



2014, ISSUE 2
EDITOR, KATHY COTTON

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WANTED: PHOTOS, NEWS

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. ✍

ISPS Offers New Email Critique Groups

ISPS now offers its members the opportunity to participate in small email critique groups. Members who apply for the program will be assigned to groups by Coordinator Wilda Morris in such a way as to maximize geographic diversity.

Each group will be composed of five poets, in so far as possible, and each group member will be entitled to submit one poem for critique each month. Submitting a poem is an agreement to also critique the poems submitted by all members of the group that month.

Critiques should include positive feedback and courteous suggestions, not rewrites. Responses to a poem will go to the whole group as attachments or in the email body, as determined by the group. No more than one revision can be submitted during the month. If a second revision is desired, the poet can resubmit the edited piece in the next month.

ISPS Email Critique Groups are formed strictly for critiquing each other's poems. Members agree to not use the email addresses for any other purpose than to submit poems and provide critiques. Doing so is grounds for removal from the program. Members also agree to never forward someone else's poem to anyone outside the group without permission from the author.

To request a full copy of the guidelines or to join an ISPS Email Critique Group, contact coordinator Wilda Morris at wildamorris@ameritech.net. Put "ISPS Email Critique Group" in the subject line of the email and be sure to include your name with your request. ✍

A Message from the President

By Susan T. Moss



Several subjects have come to mind as I considered what to discuss for this issue of the ISPS newsletter. Updates of ISPS activities and accomplishments are noted as well as a few comments about poetry.

I am happy to announce that Illinois State Poetry Society now has official archives which have been compiled and sorted by Carolyn Jevelian and me. These are housed at the Northbrook Public Library in the reference section and may be perused on location. Although our society goes back many more years than when we were chartered at the National Federation of State Poetry Societies convention in 1991, historical records have been found for about only the past 20 or so years. The collection will be regularly updated, and I invite anyone who has old ISPS-related material to contact Carolyn or me.

Watch for other announcements about reading opportunities and writing workshops sponsored by ISPS. The Brewed Awakening is an ongoing and popular venue to share your work.

This year there are several libraries where members' poetry will be displayed during April Poetry Month. A couple of libraries have invited us to show poems in May due to conflicts for space. Please consider sending two poems to Sheila Kirscher, jkirscher@comcast.net by or on March 1, as described in the mailing sent out to members. So far, participating libraries include Wilmette, Winnetka, Highland Park, Glenview, Hinsdale, Indian Prairie, Aurora, Pontiac and Carbondale.

Illinois State Poetry Society will be offering a chance for members to sell their books at the Poetry Fest held at the Harold Washington Library on April 26. Bring your publications for display on a table in the lobby.

With so much competition among thousands of poets trying to get into hard-copy journals, you might want to try some other venues to share poetry with the world. The Internet offers various sites, and one of them is *Your Daily Poem* (YDP). (Continued on page 2)

ISPS Poetry Contest Set

Complete guidelines for the 21st Annual ISPS Poetry Contest are now available at www.illinoispoets.org.

FOUR CATEGORIES

1. Free Verse
2. Formal Poetry (classical or modern)
3. Haiku
4. Theme of "journey" (any form)

PRIZES IN EACH CATEGORY

First, \$50; Second, \$30; Third, \$15
Three Honorable Mentions

RULES

1. Contest is open to anyone.
2. All poems must be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in print or electronically. Poems that have won monetary awards are ineligible.
3. All poems except haiku must be titled.
4. Poems must be in English, no longer than 40 lines, typed in 12- or 14-point type. No fancy fonts or illustrations.
5. One poem per 8.5 x11" page.
6. Simultaneous submissions are accepted.
7. Submit two copies of each poem: First copy with ID (name, address, e-mail, phone number) and category in upper left hand corner. Second copy without ID but with category.

ENTRY FEES

ISPS members: \$5 for up to five poems, \$1 each additional poem.
Non-ISPS members, \$8 up to five poems, \$1 each additional poem.

SUBMISSIONS

Make checks payable to:
Illinois State Poetry Society.

Mail submissions with your check to:
ISPS Contest % Judith Tullis
6455 Big Bear Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525

DEADLINE

Entries must be postmarked on or before October 15, 2014. ✍

FROM THE PRESIDENT (cont. from page 1)

Go to www.yourdailypoem.com and read some of the archived poetry to see if your work fits. This site is read by people in many parts of the world and can be a fun way to get published if chosen.

Another source is to submit previously published work to littleeagleverse.blogspot.com/ and if accepted, it will be shown with accompanying art of your own or publisher's choice. One more suggestion is *A Year of Being Here* at www.phylliscoledal.com for a more meditative genre. These are just a few examples of electronic sources for sending out your poetry.

Happy writing, Susan T. Moss, stm48@hotmail.com ✍

HIGHLAND PARK

HPP Challenge Deadline

Submission deadline for the Highland Park Poetry 2014 Challenge is set for Monday, March 3. Themes for the contest are colors, legends and fairy tales, or cinquain. Submission guidelines and entry forms are available at www.highlandparkpoetry.org. ✍

OAK BROOK

Juried Poetry Reading Set

ISPS will sponsor a juried poetry reading at the Oak Brook Public Library on April 13. ISPS poets whose work was selected from February deadline submissions will read at the 2:00 p.m. event. The library is located at 600 Oak Brook Road, Oak Brook. ✍

INDIANA FEDERATION

ISFPC Offers 31 Contests

An Illinois neighbor, the Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs, announces its 2014 slate of 31 contests with cash prizes ranging up to \$250. Submissions will be accepted July 1 through September 1. For full information, check the ISFPC website at www.isfpc.org. ✍

ROLLING MEADOW

Poetic Moment Meet-up

Organizer Pam Larson announces a NW Suburban Poetic Moment Meet-up on Sunday, March 2, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Coffee Planet. All poets are invited to bring pencil and paper and join in writing fun and games. Coffee Planet is located at 1450 Golf Road, Rolling Meadow. ✍

CHICAGO

Free Workshop at Library

A free writing workshop at the Harold Washington Library in Chicago is set for 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 26, during Poetry Fest. The workshop, led by Wilda Morris and Caroline Johnson of ISPS and Poets and Patrons of Chicago, will focus on writing about the city of Chicago. ISPS members may also display their poetry books at the Poetry Fest. ✍

New Journal Seeks Poetry

A new daily literary publication, *Aquarium by the Ocean: A Literary Journal*, debuts in March with high-quality poetry and flash fiction. For submission information, check www.aquariumbytheocean.com. ✍

ISPS Online Submissions: Even Months, First Two Weeks

The next bimonthly submission period for member poetry on the ISPS website is April 1 through April 14. 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. ✍



Spotlight on ISPS Poet David Gross

ISPS welcomes new member David Gross, who lives on a small rural acreage near the foothills of the Shawnee National Forest near Pinckneyville, Illinois. David worked for 35 years as a union carpenter and construction foreman. Since retiring in 2012, he concentrates on writing, grandchildren, and disappearing into the landscape. He plays clawhammer banjo for therapy.

When did you first start writing poetry?

In seventh grade I was asked to read a poem in the school Christmas program. My teacher said I could write it myself. I came up with a lurid anti-Vietnam War spiel that besides being awful poetry was not well received by most of the parents and faculty. I knew then that it was for me. I witnessed how powerful words could be.

Who are your favorite poets?

I have many favorites: The Chinese and Japanese masters, the Objectivists, Whitman, Williams, Bunting, Niedecker, the Beats, Wright, Bly, Olav Haug, my friend George Albon and one of many overlooked Midwestern poets, John Knoepfle, whom George and I met as a poet-in-the-schools when we were high school students. John has had a huge influence on my work. The Northwestern poet and brother carpenter Clemens Starck, not only for his excellent poetry but for being an example that a construction worker without an MFA, etc., can be a published poet. Jack Gilbert, Hayden Carruth, Jeff Daniel Marion, Jean Burden, John Judson, Tom Hennen, Jane Hirschfield, Ron Rash, Richard Taylor, Abbot Cutler, Barry Sternleib, Jane Kenyon...I could go on forever; I love reading poetry.

Where have you published your poetry?

My first poem was published in the Baltimore journal *Salt Lick* in 1971. Since then I've published in numerous small press and literary journals including *Northeast*, *Snowy Egret*, *Big Muddy*, *Piedmont Literary Review*, *Longhouse*, *Verse Wisconsin*, *The Cape Rock* and *Modern Haiku*.

The Vermont poet/printer Greg Joly printed my first letterpress collection of short poems, *Cup of Moon*, in 2000, and poet John Martone's tel-let produced two slim volumes, *What We Never Had* (2004) and *Because It Is* (2005). *Pilgrimage* was published by Finishing Line Press in 2009.

My work has been featured by Phyllis Walsh in an issue of *Hummingbird* in 2000, printed as broadsides by Bull Thistle Press and Longhouse Publishers, and included in five anthologies.

What is your advice to aspiring poets?

Read poetry, new and old. Be concise, submit professionally and never be discouraged by rejections. Don't hurry poems. Let them mellow like compost for awhile, then dig them out and begin the real work, revision. Craft is more important than publication.

Do you write every day?

I'm extremely undisciplined, but I try to write, read, or revise a little each day. I believe poetry comes from an unknown place, that we are only receptors. ✍

POETRY by DAVID GROSS

Gleaners

We wake to the clamor of their labor
 their speech nasal and insistent.
 They have filled the undressed trees
 clothed as moonless night
 and now in gray dawn
 they ravage the fields
 cut close by combines.
 Like little Charlie Chaplins
 they scour the earth
 for what is left behind,
 overturn leaves for fallen treasure.
 Work their way over stubbled hills,
 burst into erratic flight
 spreading in shapeless scarves
 across the morning sky,
 fill bare branches with black leaves,
 appeal to us by their actions
 to be frugal
 not squander this land;
 then they move on.

(Previously published in Northeast and the chapbook Pilgrimage)

Pilgrimage

Some of us never came out of the woods
 but drifted deeper into hungry brambles
 found doorways into the soil
 stayed to cultivate our spirits.

We blended into the landscape
 built small fires in the dead of winter
 stared into the windows of stars
 carried the old stories within us.

Of when oak supported the heavens
 and animals were not afraid of men
 when cold springs ran with light
 and our hands shaped clay to carry it in.

Now we ripen with the grain
 have children who are looking for the way out
 while we wander deeper into thickets
 looking for the path in.

(Previously published in Rolling Coulter and the chapbook Pilgrimage)

Haiku

snowed in
 old hen
 too tough to eat

(Previously published in Hummingbird and The Loose Thread: The Red Moon Anthology)

ISPS Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., Saturday, April 12
Pontiac Public Library, 815-844-7229
211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 9
Northbrook Public Library
(second floor, interactive classroom)
847-272-6224

1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL

Bring your beverage, 8-10 copies of poems for critique and a clipboard or notebook to write on. No food allowed in this room.

SOUTHERN CHAPTER, CARBONDALE

2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Sunday, March 9
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, April 6
Lisle Public Library, 630-971-1675
777 Front St., Lisle IL

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

WEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER, HINSDALE

1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, March 1
Hinsdale Public Library, 630-986-1976
20 East Maple Street, Hinsdale, IL

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

ISPS New Members and Members' News

NEIL CONLISK, a new Southwest Suburban Chapter member, grew up in LaGrange and earned a B.A. in Political Science from Marquette University. He took a creative writing course in college and has written poems ever since. Conlisk also writes, composes and performs folk songs. Some of his heroes are Bob Dylan, G.K. Chesterton and David Lynch.

JENNIFER DOTSON, a *Journal of Modern Poetry* 2013 Book Award Winner, will be a featured poet with Donna Pecore at the 3rd Saturday Coffeehouse, 8:00 p.m., March 15, at Unity Temple, 875 Lake Street, Oak Park.

RON FRIEDMAN (aka Judah Soledad) of Gurnee is a new member of North Suburban Chapter.

FOG GILBERT of Carbondale will have two poems in the premiere issue of *Rib Cage Chicago Literary Magazine*, and a feature interview on Gilbert appears in *Fluid Writer*; <http://www.fluidwriter.com/poet-picks.html>.

DAVID GROSS of Pinckneyville is a new Southern Chapter member. Read about him in this issue's Spotlight Poet feature, page 3.

TIMMOTHY J. HOLT of Chicago is a new at-large member.

CAROLINE JOHNSON's poem, "Sunsets,"

was nominated for a Pushcart Prize from the journal, *The Quotable*. Johnson lives in Willow Springs.

DIANN MARTIN of Wilmette is a new member of the North Suburban Chapter.

DANIEL T. MILLER of Elmhurst is a new ISPS at-large member.

HUGH MULDOON of Carbondale, a new Southern Chapter member, says he is a student at the School of Life. His work in environmental justice, community development, campus ministries, and peace and civil rights organizations should provide ample resources for his new adventures in poetry.

PATTY DICKSON PIECZKA, Carbondale, will be honored with a book-signing event and reading sponsored by the Southern Illinois University Creative Writing Program. The event will be held at the SIU-C Harry T. Moore Auditorium, 5:00 p.m., Thursday, April 3. She will read from her new book, *Painting the Egret's Shadow*.

DR. RICHARD SHAW of Lisle is a new member of Southwest Suburban Chapter.

Send your news notes or new member bio for the next issue to kacotton7@frontier.com.

ISPS and Brewed Awakening Sponsor Featured Poets and Open Mic Events

RALPH HAMILTON and **VIRGINIA BELL** will be featured poets at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy (across from the train station), Westmont, on Sunday, March 30, 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 the Illinois State Poetry Society and Brewed Awakening.

Hamilton, editor of *Rhino Poetry*, has an MFA in Poetry from Bennington. His poems have appeared in *Court Green*, *CutBank*, *Blackbird*, and

other journals. His first book, *Subtle Knot* will be published in 2015. He has served on the board of the Ragdale Foundation and was the 2013 judge for Fifth Wednesday's prize in poetry.

Bell is the author of *From the Belly* (Sibling Rivalry Press 2012). Her poems are forthcoming in *Gargoyle* and in the anthology *The Burden of Light: Poems on Illness and Loss* (Foreword Literary 2014). Her work has also appeared in *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Calyx*, *Pebble Lake Review*, *Wicked Alice*, *Ekphrasis*,

Cloudbank and other journals and anthologies. She is a senior editor with *Rhino Poetry* and an adjunct professor of English at Loyola University.

THE APRIL 27 BREWED AWAKENING will feature "Hat Trick Poetry." Upon arrival, each participant may put one theme or the name of one poetry form on a card and put it into a hat. When a card is drawn, anyone who has a poem related to that theme or in the named form gets an opportunity to read it. Bring with you a variety of your own poems so you can participate.

ISPS BOARD MEETING

At their January 25 meeting, the ISPS board of directors:

- Made proposals for email poetry critique groups.
- Drafted changes to the bylaws.
- Named a 2014 anthology task force.
- Verified Poetry Month displays.
- Named Judith Tullis to chair the 2014 ISPS contest, with Wilda Morris as vice-chair, and Gail Goepfert as Manningham Contest chair.
- The next meeting is tentatively April 5.

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

North Suburban Chapter, Northbrook
Facilitator Susan Moss
stm48@hotmail.com

Southern Chapter, Carbondale
Facilitator Kathy Cotton
kacotton7@frontier.com

Southwest Suburban Chapter, Lisle
Facilitator Barbara Eaton
eatonb1016@aol.com

West Suburban Chapter, Hinsdale
Facilitator Caroline Johnson
twinkscat@aol.com

Past President Mardelle Fortier
fortier@cod.edu

At-Large Member, Sheila Kirscher
jkirscher@comcast.net

High Five! Recommended Reading

This issue's High Five! offers you National Poetry Month connections. We also 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.

POEM IN YOUR POCKET DAY, THURSDAY, APRIL 24. On Poem in Your Pocket Day, people throughout the United States select a poem, carry it with them, and share it with others throughout the day. Check www.poets.org for information.

POEM A DAY. Sign up for an email poem a day in April from Knopf's *Borzoi Reader* newsletter, <http://knopfdoubleday.com/genre/poetry/>.

NY BOOK REVIEW. Bookmark <http://www.nybooks.com/national-poetry-month/> to read a poem each day selected from archives by the editors of *New York Review*. For more poetry, check in the online edition, which provides full access to five decades of writing in the *Review*.

FREE POETRY. Beginning March 3, you can check for free poetry to celebrate Poetry Month at <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/npm>. You can also sign up for a year-round email daily poem. ✍

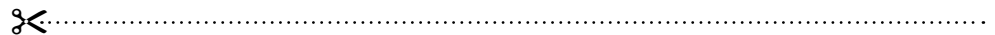
NFSPS Contest Deadline

Deadline for submissions to the annual 50 contests of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies is Saturday, March 15. Cash prizes range from \$15 to \$1,500. Submission fee for members is \$10 total, except for the Founders Award, \$5 per poem.

Winners will be announced at the 55th Annual Convention to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in June. Contest and submission information is available from NFSPS at www.nfsps.com. ✍

Morris to Lead Workshops

Wilda Morris will lead a poetry workshop at the Christian Writers' Conference at the Green Lake Conference Center in Wisconsin August 17-22. Information is available at <http://glcc.org/Adult%20Conferences.html>. Morris will also lead "Whispers on the Wind: Hearing the Poetry Within," at the Lindenwood Retreat Center near Plymouth, Indiana, October 27-31. Contact wildamorris@ameritech.net or 499 Falcon Ridge Way, Bolingbrook, IL for more information on either workshop. ✍



ISPS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Send the form with a check for annual (July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014) dues of \$20.00 to **Judith Tullis, 6455 Big Bear Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525**
New members please send also a short bio.

Voting Chapter (select one):

- At-Large Chapter Central, Pontiac North Suburban, Northbrook
 Southern, Carbondale Southwest Suburban, Lisle West Suburban, Hinsdale

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone (home and/or cell) _____