



2014, ISSUE 3
EDITOR, KATHY COTTON

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ISSUE 4 NEWS DEADLINE

There will be an early deadline for issue 4 of Illinois Poets Newsletter. Please submit news and photos no later than Tuesday, June 17.

WANTED: PHOTOS, NEWS

Your editor is 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. ✍

May 31 Deadline for YOUR Anthology Submissions

Selection of ISPS-member poetry for our second anthology is underway. Our goal is to create a diverse and beautiful volume of poetry from submissions of *all* our current members.

BARGAIN PRICE. Included in your \$6.00 submission fee is one copy of *Distilled Lives*, volume two. Plan to purchase some extras: additional pre-ordered copies of the 2014 anthology are also available for the low price of \$6.00 (less than half the cost of our last book). You may additionally save shipping costs by picking up your order at your chapter meeting. After the initial ISPS orders, the anthology will be available on Amazon.com; pricing will be increased.

SUBMISSIONS. The submission/order form with all necessary information is included with this newsletter and is available on our website, www.illinoispoets.org. Read the guidelines, then send four of your best poems, each 40 lines or less, in the body of an email or as Word attachments to Cotton. If you cannot submit by email, mail your submissions to Jim Lambert, 1617 Sherry Lynn Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901. ✍

A Message from the President



Recently, one of our members, Amy Jo Zook, sent me some reprints of ISPS history as noted in NFSPS contests and *Strophes*. The years include 1976, 1978, 1983 and 1984. Our current archival collection will be enriched with this information that precedes the data from the 1991 ISPS charter with NFSPS. Our state society takes on a richer meaning when we can trace the people and ideas constantly building a better poetry community. In keeping with this concept, the board voted to present Glenna Holloway with a lifetime membership in appreciation for her help during 1991 to charter ISPS in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

As has been noted in a former message, our personal history is a complex and important component of who we are and thereby, what we write. Gabriel Garcia Marquez said, "What matters in life is not what happens to you but what you remember and how you remember it." In regard to how we remember those who have touched our lives, T.S. Eliot stated, "What we know of other people is only our memory of the moments during which we knew them. And they have changed since then." One might add, so have we.

In an effort to keep a record of their unique past, perception of other people and public events, some of our ISPS members are combining poetry and memoirs. These prose pieces tell stories from the writers' lives, and related poems create a tighter reference to the moments in form or free verse.

Perhaps you could try another version of this and write in tanka prose: a combination of prose and tanka verse. The latter is a lyrical poem, generally with a line format of 5-7-5-7-7 syllables.

Writing a haibun of one or more paragraphs in a concisely constructed, imagistic style with the inclusion of one or more haiku is yet another way to capture moments of autobiographical memory. This format and the tanka prose have become very popular and offer other writing challenges that can have surprising and insightful results.

It all comes down to what has been called "personal history" or "reminiscence." What informs our writing cannot be easily separated from what constitutes our particular pasts, and it is how we compose the memories or present observations that makes for interesting challenges and individual styles.

Happy writing, Susan T. Moss

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 x 11" 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**.

New Email Critique Groups to Begin in May

Wilda Morris, coordinator of the ISPS email critique groups, will begin this month assigning participating poets into groups of five in such a way as to maximize geographic diversity. Each group member will be entitled to submit one poem for critique monthly and will, in turn, critique poems submitted by the other members that month.

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 group, contact the coordinator at wildamorris@ameritech.net. Put "ISPS Email Critique Group" in the subject line of the email. Be sure to include your name with your request. ✍

Mark your Poetry Calendar

- **MAY 3–4**, Sidewalk Poetry, chalked poems on downtown sidewalks, Pontiac, sponsored by Central Chapter, pontiacpoetry@aol.com
- **MAY 3**, 1:00 p.m., Senryu program sponsored by The Haiku Society of America at Winnetka Public Library. Pre-register: (847) 881-2664
- **MAY 3**, 2:00–4:00 p.m., workshop with Antler, www.antlerworkshop.brownpapertickets.com; reading at 8:00 p.m., Unity Temple, Oak Park
- **MAY 14**, 7:00 p.m., DuPage Writers Group poetry reading, Carol Stream Library
- **MAY 16**, 8:00 p.m., Joseph Kuhn Carey reading/open mic, Art Center, Highland Park
- **MAY 18**, Southern Chapter and North Suburban Chapter critique meetings rescheduled from regular date, May 11, due to Mother's Day
- **MAY 25**, 12:30 p.m., Brewed Awakening poetry readings and open mic, Westmont, wildamorris@ameritech.net
- **MAY 31**, submission deadline for ISPS member anthology, *Distilled Voices*, volume 2, kacotton7@frontier.com
- **JUNE 1–14**, ISPS member poetry submissions for website, www.illinoispoets.org
- **JUNE 21**, 3rdSaturday Coffeehouse / Summer Solstice / Grand Finale, closing (105th) coffee house session, open mic at 8:00 p.m., Unity Temple, Oak Park
- **JUNE 30**, renewal deadline for ISPS 2014–15 membership
- **JUNE 26–29**, NFSPS national convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, www.nfspd.com/Strophes
- **JUNE 29**, 12:30 p.m., Brewed Awakening poetry readings and open mic, Westmont, wildamorris@ameritech.net
- **JULY 1**, deadline Great River Shakespeare Festival/Maria W. Faust Sonnet Contest, GRSF.org/SONNET
- **SEPTEMBER 1**, deadline for Poets and Patrons 58th Annual Chicagoland Poetry Contest, www.poetsandpatrons.net/contest13
- **OCTOBER 15**, deadline for 2014 ISPS Poetry Contest, www.illinoispoets.org
- **OCTOBER 27–31**, Whispers on the Wind workshop by Wilda Morris at Lindewood Retreat Center, wildamorris@ameritech.net ✍



Spotlight on ISPS Poet Thomas Moran

[EDITOR'S NOTE] Thomas Moran of Westmont, Illinois, introduced me to the Favorite Poem Project, a national initiative that began in 1997 (www.favoritepoem.org). For this year's National Poetry Month in April, the Poetry Foundation chose from hundreds of entries, a half dozen Chicagoans to feature in Favorite Poem Project: Chicago documentaries. Moran was one of the six, as was Mayor Rahm Emanuel who read Sandburg's "Chicago." Moran performed his favorite Theodore Roethke poem at O'Neill Middle School in Downers Grove, where he is head custodian. Author of the chapbook *New Buds: Poems and Haikus*, he has been writing poetry seriously for a dozen years.

Tell us about the Favorite Poem Project.

It was the brain child of Robert Pinsky when he was U.S. Poet Laureate [1997–2000]. I submitted my favorite poem, "The Waking" by Theodore Roethke, and was selected to be videotaped at work and to recite the poem. It was an absolutely thrilling experience. They will feature the video along with another finalists' videos at the Poetry Foundation (<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/favoritepoemchicago>). It shows the power of poetry and how poetry can come from anywhere.

What inspires you to write?

Nature, events, or spiritual ideas inspire me. As long as a poem idea has a point and makes logical, poetic sense, I write.

What poets have most influenced you?

My favorite poets are Roethke, Stevens, Langston Hughes, Mary Oliver, Basso, and Octavio Paz. Early on, I started reading poets like Longfellow and Whitman, but poets like Gwendolyn Brooks, Dylan Thomas and E.E. Cummings made poetry fun, meaningful, and real with relatable subject matter.

What advice can you offer other poets to improve their writing?

Listen! Listen to other poets reading. Record your poems on a digital recorder or have someone read your poem back to you and listen to the words. Also, read poetry and consider why a poem inspires you. Keep writing and revising; join a group like ISPS and go to workshops. Always be ready to rewrite. Poetry is like sculpting: you know there's a good poem in there somewhere but you keep chipping away to bring it to life. Also, you have to learn when to put the chisel down.

What advice do you have for getting poetry published?

Keep sending poems out. Read magazines or websites to see what kind of poems they publish. The internet has opened up a lot of different ways to get your work out, so explore those possibilities. Just make sure your poems are as sharp as they can be.

Do you belong to any writers' groups?

I am a member of the ISPS West Suburban Chapter in Hinsdale. And I love attending the University of Iowa Summer Writing Festival in Iowa City; it's boot camp for writers and poets.

How do you deal with writer's block?

I listen to music when I get a block. Or weep. There are also writing exercises I do to stoke the fire.

Do you have a regular writing schedule?

I try to write every day, but I'm always working on something. I have a terrible habit of not writing good lines down. ✍

POETRY by THOMAS MORAN

A Father's Son

Snowfall had hidden
my father's gravestone.
I scraped the ground
with my boot
to find his name
but the snow,
like the years apart,
had covered him.
I never found his marker.
I'm looking for it still.

Can You Feel the Stars?

God hammered out the universe
like a mystical blacksmith.
Sparks flew,
and stars were formed.

Drive to the ocean,
feel the stars.
Float your spirit outward,
toward the horizon,
where the moon pulls
on the tide inside,
waves touch upon the beach within.
Look up, see the sky;
let the stars soak you.

Such a wonderment,
such a wonderment.

How Long Has It Been

I fall into your sweet eyes.
I crawl in,
never want to wake.
Curled up like a beat dog,
I sleep in your sighs.
Never to know
what it is that eases
the Pain.
I journey long into
your night,
awaken,
breathing the light of a New Day.
You are the precious life of morning.
I love you.

ISPS Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., Saturday, June 14
Pontiac Public Library
815-844-7229
211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, May 18
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. No snacks for the May meeting.

SOUTHERN CHAPTER, CARBONDALE

2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Sunday, May 18
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, June 1
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, May 3
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.

New Members / Members' News

SANDI GORDON CAPLAN is a stage actor, play-write and artist who loves doing portraits. She moved to Highland Park at age nine and says she feels fortunate to live in a creative community. Poetry has become an important part of Caplan's life. She enjoys Highland Park Poetry, and her poem "Reflect" was featured in a store window last summer. She is also in a group with Len Berman at the Deerfield Library.

LORILYN DELK of Wheaton is a new member of the Lisle Chapter.

MICHAEL ESCOUBAS of Bloomington is recently retired from a 48-year career in the printing industry. The love of words and constructing something beautiful with them fuels his interest in poetry. He chooses Wallace Stevens as his favorite modernist poet but enjoys all well-crafted poetry. He says he is blessed by the support of Trudy, his wife of 45 years, who herself "is a poem through the life she has loved."

LYNN FITZGERALD of Chicago is a new at-large member

GEORGIANN FOLEY's poem "To the Golden One" is a winner in the Highland Park Poetry that Moves contest. Her poem will be on the Highland Park bus system in August.

LAEL LANING of Elmhurst is a new member of Hinsdale Chapter.

TERI LAVELLE is a fifth generation San Franciscan who has a B.A. in Philosophy from University of California, San Diego. Her poems have been published in *The Prairie Light Review*. Lavelle is a programming chair for Off Campus Writers Workshop in Winnetka. From 2009 through 2012 she was the blogger for *Today's Run*. She is currently completing her first novel and lives in Downers Grove with her husband and two sons.

SHONTAY LUNA of Chicago is a new member of the Southwest Suburban Chapter.

SUE PARK of Pontiac is a new member of the Central Chapter. Park says she has had many short stories and poems published through the years and is happy to be a part of the Midwest literary community.

JAMES REISS of Wilmette is a new member of North 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

Two highly regarded Illinois poets, Kathleen Rooney and Lynn Fitzgerald, will be featured at The Brewed Awakening, 19 W. Quincy Street, Westmont, on Sunday, May 25. The readings begin at 12:30 p.m. and run (with open mic) until 2 p.m. A cover charge of \$7 includes beverage and snack. Bill Johnson will provide music from noon until 12:30. Featured poets for Brewed Awakening on June 29 will be announced.

Kathleen Rooney is a founding editor of Rose Metal Press and of the



typewriter poetry collective, Poems While You Wait. She is the author of six books of poetry and nonfiction, most recently, *Robinson Alone*, and is the winner of the 2013 Eric Hoffer Award in Poetry. Her essays and criticism have appeared in *Allure*, *The Believer*, *The Nation*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*. She lives in Chicago.

Lynn Fitzgerald is a professor of English for the City Colleges. Her poems have been published in *After*



Hours Press, *Word Salad*, *Kalliope*, *The English Journal*, *the Chicago Area Writing Project*, *Urban Nation*, *Outrider Press*, *Northwest Community Council of the Arts Anthology*, and *Amused*. Fitzgerald published a chapbook in 2011 entitled, *Closer to the Earth*. For the past two years, she has taught literature and poetry in Kuwait and Lebanon and is currently at work on a book of poems and photographs.

ISPS Celebrates National Poetry Month with Displays

Oak Brook Juried Reading



Westmont Library



Glenview Library



West Branch Aurora Public Library



Hinsdale Public Library



Carbondale Public Library

During National Poetry Month, ISPS sponsored animal-themed poetry displays at libraries in Wilmette, Winnetka, Westmont, Highland Park, Glenview, Hinsdale, Aurora, and Pontiac. Upcoming displays will be featured at Lisle in May and Indian Prairie in August.

The Carbondale display, which ran concurrently with a gallery exhibit of digital collage with poetry by Kathy Cotton, featured chapter member's books, plus poetry on contemporary art backgrounds by ISPS member Carol Dooley.



Jenene Ravesloot, Bill Marr, Marilyn Giese, and Gary Ketchum are among 17 readers at the ISPS juried poetry event April 13 at Oak Brook Public Library.

BOARD HONORS HOLLOWAY



Glenna Holloway of Naperville receives lifetime ISPS membership for her work in 1991 to help charter ISPS in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

ISPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Susan Moss
stm48@hotmail.com

Vice President, Jim Lambert
jim@jimlambert.net

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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

ISPS Online Submissions: Even Months, First Two Weeks

The next bimonthly submission period for member poetry on the ISPS website is Sunday, June 1, through June 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 is viewable by poet, poem title, or submission period at www.illinoispoets.org. ✍

2014–2015 ISPS Membership Renewal Due by June 30

The current ISPS membership year ends June 30. Renew now for all the benefits of the 2014–2015 ISPS year. For the small investment of \$20 (optional \$30.00 for Patron status or \$50.00, Benefactor status), you support poetry in Illinois and receive all these perks:

- ☆ Triple membership: the Illinois State Poetry Society AND the National Federation of State Poetry Societies AND any of the chapters.
- ☆ ISPS bimonthly newsletter plus email notices of 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.
- ☆ Poetry critiques at chapter meetings across the state, plus online critique groups.
- ☆ Bimonthly publication of a poem submitted to the ISPS website.

If you have not submitted a brief bio for the newsletter and website, you are invited to send one with your membership form. ✍



ISPS Membership Form PLEASE PRINT

Complete the information below and send the form with a check for July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015 annual dues of \$20.00 (optional \$30 for Benefactor or \$50 for Patron) to the address below. New members please send also a short bio for our newsletter and website.

MEMBERSHIP:

Renewal New Member \$20 Regular \$30 Benefactor \$50 Patron

VOTING CHAPTER (select one):

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home or cell) _____

Email _____

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



Anthology Submissions & Orders

2014 ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY MEMBER ANTHOLOGY

Distilled Voices Volume 2

All poets with current ISPS membership are invited to submit poetry for *Distilled Voices, Volume 2*, our second anthology. Members whose submissions meet all guidelines will have one or two poems published in the collection.

1. Submission period is **APRIL 1 TO MAY 31, 2014**.
2. Submit four of your best original poems by email or, if you don't have email, by mail.
3. For poems which have been previously published, include name of publication.
4. Poetry should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman or other standard font and not exceed 40 lines, including title, stanza breaks, epigraph, etc.
5. Submissions will be proof-edited for spelling, consistent punctuation, etc. If it is determined that a poem needs larger editing, the poet will be contacted.
6. Submissions must be within the confines of good taste and exclude questionable language.
7. The poet guarantees that the work is not in violation of anyone's privacy, is not injurious, obscene, libelous, slanderous or otherwise a violation of infringement of any law, statute, or code, and agrees to hold ISPS harmless for any damages resulting from any litigation resulting from publication of his or her poetry.

Email Submissions (Preferred)

Email four poems with "ISPS Anthology" in the subject line. For submissions in the body of the email, include name, address, phone number and email address before the first poem. If submitting as Word attachment(s), include the information at the left top of each page. Email submissions to editor Kathy Cotton:

kacotton7@frontier.com

If You Cannot Send by Email. . .

Submit four poems, each typed on a separate page. Include name, address, and phone number on the left top of each page. You may include submission form and check. Send to:

**ISPS c/o Jim Lambert, 11617 Sherry Lynn Drive
Carbondale, IL 62901**

Submission Fee & Book Orders

Your \$6.00 submission fee includes one copy of the anthology. Additional books may also be pre-ordered for only \$6.00 each. After publication, anthologies will be available on Amazon.com, but pricing will be higher.

Pre-ordered books will be available for pickup at local chapter meetings. Add shipping/handling costs for books mailed directly to your address. (See form below.) No later than May 31, mail the order form and a check payable to ISPS with "Anthology" noted in the memo line to:

**ISPS c/o Judith Tullis, 6455 Big Bear Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525**



ISPS *Distilled Voices, Volume 2*: Submission Fee and Book Orders PLEASE PRINT

Name

Submission fee; one book picked up at Chapter \$6.00 \$_____

Shipping Address

Additional books picked up at Chapter ___Books x \$6.00 \$_____

Submission fee; one book shipped to my address \$9.00 \$_____

City, State, Zip

Additional books shipped to my address ___Books x \$9.00 \$_____

TOTAL Enclosed \$_____