



2016, ISSUE 2
EDITOR, KATHY COTTON

Also available
 on our website
[www.illinoispoets.org/
 news-links.htm](http://www.illinoispoets.org/news-links.htm)

IN THIS ISSUE

Challenge: Dream Poems	1
President's Message	1
20th Poetry Month Anniversary	2
Chapter Meetings	2
Feature: Nancy Schaefer	3
New Members / Members' News	4
Brewed Awakening	4
Board Plans Three Events	4
Sponsor a Contest Category	5
Mark Your Poetry Calendar	5
Favorite Book Challenge	5
Murphy to Lead Central Chapter	5
ISPS Poems on Facebook	6
Board of Directors	6
\$20 Best Buys	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.

Writing Challenge: Poems from our Dreams

Cramps in my calves startled me awake one night, and in the few minutes of massaging twisted muscles back to sleep, I was acutely aware of bits of an interrupted dream. Those details—a yellow for-sale sign, a lake cottage—coalesced into a poem about a child's drowning that seemed utterly true, though none of it rose from my own life experience. Our dream poems from deep-sleep prompts can wander off to places as mysterious as the dreams themselves.

At the 2013 NFSPS convention, I heard featured poet Dana Levin of Santa Fe speak of poetry shaped from dreams, those "inscrutable gifts of the unconscious." Though I rarely recall a dream myself, I was encouraged by Levin's creativity to read other "dream poems" and found an inexhaustible list of writers inspired by their night travels.

Pulitzer-winning poet Mark Strand writes in his poem, "Dreams," "We wake to find the sleeper / Is ourselves / And the dreamt-of is someone who did / Something we can't quite put / Our finger on, / But which involved a life / We are always, we feel, / About to discover."

Email me one of your dream poems, and I'll select a few for the May/June issue of the Illinois Poets Newsletter. —Kathy Cotton, kacotton7@frontier.com



A Message from the ISPS President

Signs of spring are beginning to awaken with more chattering of birds, buds daring to give signs of early blooms and longer glorious light. Illinois State Poetry Society is also growing and will soon burst forth with library poetry displays in April (see locations in the Poetry Month article, page 2), opportunities to share readings at participating libraries and our second gala on November 5 among other events to be announced.

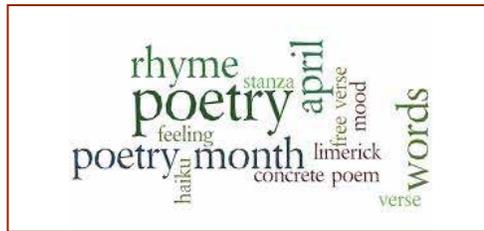
As the vernal equinox approaches, the renewal of courage to start again is evidenced in gardens and return to warmer days. Like the season, we too can move forward and take chances in our writing. Vulnerability is the soothing of fears by writing about them, finding a way to feel safe about discussing what is true. Whether or not first person "I" or "we" is used in a poem, the ability to open ourselves to writing about subjects or feelings that may invite greater reader scrutiny can help us grow as thinkers and poets. While it is riskier, as one member said in a poem, to "Stand up," this deeper delving into life can help create greater enlightenment and touch other people as well.

The gift we can give each other is the reassurance that we often share the same path, one that seldom seems long enough in spite of potholes, and that we can fly on the words of like-minded camaraderie. While reassuring the lonely, scared or confused, our poetry also releases and often assuages personal misalignments. This spring let's plant some new ideas and approaches in our poetry and take more risks.

Speaking about starting fresh, the first meeting of our haiku chapter on February 21 at the Northbrook Library was well attended, including member Lee Gurga who drove from Champaign to help kick off the lively and informative gathering facilitated by Susan Auld.

Happy writing, Susan T. Moss

20 Ways You Can Help Celebrate Poetry Month's 20th Anniversary



The world's largest literary celebration, National Poetry Month began in April 1996 with an aim to highlight the achievement of American poets and to encourage the reading of and support for poets and poetry. Here are 20 ideas to celebrate the 20th anniversary, some courtesy of poetry.org. See their website for more.

1. Check out the ISPS member poems displayed in libraries at Aurora Santori, Aurora West, Bloomington, Carbondale, Glencoe, Glenview, Highland Park, Hinsdale, Lisle, Northbrook, Pontiac, Wheaton, Wilmette, and Winnetka.
2. Sign up for the Borzoi Reader's email Poem A Day, available for the month of April, knopfdoubleday.com.
3. Sign up for Poem-a-Day for a poem each morning, poets.org/poem-day.
4. Memorize a poem or recite for friends and family a poem you already know.
5. Create an anthology of your favorite poems on poets.org.
6. Buy a book of poetry by a member of ISPS (see some listed on our website).
7. Learn more about Illinois poets. Read poems by the Illinois Poet Laureates: Howard Austin, Carl Sandburg, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Kevin Stein.
8. Attend a poetry reading at a local university, bookstore, cafe, or library. Some events, including Brewed Awakening, are in "Mark Your Poetry Calendar."
9. Read a poem at an open mic event (see "Mark Your Poetry Calendar").
10. Start a poetry reading group or help ISPS begin a chapter in an unserved area.
11. Chalk poems on sidewalks. Our Pontiac Chapter has done this successfully.
12. Deepen your daily experience by reading Edward Hirsch's essay "How to Read a Poem."
13. Read about different poetic forms. A list of 50 forms is available at writersdigest.com.
14. Celebrate National Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 21, 2016. The idea is simple: select a poem you love, carry it with you, then share it with coworkers, family, and friends.
15. Watch Rachel Eliza Griffith's P.O.P. (Poets on Poetry) videos.
16. Watch or read Carolyn Forché's talk "Not Persuasion, But Transport: The Poetry of Witness."
17. Read or listen to Mark Doty's talk "Tide of Voices: Why Poetry Matters Now."
18. Read Allen Ginsberg's classic essay about Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass."
19. Watch a "poetry movie": The Basketball Diaries, Before Night Falls, Piñero—Benjamin Bratt stars in this biopic about Puerto Rican poet-playwright Miguel Piñero, Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle, Sylvia, Tom & Viv, Total Eclipse, Big Bad Love, Dead Poets Society, Four Weddings and a Funeral, Henry Fool, HOWL, Poetic Justice, Shakespeare in Love, Slam.
20. Write a poem from one of your dreams for the next issue of our newsletter. (See page 1). ✍



Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., Saturday, April 9

Pontiac Public Library, 815-844-7229

211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

E/L HAIKU CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 p.m., Sunday, April 17

Northbrook Public Library, Civic Room

847-272-6224

1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL

Bring 10 copies of 6-10 haiku for critique.

NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 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, March 13

Carbondale Public Library, 630-986-1976

405 West Main, Carbondale, IL

Bring 12 copies of poems for critique.

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER, LISLE

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, April 10

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, March 5

Indian Prairie Public Library, (630) 887-8760

401 Plainfield Road, Darien, IL

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

ONLINE CRITIQUE GROUPS

To request a 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. ✍

Spotlight on ISPS Poet Nancy Schaefer



Nancy Ann Schaefer, a retired academic from Illinois, now lives with her husband, dog, and three cats in the foothills of the White Mountains in rural Maine. A Pushcart Prize nominee, her poems have appeared in a number of anthologies, journals and websites, including *Distilled Lives* (vol.2), *Off Channel*, *Avocet*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, *Numinous*, *In Other Words: Mérida* and *Blue Heron Review*, among others. *In Search of Lode* (918studio) is her first chapbook. Schaefer's poems also have been displayed in two Chicago suburban libraries and

on PACE buses. She is currently revising her next poetry collection and in her spare time volunteers to transport dogs and cats from overcrowded shelters to central Maine, where they stay/are fostered until their "forever homes" are found.

What inspires you to write, Nancy?

Nature, animals, music, poetry, spirituality, religious/scientific concepts, relationships, current/historical events, the human condition, etc.—all are grist for the poetry mill.

What poets do you most enjoy reading?

There are many: Rumi, Hafiz, Basho, Jane Hirshfield, Mary Oliver, Mark Doty, Billy Collins, Wendell Berry, Seamus Heaney, Emily Dickinson, Dorianne Laux, Kim Addonizio, Lucille Clifton, Carl Sandburg, Kay Ryan, Sylvia Plath, May Sarton.

Do you have any advice for aspiring poets?

Tune in and immerse yourself in poetry. It's surprising the diversity of places where we can find it: From the Book of Psalms to Shakespeare's plays to contemporary song lyrics on the radio. From city subways in New York and London to suburban buses in Chicago. Poetry, as well as books about poetry, can be found in public libraries, in bookstores or on the Internet. Anthologies are wonderful resources as well because they are collections of poems written by a number of different people offering different perspectives and voices. Join a poetry group. Take classes. Attend workshops and live poetry readings; these are instructive, fun ways to meet other poets, hear their work and share your own.

Also, check out the events planned for National Poetry Month (a celebration held annually in April around the country in cities and towns great and small) at www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/home. The ISPS website and newsletter are good places to find out about activities planned for your area. I invite you to sign up for Poem-a-Day to read a different poem each morning. Why not join thousands of enthusiasts nationally for Poem-in-Your-Pocket Day by carrying a favorite poem in your pocket on April 21, 2016?

As a published poet, do you have any advice for writers seeking publication?

Read the publication before submitting to see if your work is a good fit. Address the editor by name and be careful to follow all the submission guidelines. Send in your best poems. Be open to constructive criticism and don't get discouraged by rejection. Revise and resubmit elsewhere—keep growing—keep learning your craft!

Do you ever experience "writer's block"?

Yes! But I don't panic or try to force it. I'll set a poem aside and pull out another that's been on the back burner. At other times I'll just step away from the keyboard and concentrate on something else. I'll go for a walk. Play with my pets. Read. Listen to music. Relax. Let go. ✍️

Poems by Nancy Schaefer

Sunday afternoon

It's all so simple really. I stand
at the kitchen window peeling

potatoes. Red maple, white birch
border our patch, green and growing.

On the road, a John Deere tractor
sputters by, kicks up gravel and dust.

I can't see your eyes, shaded by
your White Sox cap as you push

the mower in neat rows
across the lawn, seed the air

with the sweet scent of cut grass.
I dry my hands and cup a ladybug,

open the screen door to free her
outside on a bed of marigolds.

I hear the small birds
at the feeder. I hear song.

From *The Conway Daily Sun* [NH] newspaper

Imagines

Iridescent butterflies—
nectared *avant-couriers*
in wind-brushed flight,
gently perch in hidden
chambers of our hearts
as poems.

From the chapbook, *In Search of Lode*

Crossing over

In every moment something sacred is at stake.
~Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

A cold night, I walk briskly
past vacant lot overgrown,
bordered by blackened tree
stump, broken streetlamp,
graffitied wall, frozen pavement
under my feet, shoulder set

against hard wind. My woolen
hat pulled low, oblivious to flow:
radiant, heart-cupped & soft
as April rain. Crashing instead
through this Ashcan scene, ken
shoveled under like dead leaves,

I cross the road to avoid
bag lady waiting for a bus.

From *Out Loud Anthology V*

ISPS New Members / Members' News



SUSAN AULD, facilitator of our new English Language Haiku Chapter, announces the publication of her haiku collection, *Chrysanthemum Dusk*, available from the author, suault@yahoo.com. Auld lives in Arlington Heights.



LEE GURGA, of Lincoln, is an at-large ISPS member. Gurga's impressive haiku credentials include past-president of the Haiku Society of America, former editor of the journal *Modern Haiku*, and

current editor of *Modern Haiku Press*. He is the author of the award-winning

Haiku: A Poet's Guide. His honors include first prizes in international haiku contests, an Illinois Arts Council Poetry Fellowship, and the Japan-American Society of Chicago's Cultural Achievement Award.

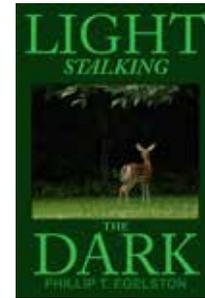


WILLIAM MARR of Downer's Grove now has two poetry collections available as free e-books: the trilingual (Chinese/English/French) anthology, *Chicago Serenade*, which was

published in Paris in 2015, and *Between Heaven and Earth*. Read them at www.fengtipoeticclub.com.

JIM REISS' previously published poem, "This Present Life," was featured in the *Poetry Daily* newsletter. Reiss lives in Wilmette.

PATRICK DUNN of Aurora, is a new member of the Southwest Suburban Chapter in Lisle.



PHILLIP EGELSTON of Jonesboro has published two new books of poetry: the full-length collection, *Light Stalking the Dark*, and the chapbook, *A Liberal Education*. Both books are available at www.amazon.com.



KATHY COTTON of Anna will exhibit "Moments," a collection of haiga (haiku with art) at the Carbondale Library Gallery, April 1 through May 15. ✍

Swanberg to Read at ISPS-Sponsored Brewed Awakening

March readings at Brewed Awakening will be canceled for the celebration of Easter Sunday. Featured poet Christine Swanberg will read at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy, Westmont, on April 24 at 12:30 p.m., followed by open mic. Cover charge of \$10.00 includes coffee and a snack.

CHRISTINE SWANBERG



Swanberg has published several books of poetry, including *Tonight on This Late Road*, *Invisible String*, *Bread Upon the Waters* and *Who Walks Among the Trees with Charity*, and her work appears in numerous anthologies. She has published hundreds of poems in journals such as *The Beloit Poetry Journal*,

Spoon River Quarterly, *Amelia*, *Chiron*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *Creative Woman*, *Earth's Daughters*, *Mid-America Review*, *Powatan Review*, *Midnight Mind*, *Sow's Ear*, *Wind*, and others.

Swanberg has edited *Korone; Confluence: A Legacy of Rock River Valley*; and *Land Connections: Writers of North Central Illinois*. She founded the Rock River Poetry Contest and has judged many contests including Pen Women and Illinois Emerging Writers. She has been a teacher for more than thirty years and has mentored young and adult writers. Recently she taught in the Masters of Interdisciplinary Studies at National-Louis University and was poet in residence for Midway Village. From 1995-1998, Swanberg was a regular reader and workshop leader at the Women's Way Festival in Austin, Texas. ✍

Board Plans Three Events

December discussions of three major 2016 projects will be continued at the April 2 ISPS board meeting.

Gala/Conference. Additional plans will be made for the Society's second gala gathering. The event's proposed date is November 5 at Park Ridge Country Club, Park Ridge.

Anthology. Details will be completed for submissions and publication of the third volume of *Distilled Lives* with a goal of having the anthology available by the November gala. A July 15 deadline is proposed. Readers will include Tom Moran, Carolyn Jevellian, and Beth Staas. Judy Tullis will format the book.

Poetry Contest. Guidelines will be set for the 23rd annual ISPS contest which will again have eight categories. Chairman is Jim Lambert. Submission deadline is set for October 15.

Mark your Poetry Calendar

MARCH 15, NFSPS contest deadline. Information at www.nfspd.com.

MARCH 26, poets Kate Hutchinson and Marjorie Skelly and open mic at Madame ZuZu's, Highland Park.

APRIL POETRY MONTH, library displays (Aurora Santori, Aurora West, Bloomington, Carbondale, Glencoe, Glenview, Highland Park, Hinsdale, Lisle, Northbrook, Pontiac, Wheaton, Wilmette, and Winnetka).

APRIL 1, deadline to submit a 2016 ISPS Poetry Contest Sponsorship. Information at jim@jimlambert.com.

APRIL 1, 8:00 p.m., 2016 Poetry Challenge reading and open mic at the Art Center, Highland Park.

APRIL 1—14, submission period for member poems on the ISPS website.

APRIL 2, ISPS board meeting, hosted by Judy Tullis, Indian Head Park.

APRIL 13, 7:00 p.m., Story Poetry, presented by ArticuliT, Highland Park Public Library.

APRIL 17, 1:30 p.m., readings by winners of Northbrook Arts Contest, Northbrook Library.

APRIL 20, 7:00 p.m., Student Poetry Challenge Reading, Highland Park Public Library.

APRIL 21, Poem in Your Pocket Day.

APRIL 30, 8:00 p.m., featured poet Joanna Kurowska and open mic at Madame ZuZu's, Highland Park.

MAY 14, 2:00 p.m., Jennifer Dotson of Highland Park will be a Poet in the Parlor at the Vachel Lindsay House in Springfield.

JUNE 9—13, NFSPS convention in Chaska, Minnesota.

SEPTEMBER 1, deadline, Helen Schaible International Sonnet Contest. Information at www.poetsandpatrons.net.

SEPTEMBER 1, deadline, 60th annual Chicagoland Poetry Contest. Details at www.poetsandpatrons.net.

Sponsor a Category for the 2016 ISPS Poetry Contest

Contest chairman Jim Lambert invites you or your ISPS chapter to sponsor a new category for the 2016 ISPS Poetry Contest. Last year's sponsorships brought to the contest's formal, free verse and haiku categories five additional contests: A Happy Memory in memory of Gertrude Brush and Genevieve Miller; Enjoy Illinois; Summertime, etheree; Hope, in memory of David Christensen; and Cup o' Java, in honor of Brewed Awakening.

To propose a new category, complete and return a form with a check for prize monies no later than April 1. Sponsor applications are available at jim@jimlambert.com.

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY				
2016 Poetry Contest Sponsorship				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and mail a form for each 2016 Poetry Contest sponsorship. • Make check payable to Illinois State Poetry Society. If your proposed category is not accepted, your check will be returned. • Submission must be postmarked no later than FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2016. • Mail form(s) to: Jim Lambert, 11817 Sherry Lynn Dr., Carbondale, IL 62901-9732. 				
SPONSOR INFORMATION (Please Print)				
Name of Contact Person _____				
Phone _____		Email Address _____		
Mailing Address _____				
PROPOSED CONTEST INFORMATION				
Contest Category Name _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> In Memory of _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> In Honor of _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> Contest Category NOT In Memory or In Honor				
Sponsored by _____				
Subject <input type="checkbox"/> Any <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Subject _____				
Poetry Form <input type="checkbox"/> Any <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Form _____				
Line Limit <input type="checkbox"/> 42 Lines <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Line Limit _____				
Prize:	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsorship:	1st \$100	2nd \$80	3rd \$50
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sponsorship:	1st \$75	2nd \$60	3rd \$25
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Sponsorship:	1st \$60	2nd \$40	3rd \$20
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Sponsorship:	1st \$20	2nd \$20	3rd \$10
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Sponsorship:	1st \$20	2nd \$20	3rd \$10
	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER \$ _____	1st \$ _____	2nd \$ _____	3rd \$ _____
<small>Thank you for encouraging and supporting the art of poetry with this sponsorship! For more information contact the contest chairman: Jim Lambert, jim@jimlambert.net or 618-619-2663</small>				

Kathleen Murphy to Lead Central Chapter



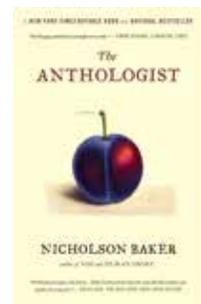
Kathleen Murphy of Cullom was named as the new facilitator of our Central Chapter. She fills the position vacated by David Alexander, retiring leader and original organizer of the group in Pontiac.

Murphy grew up in Ohio, where she received her degree in English. She is married and has raised "four boys and several deceased goldfish." Murphy is currently a writing tutor at a community college and writes for ehow.com.

As chapter facilitator, Murphy also takes a position on the ISPS board of directors. ✍️

My Favorite Poetry Book: *The Anthologist*

This issue's reading recommendation comes from ISPS board treasurer Judy Tullis of Indian Head Park.



My current favorite poetry book is actually a novel: *The Anthologist* by Nicholson Baker. It is the story of a writer who has compiled a poetry anthology

but doesn't seem to be able to complete the introduction his publisher is requiring. We listen to his excuses, his struggles with writer's block and his considerably knowledgeable musings about poetry and poets.

Mr. Baker is clever and entertaining

and, occasionally, laughably absurd as when he claims to have met and discussed poetry with Edgar Allen Poe in a French laundromat.

I fled to the Internet numerous times to discover, for instance, why a certain poet was so highly praised for his rhyme and if a particular poetess really did have a clandestine affair with a contemporary poet and how it affected what each wrote. I am forced to read it for the second time. JT

Check your local library or Amazon.com for a copy of *The Anthologist*. To recommend a favorite poetry book for our readers, send your comments to editor Kathy Cotton, kacotton7@frontier.com. ✍️

ISPS Poems on Facebook

A good idea for sharing poetry comes from Lucy Logsdon of the Southern Chapter. She copied the URL from her poem on the ISPS website to her Facebook page. The next submission period for member poetry on the ISPS website is April 1 through 14. Poetry is viewable by poet, poem title, or submission period at www.illinoispoets.org. 

ISPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Jumper Cables, Ladybugs and Other Items for \$20 or Less

The Business Insider's list of under \$20 items everyone should own includes a fire extinguisher, jumper cables, car cell-phone charger, cast-iron skillet, dry shampoo, and a Swiss army knife keychain. Looking for something a bit more unique? On Amazon you can buy spy camcorder sunglasses, 1,500 ladybugs, and glow-in-the-dark toilet paper.

Catering to poets, \$20 can buy the original magnetic poetry kit, a waterproof note pad for the shower wall, the *Writer's Market Deluxe Edition*, a ticket to a New Year's Day Marathon Reading, or, our favorite, an entire year's membership in ISPS. That last best-buy item includes:

- ★ 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.

During National Poetry Month, give a copy of the ISPS membership form and some encouragement to your poetry/friends. 

 **GIVE A COPY TO A FRIEND!**

ISPS Membership Form PLEASE PRINT

Complete the information below and send the form with a check: membership through June 30, 2016 annual dues, \$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 Haiku, Northbrook At-Large

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home or cell) _____

Email _____

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