applications. Her poetry has a heavy early modern influence in both content and form. Favorite poets are the Renaissance author John Donne and contemporary Americans Billy Collins and Denise Duhamel. ✍

CONTEST AWARDS

DAVID BOND, Carbondale, won second place in the 2013 Deane Wagner Poetry Contest presented by St. Louis Writers Guild.

Two ISPS poets were winners in the 35th annual Indiana Federation of Poetry Clubs contests.

KATHY COTTON of Anna won Grand Prize third place, first in the Happiness Award, third in the Andreas Zannis Memorial Award, and honorable mention in the Place Award.

GAIL DENHAM, a new at-large member from Oregon, took second in the Happiness Award and honorable mention in the Andreas Zannis Memorial Award.

PHIL EGELSTON of Jonesboro was a semifinalist in the *Naugatuck River Review* narrative poetry contest and will have his work published in NRR. ✍

Send your News Notes for the next issue to kacotton7@frontier.com.

RECOMMENDED READING

High Five!

This issue's High Five! recommended reading list focuses on publication resources. 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 issues.

1. New York Public Library Best of the Web, Online Literary Magazines. www.nypl.org/weblinks/1249
2. Top Fifty Literary Magazines by Every Writer's Resource. www.everywritersresource.com
3. New Pages Guide to Best Literary Magazines. Also has lists of poetry contests. www.newpages.com/literary-magazines
4. Bookfox List of Literary Journals Accepting Electronic Submissions. www.thejohnfox.com/journals
5. Twelve of the Most Beautiful Online Journals by Flavorwire. www.flavorwire.com ✍

Illinois Poets Online Deadline

The next bimonthly submission period for member poetry on the ISPS web site is Monday, Nov. 18, through Sunday, Dec. 1, 2013.

Members may submit one piece of original work, maximum two pages, to Alan Harris at oasis@alharris.com or by mail to Alan Harris, 543 E. Squirrel Tail Dr., Tucson, AZ 85704.

Member poetry and bios are archived and viewable by poet or submission period at www.illinoispoets.org. ✍

DuPage Valley Review

Editor (and past ISPS president) Mardelle Fortier sends a reminder that the submission period for *DuPage Valley Review* ends November 7. To be considered for the 2014 issue, please send three to five poems by Word attachment to fortier@cod.edu. ✍

FROM ISPS MEMBERS

Where We Submit our Poetry

The diverse poets of ISPS have work published in hundreds of print and online journals. Information about a few of them follows. You can encourage your fellow poets to submit work by sharing other potential publication sites. Send a suggestion—or a dozen—to kacotton7@frontier.com.

Blood Lotus Poetry

bloodlotuspoetry@gmail.com
Online literary journal

Bluestem Magazine

www.bluestemmagazine.com
Online quarterly

East on Central

www.eastoncentral.org
Journal from Highland Park, IL

Highland Park Poetry

Query: info@highlandparkpoetry.org
Online poetry

Lilliput Review

<https://sites.google.com/site/lilliputreview>
Print journal, poetry ten lines or fewer

Negative Suck

www.negativesuck.moonfruit.com
Magazine for writers "who don't suck"

New Madrid Journal

www.newmadridjournal.org
Journal, MFA program, Murray State U.

Poets Post

[www.facebook.com Poets Post](http://www.facebook.com/PoetsPost)
Anthology from site's posted poems

Seeding the Snow

seedingthesnow@gmail.com
Bi-annual, about Midwestern landscapes

Sierra Nevada Review

www.sierranevada.edu
Annual literary magazine

The Blind Man's Rainbow

www.bmrpoetry.com
Quarterly international poetry

The Legendary

www.downdirtyword.blogspot.com
Online literary magazine

Third Wednesday

www.thirdwednesday.org
Quarterly print journal

Voices on the Wind

www.voicesonthewind.net
Online literary journal

New Books by ISPS Members

JACOB ERIN-CILBERTO, Carbondale, has published his 13th book of poetry, *Intersection Blues*. It is available from Water Forest Press and Amazon. Other books by Erin-Cilberto include *Used Lanterns*, 2012, and *An Abstract Waltz*, 2009, both by Water Forest Press.



PATTY DICKSON PIECZKA, Carbondale, has a second book of poetry, *Painting the Egret's Echo*. Winner of the \$1,000 Bitter Oleander Library of Poetry Award, the book will be released by BOP this month. Pieczka is also the author of *Lacing Through Time* (Bellowing Ark Press, 2011), and a chapbook, *Word Paintings* (Snark Publishing, 2002).

COMING IN 2014. At the November 23 ISPS board meeting, directors will discuss plans for a second ISPS anthology of member poems. Our first anthology, *Distilled Lives*, was published in 2011.

ISPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Susan Moss
stm48@hotmail.com

Vice President, Jim Lambert
jim@jimlambert.net

Secretary, Wilda Morris
wem@ameritech.net

Treasurer, Judith Tullis
jtullis@ameritech.net

Historian, Carolyn Jevelian
gjeve@aol.com

Newsletter Editor, Kathy Cotton
kacotton7@frontier.com

Central Chapter (Pontiac)
Facilitator David Alexander
pontiacpoetry@aol.com

Hinsdale Chapter
Facilitator Caroline Johnson
twinkscat@aol.com

Northern Chapter (Northbrook)
Facilitator Susan Moss
stm48@hotmail.com

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, Sheila Kirscher
jkirscher@comcast.net

At-Large Member
TBA



ISPS members participate in the Northbrook Public Library Night of the Arts, October 4.

Front row: Pam Larson, Gail Goepfert, Marjorie Rissman, Susan T. Moss, Judith Tullis, Sheila Kirscher.

Back Row: John Gordon, Robert Cote, Gail Vescovi, Wilda Morris, Susan Auld, Deborah Rhode.



ISPS Southern Chapter sponsors an open mic event featuring poet Matt Brown of Nashville, TN, and a poetry meet-and-greet luncheon at Renaissance House in Makanda, September 28. Among readers are Candace Armstrong, Icky Squidfuture, Matt Brown, Amber Blakesley, Carol Dooley, Eric Wagner, Raisa Phillips, and Doyle Vines.



JOIN ISPS OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Complete the information below (please print) and send the form with a check for yearly (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014) dues of \$20.00 to the address below. New members please send also a short bio for our newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP (SELECT ONE):

Voting Chapter (select one):

- SW Suburban Chapter (Lisle)
- Pontiac Chapter
- Southern Illinois Chapter
- Hinsdale Chapter
- North Suburban Chapter
- At-Large Chapter

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home or cell) _____

Email _____

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