

## Haiku: A Few Well-chosen Words

Our autumn issue invites you to take a look at haiku, one of the ISPS 22nd Annual Poetry Contest categories. I recommend a book by Illinois author Lee Gurga, an award-winning haiku poet and editor of the Modern Haiku Press. In *Haiku: A Poet's Guide*, Gurga helps us understand how haiku form in English differs from the Japanese 5/7/5 format, which is based on sounds not equivalent to English syllables. One American alternative is using a pattern of 2/3/2 stressed beats instead of syllable counts. Gurga also emphasizes the beauty of brevity and minimalism, the season word, and the single haiku moment captured with juxtaposition of two images.

I invite you to read about haiku poet and new ISPS member Thomas Chockley (page 2), to submit a ku to the ISPS poetry contest by September 10 (page 3), to mark your calendar for Gurga's free introduction to haiku at the Lincoln Art Institute (page 4), and, finally, to send me your own sample haiku or haiga for consideration in our next issue of *Illinois Poets* (email kacotton7@frontier.com). —Kathy Cotton, Editor



### A Message from the ISPS President

As we drift into late summer and all seasonal topics seem to have been exhausted like the last blooms, perhaps it will be time to try some other ideas to fill our poetry journals. As mentioned in past "Messages," there are many approaches, topics and outcomes that are waiting for us to explore.

Recently, another poet questioned whether it was okay to write poems on political topics, often ones that require closer scrutiny and then take a personal point of view. The history of poetry verifies the embracing of this subject and how, in many cases, it doesn't have to "shout" or defame in order to get its messages across. Some pieces by Linda Pastan or Adrienne Rich offer examples. This kind of poetry can also help the writer explore a particular issue and find a venue for objecting to or supporting an idea or event including an array of environmental topics.

Another variation of a past discussion in this forum relates to personal heritage. The present United States poet laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera, fills much of his poetry with his historical interest in and personal connection to immigrant life. He spent his youth helping his parents work in other peoples' farm fields and has drawn from those Chicano experiences. We too can explore our heritage to further interpret how it might directly or subtly influence our mannerisms, thinking and even unexplained proclivities for certain places, music or food. Like writing music, setting our distant past and more recent stories to poetry can provide new insights and encourage possible fresh styles. Miguel de Unamuno said, "From your work you will be able one day to gather yourself." Stepping out of our usual poetic endeavors by looking to our family background might offer the next personal new horizon.

With our poetry contest postmark deadline of September 10, we have a wonderful opportunity to submit recent and past work for eight categories. Be sure to note the new choices and check the ISPS website for guidelines.

Happy writing, Susan T. Moss

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EDITOR, KATHY COTTON

Also available  
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.



## Spotlight on ISPS Poet Thomas Chockley

Before retirement, Tom Chockley made his living as an educator—a high school teacher, guidance counselor, an assistant dean at several community colleges in the Chicago metropolitan area. He also taught in Germany and China. Now, Chockley keeps active traveling to Europe to visit extended family and inventing his apprenticeship as

a haiku poet. He lives in Plainfield.

*How long you have been writing, Tom, and what inspires your poetry?*

I started to write seriously in 2010. Curiosity and the challenge of the haiku form inspire me. I'm a visual thinker by nature, so a lot of my haiku comes from events I've seen or emotional images that express inner views.

*Where have you published your poetry?*

I've had haiku published in a couple of print journals, *Frogpond* and *Modern Haiku*, and also in online journals such as *A Hundred Gourds*, *UTHS Cattails*, *Shamrock Haiku Journal*, and *World Haiku Review*.

*What advice can you give poets interested in writing or improving haiku?*

Get a good haiku writers' manual. Read haiku anthologies and poetry journals. Go to [TheHaikuFoundation.com](http://TheHaikuFoundation.com), study their essays, and post your haiku on their beginners or advanced forums. Find other haiku poets and get feedback from them on your haiku.

*Do you have any advice about how to get published?*

For me it's a matter of dumb luck, what the journal editor reads into or likes in one of my submitted haiku. . .and dumb luck.

*In addition to ISPS, what writing groups support your work?*

For the last two years I have had the good fortune to work with a small group of Chicago-area haiku poets and to attend Lee Gurga's Chicago study group. I also correspond with some haiku friends in other states.

*Have you developed a habit of writing regularly?*

My writing was a bit sporadic; hence, I'm trying to write on a consistent basis. And, I go back to things I wrote a few months before to revise and edit them.

*What projects are you working on now?*

I work continually on improving my haiku craft skills. I enjoy writing haibun (micro fiction with haiku). I also produce haiga (photo/haiku collages) each week. I would like to produce a chapbook in the next 12 months.

*Tell us more about creating haiga.*



When I learned about the haiku-related form of haiga, I immediately took to it. I don't do Asian-style brush painting, but I make haiku-photo collages with the large stock of digital photos from my travels. One concession to the Asian painting

tradition is my use of stamps (document seals or "chops" in China). The primary one I use I got in China. It was carved by a student's grandfather, using an ancient set of seal characters for my name. Over time, I have made other small glyphs that I also add to the haiga. ✍

## Haiku and Haibun by Tom Chockley

among redbud petals  
a blank piece of paper  
haiku-sized

—*Bottle Rockets*, #27

morning mist...  
the pond still  
reflects last night

—*Modern Haiku*, 2012, #1

new cover letter  
refolding blankets  
full of old dreams

—*Frogpond*, 35.2

falling leaf  
I catch her smile  
passing me

—*Kernels Online*, #1

winter fog  
the driver ahead  
on his iPhone

—*Shamrock Haiku Journal*, #25

blue poppies  
the temperature of twilight  
on Tibetan snow

—*Cattails*, May 2014

there be dragons...  
the edge of winter a  
ragged white scar

—*A Hundred Gourds*, June 2014

double black moon  
a fourth scotch darkens  
the decree

—*Cattails*, Winter 2015

tea-red sunset  
wind forages among  
sugar maple leaves

—*Cattails*, Winter 2015

yin moon  
the beauty spot  
on my shady ego

—*Frogpond*, 38:2

### American Road Songs

I had slipped around the guy blocking the left lane and passed the three trucks in the right lane. Now, good driver that I am, I'm in the right lane again but fast approaching another slower car ahead. I signal to shift left. However, the left-lane blocker has picked up speed, and he's beside me—exactly beside me. After a bit, I shut off my turn signal and slow to the speed of my friend ahead. I listen to Holly Williams singing her country & western hit, "The Highway."

country roads  
autumn field rows return  
to mud

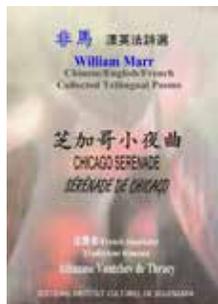
—*The World Haiku Review*; 2014

## ISPS New Members / Members' News

**GLEN S. BISHOP, JR.**, of Jonesboro is a Civil War historian and lecturer, an artist and photographer. His paintings have been exhibited in regional and national shows and are in private and public collections. His love of poetry and natural gift for critique brought him to the ISPS Southern Chapter. He hopes his membership will help to "reprime the pump" of writing poetry that was part of his younger days.

**THOMAS H. CHOCKLEY** of Plainfield is a new at-large member and haiku poet. Read his feature on page 2.

**WILLIAM MARR** of Downers Grove has recently published his trilingual (Chinese/English/French) poetry anthology, *Chicago Serenade*, in Paris. The French portions of the anthology were translated by Athanase Vantchev de Thracy, the renowned French poet and president of Poets of the World Movement. *Chicago Serenade* is a follow-up to Marr's publications in Paris last year, which included two bilingual (Chinese/French) poetry anthologies, *Songs of You and Me* and *Day Brighter than Day*, the latter consisting of Chinese translations of Mr.



Thracy's poems.

Marr has also published several books in Taiwan, including a collection of essays entitled *Chicago, the*

*City of Big Shoulders* (2014). His *Collected Love Poems* (Chinese/English) has just been released as an eBook by Chinese Literature, an online publisher based in Shanghai.

**MARY REYNOLDS** of Northbrook is a new member of the North Suburban Chapter. She is a retiree who taught Latin, English literature and composition, and English as a second language in a north suburban high school for 33 years. After teaching primarily college-prep essay writing, Reynolds is eager to explore the creative power of writing through poetry.

**BARBARA SHERMAN** of Downers Grove is a new member of the Southwest Suburban Chapter. ✍



### New Board Member, Tom Moran

At their fall meeting, the ISPS board will welcome new member Tom Moran of the West Suburban Chapter. He joins Sheila Kirscher of North Suburban Chapter as the board's at-large members. Kirscher and historian Carolyn Jevelian, also of North Suburban, have each accepted another term as board members.

On the agenda are proposals for a spring state convention, a 2016 ISPS anthology, the Manningham contest, a possible new chapter, and future poetry readings and poetry/art events. ✍

### September 10 Deadline for Expanded ISPS Poetry Contest

The 22nd Annual ISPS Poetry Contest offers eight categories:

1. Any subject, free verse
2. Formal verse, any set form
3. Haiku, traditional or modern
4. "A Happy Memory," free verse
5. "Enjoy Illinois," free verse
6. "Summertime," etheree
7. "Hope," any form
8. "Cup o' Java," any form

Poems must be original work, unpublished, and cannot have won monetary awards. Poems (except haiku) must be titled, written in English, no longer than 40 lines, and typed in 12- or 14-point in a plain font.

## Poet Laureate to Visit



Juan Felipe Herrera, who was named the 21st Poet Laureate of the United States in June, plans a free reading in Illinois in October. Herrera, the son of migrant workers in California, is the nation's first Latino appointed to the position. He will sign books and perform his works at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum in Springfield at 6:00 p.m., Oct. 6. ✍

Submit two copies of each poem, with one poem per 8 ½ x 11 page. Include on the first copy your name, address, e-mail, phone number and category in the upper left-hand corner. Second copy should include category only.

ISPS members pay a reduced rate of \$8 for up to 8 poems; \$1 for each additional poem. Make checks payable to Illinois State Poetry Society and mail submissions with your check to: ISPS Contest, % Judith Tullis, 6455 Big Bear Dr., Indian Head Park, IL 60525

Check [www.illinoispoets.org](http://www.illinoispoets.org) for full details. ✍



## Chapter Meetings

### CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., Saturday, October 10  
Pontiac Public Library, 815-844-7229  
211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

### NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, September 13  
Northbrook Public Library  
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, September 13  
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, October 4  
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, September 5  
Indian Prairie Public Library  
(630) 887-8760  
401 Plainfield Road, Darien, IL  
Bring your own beverage, 12 copies of poems for critique, and a snack to share. ✍

## Mark your Poetry Calendar for September/October 2015

- **SEPTEMBER 1**, deadline for Helen Schaible sonnet contest. Check for details at [www.illinoispoets.org/pdf/sonnet-contest-2](http://www.illinoispoets.org/pdf/sonnet-contest-2).
- **SEPTEMBER 1**, deadline for submissions to Poets & Patrons 59th Annual Chicagoland Poetry Contest. Send entries and fees to: Barbara Eaton, Contest Chair, 416 Gierz Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515.
- **SEPTEMBER 10**, deadline for submissions to ISPS 22nd Annual Poetry Contest with eight categories. Details on page 3 and at [www.illinoispoets.org](http://www.illinoispoets.org).
- **SEPTEMBER 11**, 8:00 p.m. Sandy Marchetti poetry reading and open-mic at the Art Center, Highland Park.
- **SEPTEMBER 13**, deadline, Masters Poetry Competition, information at [www.mastersanthology.com](http://www.mastersanthology.com).
- **SEPTEMBER 14**, 7:00 p.m., free program by Lee Gurga on basic techniques of haiku with a slide show of contemporary haiga, Lincoln Art Institute in Lincoln.
- **SEPTEMBER 15**, deadline, Arizona State Poetry Society contest; information at [www.azpoetry.webs.com](http://www.azpoetry.webs.com).
- **SEPTEMBER 19**, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., Poetry Pentathlon, Book Cellar in Chicago.
- **SEPTEMBER 25**, 12:30 p.m., Brewed Awakening, Westmont, with readings by Susan Moss and Gail Goepfert, followed by open mic.
- **SEPTEMBER 26**, 8:00 p.m., Jan Bottiglieri reading and open mic at Madame ZuZu's, Highland Park.
- **OCTOBER 6**, 6:00 p.m., Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum in Springfield, free poetry reading by U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera.
- **OCTOBER 9**, 8:00 p.m., Ellen Savage poetry reading, Art Center, Highland Park.
- **OCTOBER 17**, Reading of Poets & Patrons winning 2016 contest poems at Downers Grove Public Library.
- **OCTOBER 24**, 8:00 p.m., Ruth Goring reading and open mic, Madame ZuZu's, Highland Park.
- **OCTOBER 25**, 12:30 p.m., Brewed Awakening, Westmont.
- **NOVEMBER 1**, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., haiku workshop led by Lee Gurga at Starved Rock State Park, Utica. ✍

## Moss and Goepfert to Read at September 27 ISPS Co-sponsored Brewed Awakening

Poets Susan T. Moss and Gail Goepfert will be featured poets at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy, Westmont. Program September 27 begins at 12:30 p.m., with music from 2:00-2:30 p.m. Cover charge of \$7.00 includes coffee and a snack. Open mic readings will follow.



**SUSAN T. MOSS** of Evanston has two chapbooks, *In From The Dark* and *Keep*

*Moving 'til the Music Stops*. She is currently serving a third term as ISPS president and is also a member of Poets and Patrons and Poets Club of Chicago. Her work has appeared in journals including *After Hours*, *Caduceus*, and *Vermont Literary Review* and has been featured on *Your Daily Poem*. Moss was granted a residency at the Vermont Studio Center and holds a master of arts degree from Middlebury College.

**GAIL GOEPFERT** of Palatine is a poet, amateur photographer, teacher, and an



associate editor of *Rhino Poetry*. Her first chapbook, *A Mind on Pain*, was released this year. Goepfert's poetry has appeared in *Ardor*, *After Hours*, *Caesura*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Florida English*, *Jet Fuel Review*, *Examined Life Journal*, *Vine Leaves Literary Journal*, and *Room Magazine*. Her poetry has twice been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. ✍

## ISPS Online Submissions

The next bimonthly submission period for member poetry on the ISPS website is October 1 through 14. Members may submit one piece of original work to Alan Harris at oasis@alharris.com or by mail to Alan Harris, 543 E. Squirrel Tail Dr., Tucson, AZ 85704. Poetry is viewable by poet, poem title, or submission period at www.illinoispoets.org. ✍

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

Central Chapter, Pontiac  
Facilitator David Alexander  
pontiacpoetry@aol.com

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

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

Historian, Carolyn Jevelian  
gjeve@aol.com

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

At-Large Member, Tom Moran  
tgm1958@sbcglobal.net

## We're Looking for New Members. . .and a Few Renewals

Maybe you know a poet who would be inspired by belonging to ISPS. Or maybe you are a "member" who hasn't sent in your renewal for the 2015-16 year that began July 1. For the small investment of \$20—optional \$30.00 for Patron status or \$50.00, Benefactor status—your poet/friend (or maybe *you*) can support poetry in Illinois and receive all these perks:

- ★ Triple membership: the Illinois State Poetry Society PLUS the National Federation of State Poetry Societies PLUS any of the ISPS chapters.
- ★ ISPS bimonthly newsletter plus email notices of poetry 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 availability of online critique groups.
- ★ Bimonthly publication of a poem submitted to the ISPS website.

For your convenience a membership form follows and is also on the website, www.illinoispoets.org. If you are unable to print the form, send your check with your name, address, email address, phone number and voting chapter (Northbrook, Darien, Lisle, Pontiac, Carbondale or At Large).

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

✂ **GIVE A COPY TO A FRIEND!** .....

### ISPS Membership Form PLEASE PRINT

Complete the information below and send the form with a check for July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 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