

2014, ISSUE 5
EDITOR, KATHY COTTON

Also archived
on our website
www.illinoispoets.org/
news-links.htm

IN THIS ISSUE

Review Anthology Online	1
President's Message	1
Chapter Meetings	2
Poetry Calendar	2
Brewed Awakening	2
Featured Poet Jim Reiss	3
New Members/Members' News	4
Joan Colby, 14th Book	4
Library Display, ISPS Poems	4
Join Email Critique Group	4
Best-selling Poetry	4
NFSPS Contest Winners	5
Board of Directors Contacts	5
ISPS Petry Contest	5
A Judge's Advice	5
Board of Directors Contacts	6
Online Poem Submissions	6
Did You Renew?	6
Membership Application	6

WANTED: PHOTOS, NEWS

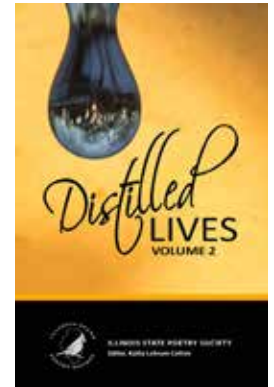
Your editor is looking for fresh ideas for feature stories, interviews and writing prompts, as well as news and photos of chapter meetings and poetry events.

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

Write an Online Review of our Anthology

Our anthology, *Distilled Lives*, Volume 2, is now available online at www.amazon.com (on sale at 10% off). Amazon gives us a public space to support and advertise the Illinois State Poetry Society as well as our poetry by:

1. Writing a review about the poetry collection. Go to amazon.com/books, type in "Distilled Lives ISPS," and enter your comments under "Customer Reviews."
2. Encouraging friends and family to take a look at the site. They will be able to thumb through pages and see your poetry. Anthologies are available for \$10.80 plus shipping. ✍



A Message from the President

The big news is the publication of our second volume of *Distilled Lives*, containing eighty-one of our members' poetry. It also has wonderful blurbs by Kevin Stein, Illinois Poet Laureate; Estella Lauter, Door County Poet Laureate; Jeremy Downes, most recent past-president of NFSPS; and Ralph Hamilton, *Rhino* poetry editor. If you didn't submit this year, consider the next opportunity and in the meantime, get an anthology to enjoy reading an exciting variety of poems.

Now that the annual NFSPS convention is over, our members who attended—Judith Tullis, Kathy Cotton, Jim Lambert, Gary Ketchum, Amy Jo Zook and I—have several good poetry-related ideas and also ways that might enrich what ISPS could offer its members. Next year's gathering sounds very promising and will be held in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Some highlights of this year's presentations might be useful or at least interesting. For example, Rob Carney mentioned that our poems could help deconstruct myths, but we should consider creating our own primal myths and origin stories. Poems can also make someone or something special. They offer ways to turn a complex idea into the familiar and find a name for the shadows of our lives. Each effort should incorporate action verbs and avoid "flourish."

Diane Glancy suggested that we need to "order the disorder" of our ideas and express the heartbeat of a poem. The outcome is a mediation between "a hostile world and us" as Picasso also tried to achieve in his art.

A lecture by Joel Long emphasized reaching beyond self to write something new and then discover what we didn't know before the poem took us there. We gather the things we need and refer to them through images, ideas, theme and story details. Follow the sound of the poem to attain the music it holds.

Good poems, according to Lance Larson, need a "volta" (turn). This is a sudden leap to a different terrain – the heart that reconfigures the poem. Shakespeare's sonnets offer examples with pithy moments as do haiku in the second or possibly third line. The juxtaposition of two opposites often work to set up a turn, and there can be more than one in longer poems.

Perhaps, as the proverbial saying states, "there is nothing new under the sun"; however, there is much to learn, construct and enjoy in the forging of poetry. Happy writing, Susan T. Moss

ISPS Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 11
Pontiac Public Library, 815-844-7229
211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 14
Northbrook Public Library (second floor, inter-active classroom), 847-272-6224
1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL
Bring 8-10 copies of poems for critique. No food/beverages allowed in this room.

SOUTHERN CHAPTER, CARBONDALE

2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 14
Carbondale Public Library
630-986-1976
405 West Main, Carbondale, IL
Bring 10 copies of poems for critique and a snack to share.

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER, LISLE

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 5
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, Sept. 6
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. ✍

Mark your Poetry Calendar for Autumn 2014

- **SEPTEMBER 19**, 8:00 p.m., Joanna Kurowska poetry reading and open mic, The Art Center, 1957 Sheridan Road, Highland Park.
- **SEPTEMBER 20**, 2:00 p.m., North Austin Library, open mic poetry slam featuring local poets.
- **SEPTEMBER 21**, 2:00–5:00 p.m., Hinsdale Public Library, Caroline Johnson will lead a poetry workshop on speculative poetry.
- **SEPTEMBER 27**, 8:00 p.m., Charlotte Digregorio poetry reading and open mic, Madame ZuZu's, 582 Roger Williams, Highland Park.
- **SEPTEMBER 28**, 12:30–2:00 p.m., Brewed Awakening, Westmont, featuring Maurine Tolman Flannery, followed by open mic.
- **OCTOBER 1**, deadline for Highland Park's Poetry That Moves contest submissions. Maximum length 16 lines.
- **OCTOBER 1–14**, ISPS member poetry online submission period.
- **OCTOBER 2**, 6:00 p.m., Harold Washington Library Center, Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, Poetry Off the Shelf: Ko Un, featuring reading by the Korean poet, activist, former Buddhist monk and political prisoner.
- **OCTOBER 4**, 1:00–4:00 p.m., Naperville Library, Naperville Writers Group celebrates annual launch of *Rivulet 2*, its annual anthology.
- **OCTOBER 10**, 8:00 p.m., Beatriz Badikian-Gartler poetry reading and open mic, The Art Center, 1957 Sheridan Road, Highland Park.
- **OCTOBER 15**, deadline for submissions in the Illinois State Poetry Society annual poetry contest.
- **OCTOBER 25**, 8:00 p.m., Lois Barr poetry reading and open mic, Madame ZuZu's, 582 Roger Williams, Highland Park.
- **OCTOBER 25**, 1:00 p.m., Hinsdale Public Library, Poets and Patrons awards ceremony, featuring a reading of winners from the 2014 Chicagoland Poets and Patrons contest and also a workshop on Haiku facilitated by Charlotte Digregorio.
- **OCTOBER 26**, 12:30–2:00 p.m., Brewed Awakening, Westmont, featuring readings from *Distilled Lives* anthology contributors.
- **NOVEMBER 15**, 11:00 a.m., ISPS board of directors meeting, host Susan Moss.

ISPS and Brewed Awakening Sponsor Featured Poets and *Distilled Lives* Readings

Readings at 12:30 p.m. are set for last Sundays, Sept. 28 and Oct. 26, at Brewed Awakening, 19 W. Quincy Street, Westmont. A cover charge of \$7 includes beverage and snack.

SEPTEMBER 28.

Maureen Tolman Flannery is the author of seven books of poetry, including *Tunnel into Morning*, *Destiny Whispers to the Beloved*, *A Fine Line*, *Ancestors in the Landscape*. A Chicago poet raised on a Wyoming



sheep ranch, she maintains strong artistic ties to the American West and Latin America. More than 500 of her poems have been published in anthologies, journals, literary reviews, and online publication.

CAROL KANTER is the author of two poetry books, *No Secret Where Elephants Walk*, and *Where the Sacred Dwells*, *Namaste*, which feature her husband's photography from Africa and from India, Nepal and Bhutan (www.DualArtsPress.com) and two chapbooks: *Out of Southern Africa* and *Chronicle of Dog*. Her poetry has

appeared in numerous literary journals and anthologies. Atlanta Review gave her International Merit Awards in 1998, 2003 and 2005 before publishing two of her poems. Kanter has a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology; her psychotherapy practice is in Evanston.

OCTOBER 26. Celebrate the publication of *Distilled Lives*, Volume 2. Contributors who attend will be able to read the poems published in the book. If time allows, contributors to the first volume of *Distilled Lives* will read poems from that collection, followed by open mic readings. ✍

Spotlight on ISPS Poet James Reiss



If you have not been introduced to James Reiss (rhymes with "peace") in Wilmette, Illinois, or read his five books of poetry or, perhaps, been one of his college students during the past four decades, I suggest you at least meet this accomplished and fun-filled poet on his website, www.jamesreiss.com. Think of this feature as an information appetizer in the six-course feast that is ISPS poet James Reiss.

His last book, the 2003 *Riff on Six: New and Selected Poems*, will be followed in January 2015 by his sixth full-length collection, *The Novel*. Reiss's poetry has also appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Poetry*, *Slate*, and *Virginia Quarterly Review* (and many more), plus anthologies, textbooks, and websites.

He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ohio Arts Council, and the New York Foundation for the Arts, as well as awards from the Academy of American Poets, the College English Association of Ohio, the Ohioana Library Association, the Poetry Society of America, the Unterberg Poetry Center of the 92nd Street Y in New York, and the Pushcart Press.

Reiss has also won four consecutive Zeitfunk Awards for his reviews of independent radio producers' pieces, and more than 300 of his reviews have appeared in such venues as *American Book Review*, *Gently Read Literature*, *Modern Philology*, *The Plain Dealer*, and *Poetry East*. As professor emeritus of English at Miami University, he is founding editor of Miami University Press. More? Check his website!

When did you first start writing poetry, Jim?

When I was maybe eight and got hooked playing rhyming games with my mother, an ardent versifier.

What inspires you to write now?

A song by Schubert, a subway, a son-in-law—et cetera!

Which poets are among your favorites?

Too numerous to list. Some contemporary faves: Hugh Seidman, Philip Schultz, Carol Muske-Dukes.

Do you have advice to aspiring poets?

Try to be one of the people on whom nothing is lost!

Your poetry is widely published. Do you have any advice about getting published?

Never cease from sending out your work, no matter how frustrated or furious you become.

Do you belong to other writing groups?

The Academy of American Poets, Association of Writers & Writing Programs, Poetry Daily, The Poetry Foundation, The Poetry Society of America, Poets & Writers.

What are you working on now?

New poems. I'm also trying to publish two novels.

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

Sure, I get writer's block. I should just relax and go outside. Instead, I grind stupidly away. ✍

POETRY by JAMES REISS

SUEÑOS

In my dreams I always speak Spanish.
The cemetery may be in Brooklyn,
and I may be kneeling on a rise
looking out at the skyline of the city,
but I will whisper, *Mira el sol*.

And it is true the late morning
sun will turn that bank of skyscrapers
the color of bleached bone in Sonora,
and all the window washers of Manhattan
will white-out like a TV screen

in Venezuela turning to snow.
But the gray face on the headstone photograph
has a nose like my father's,
and his voice had the lilt of the ghettos
of central Europe.

So I should kneel lower and say something
in Yiddish about fathers, grandfathers,
the hacked limbs of a family tree
that reaches as high as Manhattan.
I should say, *Grampa, I loved those times*

*we ran through the underpasses in Central
Park, you with your cane, I with my ice
cream cones, shouting for echoes,
bursting out into sunlight—*

if I only knew the language to say it in.

First published in *The New Yorker*

Hear Jim read "Sueños" and other poems at:
<http://poetrystorehouse.com>

See a video of "Sueños" at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Or1lhEnKOT4&feature=youtu.be

WOODRUFF COURT

Phooey on rue! The wind's brisk, the sky's blue.
The cul-de-sac smacks of Briggs & Stratton

rotary mowers & Smokey Joes on back patios.
I shall rejoice in the noises & smells

of my neighbors recreating while the ice
cream truck plays "Three Blind Mice"

so eerily that my pet cat behind the couch
sets up a yowl for an unsighted mouse.

Baloney on spumon! This all-American Good
Humor's no exotic gelato. My little dog laughs

to see such Sunday sports on down-home TV
as I have guffawed at & shall rejoice in

till the sky breaks faith & it rains cats & dogs
& my new-seeded lawn runs away with the water.

First published in *The New Republic*

New Members / Members' News

MICHAEL EDDIE ANDERSON is a new at-large member. He has been published in *Matter*, *Rhino: The Poetry Journal*, *Pen Woman* and in the *Poet and Artist Chapbook of the Northwest Cultural Council*. Anderson has worked as an editor at *Rhino* and now serves on their advisory board. He lives in Evanston, with his wife Kay.

MARY JO BALISTRERI of Waukesha, Wisc., is a new at-large member.

DAVID CHRISTENSEN of the Southern Chapter died July 28 in Carbondale at the age of 93. He had recently completed a new book.

DAN KENNY of DeKalb is a new member of Southwest Suburban Chapter.

CASSANDRA MCGOVERN of Gurnee is a new member of North Suburban Chapter. McGovern writes poetry and memoir, with support from writing groups in Illinois and Arizona, as well as workshops combining travel and study in Paris, Prague and San Miguel de Allende. Her memoirs have appeared in several literary journals, including the *Massachusetts Review*. Two anthologies, *Five Poets*, 2011 and *Fresh Pipes*, 2012, include thirteen of her poems.

SUE PARK, from Pontiac, wrote her first story when she was eight years old. She has won many prizes in poetry and fiction, including four awards from the Kansas Author's Club, and has been published in *Woman's Day*, *Star Magazine*, *The Kansas City Star*, *Shorelines*, *Grit*, *Potpourri* and numerous literary journals.

DAVID RUSH of Murphysboro is a new member of the Carbondale Chapter. His primary writing is plays and musicals for theater, and much of his poetry is lyrics for songs. Most of his dedicated poetry, however, stems from his experiences as a Civil War reenactor and part-time Civil War buff. He recently retired from his post as head

of playwriting at Southern Illinois University. Read samples of Rush's poetry at www.davidrushwriter.com.

NANCY ANN SCHAEFER (Ph.D., University of Aberdeen, UK) lived in Europe for nearly twenty years before returning to her Midwestern roots. A retired academic, she now lives in rural Maine with her husband, dog and three cats. Her poems have appeared in a number of anthologies and journals, including *Off Channel*, *Numinous*, *Avocet*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, *In other Words: Merida*, *Lake City Lights*, *Out Loud*, *Struggle and The Rockford Review*. A Pushcart Prize nominee, her first chapbook, *In Search of Lode*, was published by 918Studio.

MYRON STOKES of Oak Park, is a new member of the Southwest Suburban Chapter. Stokes served in the Air Force for eight years, stationed in New York, Spain and Ohio, and is now a readjustment counseling therapist for combat veterans who suffer from . He says that when he isn't writing, he is thinking of writing, and that his greatest poetry strength is the ability to illuminate moments and create poignant and evocative imagery.

Send your news notes to Kathy Cotton at kacotton7@frontier.com.



14th Book for Joan Colby

FutureCycle Press announces the publication of *The Wingback Chair* by Joan Colby. This volume of poems, Colby's fourteenth book, contains new poems that

illustrate significant moments in her life as well as the inexorable progression of her poetry. The subjects range from the personal elements of the title poem to historical, social, and cultural interweavings of the textile poems.



Indian Prairie Library in Darien featured animal-themed poems by eighteen ISPS members during the month of August.

Join an Email Critique Group

ISPS members are invited to join one of our five-poet email critique groups. Each assigned group member is entitled to submit one poem for critique monthly and, in turn, agrees to critique poems submitted by the other members. To join or request a full copy of the guidelines, email Wilda Morris at wildamorris@ameritech.net. Put "ISPS Email Critique Group" in the subject line and be sure to include your name.

Best-Selling Poetry

Current Small Press Distribution's best sellers are:

- ☆ *Backup Singers* by Sommer Browning
- ☆ *99 Poems for the 99 Percent*, edited by Dean Rader
- ☆ *What I've Stolen, What I've Earned* by Sherman Alexie
- ☆ *ARK* by Ronald Johnson

Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* is Amazon's best-selling American poetry book.

ISPS Members Take Wins at National Federation Convention in Salt Lake City



Representing Illinois at the NFSPS convention June 26-30 are Jim Lambert, Carbondale; Judith Tullis, Indian Head Park; Susan Moss, Evanston; Kathy Cotton, Anna; and Gary Ketchum, Naperville. ISPS member Amy Jo Zook of Mechanicsburg, OH, also attended.

From 7,743 NFSPS contest entries, seven ISPS poets took 18 awards at this year's convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies in Salt Lake City, UT. Last year 29 wins by Illinoisans (including non-ISPS) were announced at the convention in Albuquerque, NM.

NORTH SUBURBAN CHAPTER

Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
Mississippi Poetry Society Award, 1st
Miriam S. Strauss Award, HM
Deborah Rohde, Northbrook, IL
Poetry Society of Tenn. Award, HM

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER

Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
Wyopoets Award, 2nd
Nevada Poetry Society Award, HM
Massachusetts State Poetry Society, HM

WEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER

Beth Staas, LaGrange Park, IL
Indiana State Fed. of Poetry Clubs, 1st

SOUTHERN CHAPTER

Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
Poetry Society of Texas, 1st
Sybella Beyer-Snyder Memorial Award, 2nd
Winners Circle Award, HM
Margo Award, HM
Poetry Society of Tennessee Award, HM
Nebraska State Poetry Society Award, HM
Poets Northwest Award, HM

NON-ILLINOIS ISPS MEMBERS

Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR
NFSPS Founders Award, HM
Winners Circle Award, HM
Arizona State Poetry Society, HM
Amy Jo Zook, Mechanicsburg, OH
Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award, 3rd ✍

October 15 Deadline for ISPS Poetry Contest

Complete guidelines for the 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

1. First, \$50
2. Second, \$30
3. Third, \$15
4. 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:

On first copy include ID (name, address, e-mail, phone number) and category in upper left hand corner.

On second copy include category without ID.

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 Wednesday, Oct. 15. ✍

A Contest Judge's Advice

In an interview with Winning Writers, nationally known poet and contest judge Ellaraine Lockie suggested how to check a poem *before* submitting it. Consider these excerpts:

1. Ask one or two trusted poets to read and honestly comment on the poem and then welcome constructive criticism.
2. Print the poem in a significantly different font and size from the usual one. It will look as though it's been written by someone else.
3. Read the poem out loud several times. Doing so exposes problems, especially with rhythm. Some computers have options where documents can be read out loud by different voices with varied accents.
4. Then read the poem for an audience. This is important because it causes the reader to hear the poem through the ears of others. Syntax or awkward line-length problems will announce themselves as stumbling blocks.

Read the full interview at <http://winningwriters.com/resources>. ✍

ISPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President, Susan T. 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

ISPS Online Submissions: Even Months, First Two Weeks

The next bimonthly submission period for member poetry on the ISPS website is Wednesday, October 1, through October 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.

Did You Forget to Renew before July 1?

The 2013-14 ISPS membership year ended June 30. If you missed the renewal deadline, renew now to continue the benefits of ISPS for the 2014-2015 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 ISPS 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 through June 30, 2015 annual dues of \$20.00 (optional \$30 for Patron status or \$50 for Benefactor) to the address below. New members please send also a short bio for our newsletter and website.

MEMBERSHIP:

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

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