



2014, ISSUE 6
EDITOR, KATHY COTTON

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

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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.

Prompts: The Nudge of Mauve, Margaret and New Zealand

Because of ISPS member Jim Reiss, I have a poem that includes in each of its ten lines one of the following words: fish, wind, mauve, art, hedge, sailboat, flute-like, dismal, Margaret, New Zealand. Reiss, a professor emeritus in English, Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, sent us pages of prompts he used for his classes, and I couldn't pass up the challenge. After all, one of his students, Rita Dove, won a Pulitzer and became the United States Poet Laureate for three terms. Though I was unable to finish my ten lines in Reiss' ten minutes (Rita probably did), the prompt tumbled me outside my comfort zone.

Beginning with this issue, look for our new Prompted to Write column and take up the challenge. Send me one of your Reiss-prompted poems, and it may be selected for publication in the next newsletter. Kathy Cotton, Editor



A Message from the President

After recent travels through Spain, I am again reminded that poetry is everywhere: in art, architecture, the written word, the grace of a flamenco dancer, the scent of orange groves and so much more.

The windmills Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra's Don Quixote saw have been replaced by steel giants lining ridge tops from San Sebastian to Barcelona. However, the place Washington Irving evoked with romantic and historical lyricism in *Tales of Alhambra* still looms with fortress grandeur. It's a land of olive trees and marigolds; Sierra Nevadas wrapped in a mantilla of sunshine competing with the night's full moon tiptoeing through bell towers that punctuate the Sevilla skyline; a place of Inquisition and civil war, sacrifice and passion.

As a painter and sculptor, Joan Miró of Barcelona was greatly influenced by the poetry of Spanish mystics. He felt, as many poets do, that our creative endeavors have to engage in works that transcend "human and collective effort." Miró's paintings often have poetic titles such as "The Smile of a Tear" and "The Lark's Wing Encircled With Golden Blue Rejoins The Heart of The Poppy Sleeping on The Diamond-Studded Meadow."

Federico Garcia Lorca's words call from tiles lining a wall in Granada's old city. His poetry and plays were banned by Francisco Franco but again speak to passersby to fully partake of life and live courageously. Another prolific Andalucian poet, Jean Ramón Jiménez, who died in 1958, also had his poetry immortalized in blue and white tiles—his words another reminder of the many-faceted layers of time and place, memory and inspiration.

One particular connection I made with Miró and Picasso was when I saw photos of their studios. They both immersed themselves in everyday items, found objects like a bone or shell, ideas scribbled on scraps of paper, utensils for creating their art, worn oriental rugs—all seemingly scattered without plan or purpose, designing a place where creativity could incubate and hatch. I knew then that in this little room where I attempt to put my own ideas to paper, I am in good company.

Happy writing, Susan T. Moss

ISPS Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13
Pontiac Public Library, 815-844-7229
211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 9
Northbrook Public Library (second floor, interactive 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, Nov. 9
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, Dec. 7
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, DARIEN

1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1
Indian Prairie Public Library
(630) 887-8760
401 Plainfield Road, Darien.
Bring your own beverage, 12 copies of poems for critique, and a snack to share. ✍

Mark your Poetry Calendar for November/December

- **NOVEMBER 2**, Daylight Savings Time ends: an extra hour to write a poem.
- **NOVEMBER 8**, 3:00–5:00 p.m., open mic, The Nook, 4738 Main Street, Lisle.
- **NOVEMBER 9**, 2:00 p.m., Charlotte Digregorio workshop, Capturing Life's Moments—The Ancient Art of Haiku and Senryu, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview.
- **NOVEMBER 14**, 8:00 p.m., Terry Loncaric reading and open mic at the Art Center, 1957 Sheridan Road, Highland Park.
- **NOVEMBER 15**, 11:00 a.m., ISPS board of directors meeting, host Susan Moss.
- **NOVEMBER 22**, 8:00 p.m., Wendy Anderson reading and open mic at Madame ZuZu's, 582 Roger Williams Avenue, Highland Park.
- **NOVEMBER 23**, 2:00–5:00 p.m., speculative poetry workshop led by Caroline Johnson at Oak Brook Public Library, 600 Oak Brook Rd., Oak Brook. Call the library, 630-368-7702, to reserve a space. Materials fee: \$3.00.
- **NOVEMBER 30**, 12:30 p.m. (music at noon), open mic with winter-themed poems at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy, Westmont.
- **DECEMBER 1–14**, the year's last bimonthly submission period for member poetry on the ISPS website.
- **DECEMBER 12**, 8:00 p.m., Joshua Corey reading and open mic at the Art Center, 1957 Sheridan Road, Highland Park.
- **DECEMBER 15**, deadline for Jeff Marks Memorial Poetry Prize. Winner receives \$1,500; honorable mention, \$500. Entry fee, \$20. Up to three poems per entry.
- **JANUARY 4, 2015**, contest deadline, *Spark: A Creative Anthology*, www.sparkanthology.org/contests.
- **JANUARY 20, 2015**, Writers' Group classes at College of DuPage begin, 10 a.m.–12:50 p.m. ISPS past-president Mardelle Fortier extends an invitation to poets to enroll for the spring term. ✍

November and December Open-Mic Poetry Events Set



Facilitator Wilda Morris

WESTMONT.

Seasonal poetry will be featured at the Saturday, Nov. 30, open mic at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy (across from the Metra station).

From noon until the 12:30 p.m. poetry event, Bill and Caroline Johnson will provide seasonal music.

Poets may compete for small prizes to be awarded in each of the following

categories:

- Winter weather and winter nature
- Winter holidays, including Christmas, Hanukkah, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Day
- Historic events that took place in December, January or February
- Famous people born in December, January or February

Cover charge of \$7.00 includes coffee and a snack. This monthly event is co-sponsored by ISPS and Brewed Awakening. Since the coffee shop is not open the last Sunday of December, there will be no December readings.

LISLE. Open-mic poetry readings sponsored by ISPS and the Naperville Writer's Group reopened in October at a new location, The Nook. Their next event is set for 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 8. The Nook is located at 4738 Main Street, Lisle.

CARBONDALE. Transpoetic Playground, sponsored by southern Illinois poets, recently celebrated its fifth anniversary and moved to a new location, Gaia House Interfaith Center at 913 South Illinois, Carbondale. Open-mic events on November 4 and 18 and December 2 and 16 begin at 8:00 p.m. ✍

Spotlight on ISPS Poets Tom Roby IV and Jenene Ravesloot



If you Google our featured poets, Tom Roby IV and Jenene Ravesloot, you will discover a Chicago couple whose lives are rich in poetry and arts. Both are members of The Poets' Club of Chicago (Roby is president) and Illinois State Poetry Society, and both have published three books of poetry: Roby's *Griever's Circuit*, *Shape Shifter*, and *Pressure Points*; Ravesloot's *Loot: Stolen Memories & Tales Out of School*, *The Chronicles of Scarbo*, first and second edition, and *Floating Worlds*. He is the creator of The Poetry Wheel, a non-competitive alternative to poetry slams, and the poetry/music Omniphonic Trio featuring Roby, his son Lem, and Ravesloot.

How is your life as a couple impacted by both being poets?

Being married and working together on various projects, including publishing, editing, judging contests, creating a CD, performing, and running workshops has helped both of us to analyze our own work and the work of others, and has deepened our appreciation of the poetic process and its challenges.

What inspires each of you to write?

I tend to be inspired by visual images in nature. Tom's writing is driven by ideas, such as ideas about art or poetry.

When did you first start writing?

Tom and I both started writing at a very early age. When Tom was in the fourth grade, he remembers writing a poem, "The Explorers." I started writing at the same time, although I was already intensely involved in art. My interest in the visual arts continued through college. Still, I managed to write poetry and loved the process of working with words.

Which poets are among your favorites?

Tom is taken with Walt Whitman, Shakespeare, and Basho—"the rule breakers." I love the work of Ruth Stone, William Carlos Williams, Franz Wright, and Rainer Maria Rilke. They are strong imagists.

Where has your poetry been published?

Tom has published in *After Hours*, *CC&D Magazine*, *Exact Change Only*, the North Suburban Pace buses, *Poetry Fish*, *Frog Pond*, and *Packingtown Review*. His work will soon be up on the *Poetry Storehouse*. My work has been published in *After Hours*, *CC&D Magazine*, *Exact Change Only*, the North Suburban Pace buses, *Poetry Fish*, *Frog Pond*, *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*, *THIS Literary Magazine Online Journal*, *Poetry Storehouse*, *Packingtown Review*, *Samsara: A Journal of Suffering*, Sam Smith's *The Journal in the UK*, and other journals.

What advice would you share with aspiring poets?

It is very important to read extensively and to study form poetry. We also feel it is important to revise and rewrite.

Do you have any advice about getting your poetry published?

There are so many options: online journals, print journals, sites that emphasize video poems or audio poems. Try them all.

What are you working on now?

Tom and I are working on an Omniphonic performance. I have just completed a manuscript which I hope to publish soon.

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

We rarely are totally blocked.

Do you write every day?

Not necessarily. However, we are both voracious readers who attempt to remain open to our world. That always seems to lead to poetic impulses and creativity. ✍

STARTER PROBLEM

by Tom Roby IV

Late at night traffic lights blink stop and go.
Blank pages wait in park until too late.
What's not done is not done as well we know.
Late at night traffic lights blink stop and go.
To start a rodeo now seems much too slow.
It won't be great at any rate by eight.
Late at night traffic lights blink stop and go.
Blank pages wait in park until too late.

OBSCURA

by Jenene Ravesloot

Wave. Wait.
Wait, wave.
Something comes,
then goes.

I feel it. A hand
at the nape of the
neck
lets me go.

Where was I held?
Right here—
a hair clasped in a
closed locket,
a landscape caught
in the lens of a
pinhole camera.

Utterly still, I blur
at the edges.

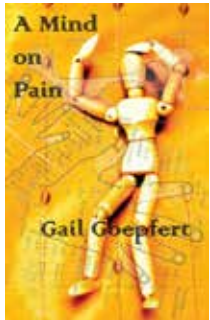
Wait. Wait.
Words slip away,
a whole world.

What remains?
A hair stain on
a bedroom wall.

First published in *After Hours*

ISPS New Members / Members' News

THERESA GLOVER of Naperville is a new member of the Lisle Chapter.



GAIL GOEPFERT of Palatine announces publication of her first chapbook, *A Mind on Pain*. The book is available for advance orders online from Finishing Line Press.



SUSAN MOSS, ISPS president, has a second collection of poetry, *In From the Dark*, available online from Antirrim House Books. Her first chapbook, *Keep Moving 'Til*

The Music Stops, was published in 2006 by Lily Pool Press.

CAROLINE JOHNSON will lead a writing workshop on speculative poetry Sunday, Nov. 23, 2:00–5:00 p.m., at Oak Brook Public Library. Call the library, 630-368-7702, to reserve a space. Materials fee: \$3.00.

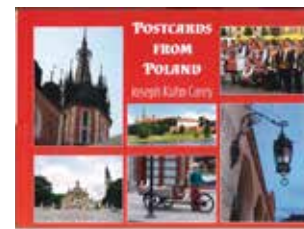
KATE HUTCHINSON of Palatine is a new at-large member.

JAN PRESLEY, a new member of the Southern Chapter, retired from 22 years of teaching literature and process writing to high school juniors and seniors. She says she can barely remember a time when she didn't write poetry. Thanks to her mother's clandestine submission of Jan's work, she won first-place poetry prizes from *Writer's Digest*, New Orleans' Faulkner House Word and Music Festival, and later from the SIU School of Medicine's journal *SCOPE*. She has an MFA in poetry from Southern Illi-

nois University and lives with her husband in the beautiful hill country of southern Illinois where she's working on a chapbook.

MARY RILEY of Chicago is a new member of the Darien Chapter.

DOREEN VAN LEE announces that a play about her life as written through her poetry will take place at American Theater Company in Chicago, April 24 through May 24, 2015.



JOSEPH KUHN CAREY of Glencoe is a new member of Northbrook Chapter. His

new book, *Postcards from Poland*, was selected as JOMP 2013 winner and also selected in the 2014 San Francisco and Paris Book Festivals. It is available on Amazon and Chicago Poetry. Carey has an MFA in Creative Writing from University of Iowa Writers' Workshop and an MS in Mass Communication from Boston University. He runs a successful multi-state property management business.

WEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER members have a new meeting place at the Indian Prairie Library, 401 Plainfield Road, Darien. ✍

ISPS Winners in Poets & Patrons Contests

In the dozen 2014 annual Poets & Patrons contests, ISPS members took more than half the wins. Congratulations to:

FIRST PLACE WINS: Mardelle Fortier, Wilda Morris, Caroline Johnson, Deborah Rohde.

SECOND PLACE WINS: Camille Balla, Gail Denham, Curt Vevang, Mardelle Fortier, Judith Tullis, Susan Moss.

THIRD PLACE WINS: Mardelle Fortier, Judith Tullis (2), Caroline Johnson (3), Wilda Morris.

FIRST HONORABLE MENTION: Gail Vescovi, Caroline Johnson (2), Gail Denham, Donna Pucciani, Wilda Morris, Curt Vevang, Deborah Rhode.

SECOND HONORABLE MENTION: Caroline Johnson (2), Gail Vescovi, Donna Pucciani, Deborah Rohde, Curt Vevang, Judith Tullis, Mardelle Fortier.

THIRD HONORABLE MENTION: Judith Tullis, Mardelle Fortier (2), Caroline Johnson, Wilda Morris (2), Curt Vevang. ✍

Four ISPS Members Win in Indiana Federation Contests

Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs celebrated their 2014 annual Poetry Rendezvous in October with 31 contests. ISPS members took the following wins:

FIRST PLACE WINS: Kathy Cotton (2), Wilda Morris (1)

SECOND PLACE WINS: Kathy Cotton (1)

THIRD PLACE WINS: Kathy Cotton (2), Wilda Morris (1)

HONORABLE MENTIONS: Gail Denham (2), Beth Staas (1)

RESERVES: Wilda Morris (1), Kathy Cotton (1) ✍

Wins in Poetry That Moves

During half of 2015's dozen months, poetry by ISPS members will ride on illustrated placards aboard PACE buses operating between Evanston, Highland Park and Waukegan. These Poetry That Moves winners from the Highland Park Poetry contest are:

FEBRUARY	Gail Denham
MAY	Barbara Voegeli
JUNE	Nancy Ann Schaefer
JULY	Pamela Larson
AUGUST	Judith Tullis
DECEMBER	Mary Jo Balistreri ✍

Prompted to Write

Jim Reiss of Northbrook Chapter submitted these challenging prompts.

Write a poem that includes the following 10 words embedded in each of the poem's 10 consecutive lines:

1. fish, 2. wind, 3. mauve, 4. art,
5. hedge, 6. sailboat, 7. flute-like,
8. dismal, 9. Margaret, 10. New Zealand

Write a 6-line poem spending no more than ten seconds on each line, according to the following instructions:

Line 1: Begin the line with the word "When" and run the line onto line 2.

Line 2: Refer to the name of a particular street, avenue, or boulevard and run onto line 3.

Line 3: Include at least one word in a foreign language and end-stop sentence.

Line 4: Make a flat-out statement, a generalization about something, end-stop sentence.

Line 5: Contradict the previous line, run-on to line 6.

Line 6: Include some reference to a season of the year.

Following are simpler prompts from an extensive list on Writers Resource Center, www.poewar.com.

Use the word "pattern" in the first line and/or the last line of your poem.

Write a poem that begins with you waking up.

Write a poem that begins with a proclamation. If you need a phrase to get your juices going, try "I will."

Pick three words that you absolutely love the sound of and set out to use them in your poem.

Use the same (or similar) words in both your first line and last line, but change the order or the meaning of the words from the first line to the last line. ✍

Prompted by the Winter Holidays

Inspirational themes abound at the close of the year. Let a winter holiday prompt you to write: November's Election Day (4th), Veteran's Day (11th), and Thanksgiving (27th); December's Pearl Harbor Day (7th), Chanukah (begins 16th), Winter Solstice (21st, shortest day of the year), the ever-popular National Fruitcake Day (27th) and, of course, New Year's Eve, (31st).

These special days call for sharing poetry as well as writing it. Polish a few of your old seasonal poems or choose favorites by other writers and tuck them into greeting cards, post them on Facebook, email them to friends, read them at open mic events. If you are a shy poet (many of us are), see these holiday-saturated months as new opportunities to share your work. ✍

An Approach to Reading Poetry Well

This helpful guide comes from Southern Chapter member Candace Armstrong, who suggests using the ideas for critiques at chapter meetings.

Level 1: Impulse

(Begin with the title!)

- Identify the speaker. Include recent happenings, stage of life, openness, etc.
- Identify the occasion: to praise, lament, shame, thank, wish, regret, deny, accept, advise, blame, persuade, etc.
- What happens? Can you paraphrase?

Level 2: Transformation

(Return to the title!)

- What is the poem about? Note

themes, contentions.

- How does the poem work? Patterns, devices.
- How do these patterns and/or devices contribute to meaning?

Level 3: Epiphany

- What flash of insight does the speaker share?
- How does this move the reader? How is the place in which you find yourself at the end of the poem different from the place you found yourself in the beginning?
- How does the epiphany address the theme/contention and satisfy the occasion (the dynamic as more than the sum of its parts)? End with the title! (Used by Permission) ✍

Dylan Thomas Centenary

A week of centenary celebrations for world-reknown poet Dylan Thomas extend from the date of his birth, October 27 (1914 in Swansea) through the date of his death, November 9 (1953 in New York City).

The resonant voice and rhythmic poetry of the Welshman captured America in the 1950s. To hear Thomas recite poems like "Do Not Go Gentle in That Good Night" helps us a half-century later understand his impact. Celebrate by listening at www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mRec3VbH3w. ✍

Join an Email Critique Group

ISPS members are invited to join one of our new five-poet email critique groups. Each assigned member is entitled to submit one poem for critique monthly and, in turn, agrees to critique poems submitted by the other members.

To join a group 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. ✍

ISPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

West Suburban Chapter, Darien
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, Dec. 1, through December 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.

Has Your Membership Expired?

If you are one of the ISPS poets who missed the June 30 renewal deadline, sign up 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, Darien At-Large

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home or cell) _____

Email _____

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