



# Illinois Poets

News of the Illinois State Poetry Society

April – May 2021

## ISPS Board Members

**Susan T. Moss**  
President

**Jim Lambert**  
Vice President

**Thomas Chockley**  
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**Judith Tullis**  
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**Sheila Kirscher**  
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**Alan Harris**  
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## Chapter Facilitators

**Carbondale - Southern**  
Kathy Cotton

**Champaign - Central**  
(& newsletter editor)  
Kathy Robinson

**Darien – W. Suburban**  
Caroline Johnson

**Haiku chapter (meets in  
Northbrook)**  
Tom Chockley,  
Jim Sullivan

**Lisle – SW Suburban**  
Barbara Eaton

**Northbrook – N. Suburban**  
Mary Beth Bretzlauf

**Pontiac - N. Central**  
Kathleen Murphy

## President's Message



This April is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Poetry Month started by the Academy of American Poets in 1996. Scilla, daffodils, forsythia and magnolias, among other beauties, are celebrating with vibrant blooms. These tenacious harbingers of spring birthed by creative forces have much to teach us as we look forward to better times after a long winter with its many challenges.

Surprise of color and greening lawns remind us of our own possibilities to generate new poetry and see the world with fresh insight as our work responds to another beginning. Perhaps it's time to mail out poetry to more journals, do some public readings or share critique sessions with a new group of poets. Consider including a poem in the next birthday card you send. Like spring flowers, we need to reach for the light and respond to the call of engaging ideas waiting to bloom on the page. This could be the year for a first poetry collection or another one, experimenting with a different style of writing and formatting words on a page. Look beneath the petals of ideas and attempt to capture underlying motivations that nourish poetic offspring.

Ted Kooser's "Late Spring" sets a time of year and age with a fresh look at the speaker's location and ephemeral events of the season. "This April, in good health, I entered my fifty-fourth year./The perfect porcelain bells of Lily-of-the-Valley/ring into the long, shy ears of ferns,/and the horsefly sits in the sun and twirls his mustache/and brushes the dust from his satin sleeves."

It's all here, the possibilities of renewal and fortitude if we choose to emulate what the tulips already know.

Happy writing,

Susan T. Moss

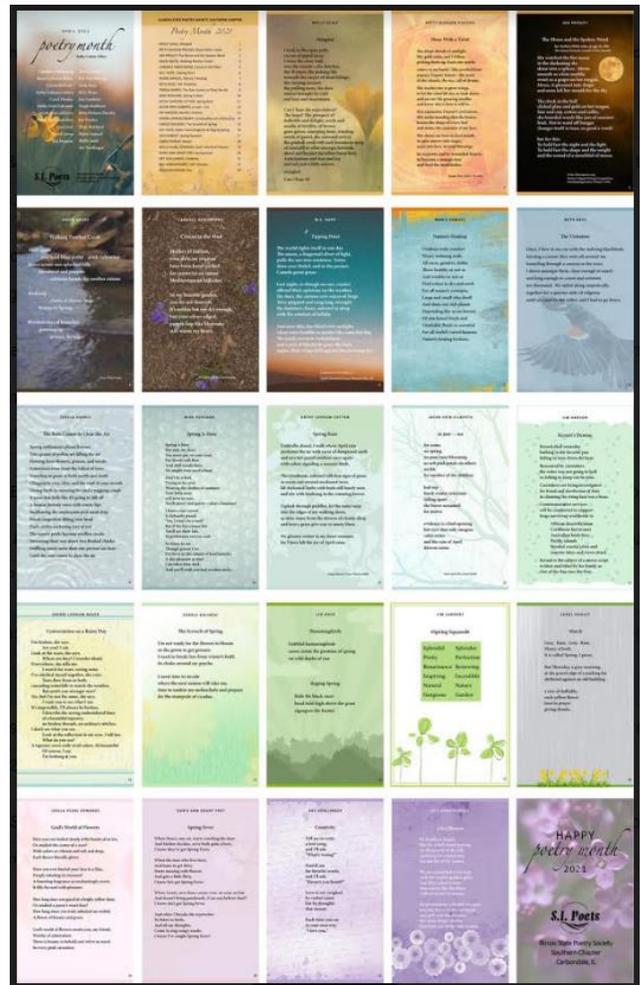
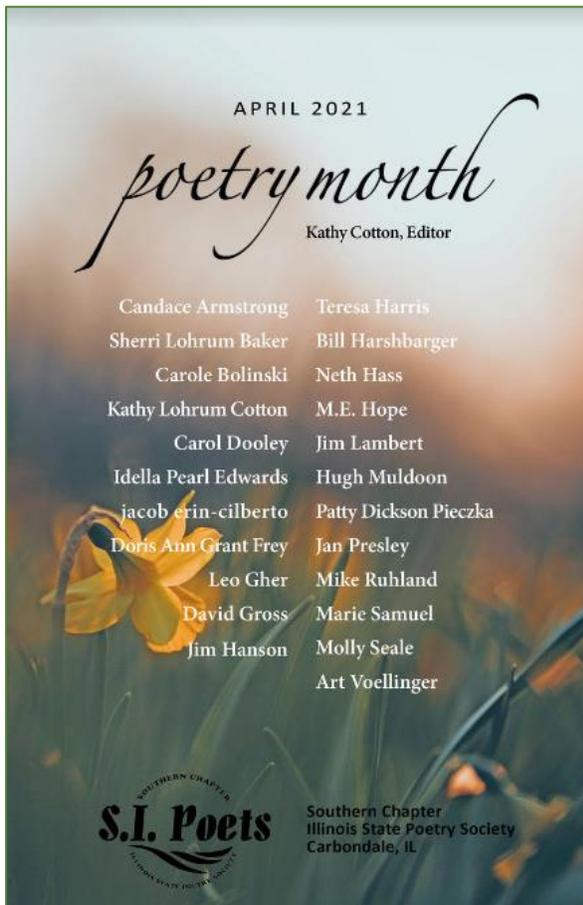
# April's Poetry Month Chapter Events

## Southern Chapter Wows Us Again

Kathy Cotton, facilitator of the Southern chapter, is our own graphic designer *par excellence* proven many times over with publications she has designed for ISPS as well as at the national level. This year she and the Southern Chapter of ISPS inaugurated a “broadside” series as their special April poetry project.

You may have heard of traditional ballads being distributed in broadside format, as well as religious and political tracts, but poetry broadsides are not as well known. Basically, a beautiful poem is printed over an evocative image, then often framed.

Kathy Cotton is especially happy that all 23 local members of the Southern chapter have poems in the broadside set (see poets list below). She says one of the greatest challenges was arranging the sequence of pieces so the colors were pleasing when viewed as a group. This project is posted on the ISPS website, providing inspiration and appreciation in us all.



Although you obviously cannot read the broadsides at this scale, it is fun to see the progression of color tones. Read the poems online at [illinoispoets.org](http://illinoispoets.org).

## Other Chapter Poetry Displays

The Northfield and Winnetka chapters had displays of local ISPS poets' work displayed in April at the special invitation of those libraries.

Susan T. Moss and Sheila Kirschner mounted the poems and set up and dismantled the displays. (Rest assured, proper social distancing precautions were observed.)

The displays were greatly appreciated by patrons of the libraries as well as the poets.

Other April events to report? Please send info to [krobdzys@gmail.com](mailto:krobdzys@gmail.com) for the June – July issue.

## National Poetry Convention “Virtual” This Year

The theme of the virtual convention to be held June 10 – 13 is “Anywhere & Everywhere: Poetry Coast to Coast.” Thanks to Zoom, you can have a front-row seat at the two plenary sessions (open to all NFSPS members, registered or not), at 4 p.m., Thursday, June 10 and Sunday, June 13 at 10:00 a.m. Detailed schedules are included in the April edition of *Strophes*, available at [www.nfsps.com](http://www.nfsps.com).

The convention’s online registration is at [www.nfsps.com](http://www.nfsps.com). The full fee of \$45 is appreciably less than the typical fee for the past few annual conventions, and there are options for attending one or two days for less. Plus you save all the money for travel and accommodations!

If you are experienced with Zoom sessions you will be ready to jump right in. If this would be your first time, you simply need an Internet connection for your computer, tablet or smartphone, and simple instructions for downloading the software. For registered attendees, there will be at least one session in early June to practice “How to Use Zoom.”

## Calling All Singers and Musicians

Willing to submit your talent during breaks before and after speakers at the National Convention? You will be asked to record yourself and submit your pieces on or before June 1, 2021. Contact Susan Stevens Chambers ([schambersmediator@yahoo.com](mailto:schambersmediator@yahoo.com)), 56376 Doc Jones Rd., Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 388-1432 business line (507) 387-8154 fax.

## Poetry Contest for Attendees – Deadline Extended

As a current member of ISPS, if you register to attend the NFSPS Virtual Convention in June you may submit **any number** of your poems to the “Convention Madness Poetry Contest.” It is open to registered attendees only. **The original contest deadline has been extended to May 15, 2021.**

Prizes are \$600 for first place, \$200 for second place, and \$100 for third place. Three Honorable Mention awardees will each receive a copy of the current Stevens Manuscript winning publication.

Submitted poems may be any form, any subject, limited to one page of 12-pt type (or larger). “No columns” is specified. Poems may have been previously published and if so, publication information should be included on the page with the poem. **Fee:** Three poems for \$10.00. There is no limit on the number of submissions, as long as an additional \$10 entry fee is included for each batch of three poems.

**By Mail** Submit two copies of each poem, one copy with no identifying marks, the other with your name, address, phone number, email (if any), and State society affiliation. If you want a list of winners, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Mail your submission to Susan Stevens Chambers, 56376 Doc Jones Rd., Mankato, MN 56001.

**By Submittable** Submit your poems at [nfsps.submittable.com](http://nfsps.submittable.com). They may be in any of the following formats: pdf, doc, docx, rtf, odt, or txt. For every three poems, submit an additional document listing the titles of the poems in that submission and your name, address, phone number, email address, and state society affiliation. Pay online. Repeat as desired for each additional batch of three poems. If you want a list of winners, send a prepared envelope as described above in the “By Mail” section.

# NFSPS

*National Federation of State Poetry Societies*

## **THURSDAY, JUNE 10 (CST)**

1:00 State Presidents Meeting  
3:00 Board Meeting  
6:00 Plenary Session

## **FRIDAY, JUNE 11**

1:30 NFSPS Contest Results  
4:00 Trommer Workshop  
6:00 CUP Competition Award  
7:00 NFSPS Contest Results  
9:30 Open Mic

## **SATURDAY, JUNE 12**

8:00 Open Mic  
10:00 NFSPS Contest Results  
12:30 Budd Powell Mahan Workshop  
1:00 Workshop  
2:30 NFSPS Contest Results  
5:00 Manningham Award  
5:30 Stevens Award  
6:00 Diane Glancy Keynote Address  
7:30 NFSPS Contest Results  
9:45 Open Mic

## **SUNDAY, JUNE 13**

10:00 Plenary Session  
11:00 Eleanor Berry Workshop  
12:15 Blackberry Peach Award  
1:45 NFSPS Contest Results

## 2021 VIRTUAL CONVENTION

- Thursday, June 10 through Sunday, June 13
- \$45 Full Registration (includes copies of 2019 & 2020 *Encore*)
- \$20 per Single Day Pass
- Registration Deadline: June 1
- Convention Madness Contest
- FULL INFORMATION & FORMS: <https://nfsp.us/>



**ANYWHERE & EVERYWHERE  
POETRY COAST TO COAST**

kac21.4.16

To register for the Zoom National Conference this year, click [here](#) (if you are reading online). To type the url into your browser: [2021ConventionRegistration.pdf \(nfsp.com\)](#). Or, if you are reading a paper version, copy this page and send it with a check or money order in U.S. funds to

**2021 NFSPS Convention Registrar**  
**c/o Mr. Steven Concert, 49 Kitchen Ave.**  
**Harveys Lake, PA 1861**

**Anywhere and Everywhere: Poetry Coast to Coast**  
 Thursday, June 10 through Sunday, June 13

**2021 NFSPS Convention Registration**  
 Registration DEADLINE is **June 1, 2021** (received)

The 2021 NFSPS convention will be virtual. The registration fee is \$45.00 to attend Friday through Sunday. All attendees paying the \$45 registration fee receive a copy of the 2020 and 2019 Encores.

Name: <span style="float: right;">Please Print Clearly</span>	NFSPS State Society:
Address:	Email: <i>To receive Zoom link</i>
City / State / Zip:	Phone:
Shipping Address for copies of <i>Encore</i> (if different from above): <i>Please Print Clearly</i>	

**Full Convention Registration** – Complete this section if you will be attending the entire convention.

- June 10, 2021 Thursday: State Presidents meeting, Plenary Session
- June 11, 2021 Friday: Trommer playshop, CUP competition results, NFSPS results
- June 12, 2021 Saturday: Mahan and Williams workshops, Manningham and Stevens competition results, NFSPS results, Diane Glancy Keynote Address
- June 13, 2021 Sunday: Plenary Session, Eleanor Berry workshop, Blackberry Peach results, NFSPS results **\$45.00**

**Single Day Registrations** – Complete this section if you are not planning to attend the full convention.  
**NOTE:** Single Day registrant will not receive complimentary copies of the 2020 and 2019 *Encore*.

- June 10, 2021 Thursday: State Presidents' Meeting, Plenary Session Free
- June 11, 2021 Friday: (same as above) \$20.00
- June 12, 2021 Saturday: (same as above) \$20.00
- June 13, 2021 Sunday: (same as above) \$20.00

**Single Day(s) Registration Total**

To register and pay electronically go to <https://nfsp.us/> Via mail, send a Check or Money Order, in US funds, payable to **NFSPS, Inc.** Send payment and this completed form to:

**2021 NFSPS Convention Registrar**  
 c/o Steven Concert  
 49 Kitchen Ave.  
 Harveys Lake, PA 18618

## ISPS Biennial Election of Officers 2021 – 2022 and 2022 – 2023 term

The existing ISPS Board-officers have been nominated for the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023 term:

President: Susan T. Moss  
Vice-President: Jim Lambert  
Treasurer: Judith Tullis  
Secretary: Thomas Chockley

The ISPS Secretary, Tom Chockley, will send a Board-officer ballot by mail to all ISPS members the week of May 1, 2021. Please mail your completed ballot to him promptly. According to ISPS bylaws, the election is to be concluded by the end of June. Voting on chapter facilitators is not on that ballot but can occur by zoom or email polling at the local level.

No chapter facilitators have requested to step down, but there is always the possibility of a change if the local members so wish, and a change is something many facilitators might welcome. We can discuss that locally.

## New ISPS Member News

**Karen Hurley Kuchar** of the Lisle chapter is the most recent new member of ISPS. She served 16 years as Executive Director for Family Shelter Service, the domestic violence agency for DuPage County. At Family Shelter, clients were encouraged to write about their experiences. Karen describes the two books of survivor stories that resulted as “moving and heart-breaking.”

Karen has been writing poetry for several years and has self-published a collection of poems on life transitions. She is the board chair of Anawim Arts, an organization focused on the intersection of art and spirituality. She facilitates Wisdom Writing Circles for writers to explore writing as a means of self-discovery. **Creating Space** is her newest project—monthly conversations with artists about their creative process and its expression of spirituality.

Terry L. Slaney, **At Large**, is another new member. His bio will be published in the next issue of this newsletter.

Remember to periodically check your bio online at [illinoispoets.org](http://illinoispoets.org) to be sure it is current and complete.

## Manningham Winners (in person or by Zoom)

Sunday, May 30, 2021, from 12:30 until 2:00 p.m., the winning students in this year's statewide Manningham Competition are invited to attend a poetry reading and open mic (in person, masked, or by zoom) at Brewed Awakening, in Westmont, IL with their parents and teachers. There will be an open mic following the winning students' presentations. The link for participation via Zoom will be sent out as the date nears (see below).

Brewed Awakenings  
19 W. Quincy St.  
Westmont, IL 60559

RSVP by May 25 to Mary Beth Bretzlauf at [mbbretzlauf@comcast.net](mailto:mbbretzlauf@comcast.net) to let her know if you will be attending online or in person.

Whether live or by zoom, our usual individual \$12 donations to Brewed Awakenings are appreciated, to offset the time and technical resources provided to ISPS by the coffeeshop management.

## Want to Sponsor a Poetry Contest?

To sponsor one of the two remaining 2021 ISPS poetry contests for this fall, you (and a friend or two, if you want) decide on

- the theme for the entries,
- the poetry form and/or number of lines (if fewer than the maximum of 40), and
- the total dollar amount for the three prize levels combined (see the sponsorship form for examples).

Blank sponsor forms were emailed recently by William Shakespeare to the entire ISPS membership. Your check and completed sponsor form should be mailed by Saturday, May 22, 2021 to arrive at the address on the form. (If you want to hand-deliver it, you have until May 27.) Your check will, of course, be returned to you if the 12-contest limit has been met or if your proposal is not accepted.

Try to come up with a novel twist—one that will be challenging yet fun. There is room in the competition for two more contests. The following ten topics or categories have already been specified.

Free verse, formal verse, traditional Haiku, and modern Haiku – all sponsored by ISPS

“The New Normal,” sponsored by the ISPS Board

“Open Doors & Opportunities,” sponsored by Idella Pearl Edwards

“Shakespearean Sonnet,” sponsored by Beth Staas and Donna Pucciani

“Humor Poetry,” sponsored by Jim Lambert in honor of Alan Harris for all the work he does for poetry and ISPS

“The Power of Touch,” sponsored by Ida Kotyuk

“In the Manner of Ogden Nash”

## More Member News

### Reminder: Haiku Publishing

Member Jim O'Brien of Urbana is seeking entries for the *Champaign Urbana News-Gazette* weekly haiku. In 2021, metaphors, synonyms, and poetic descriptions of *Hope* are encouraged.

If your piece is timely for a specific date or event (Mothers' Day, or a full moon, for instance), be sure to submit as far in advance of that as possible. Each Sunday's haiku is selected by the preceding Tuesday.

The typical English-language haiku format of 5-7-5 syllables in three lines is not required, but space is limited. Submit via email to [cupoetry@gmail.com](mailto:cupoetry@gmail.com) with "C-U haiku" in the subject line. In the body of your email, include your name and city of residence, as these are printed with the selected haiku.

The project is sponsored by two groups in Champaign-Urbana—CU Poetry, and CU Haiku.

If you have bio updates to share, send to [oasis@alharris.com](mailto:oasis@alharris.com); for possible member news, send to ISPS newsletter editor, Kathy Robinson, at [krobdzyns@gmail.com](mailto:krobdzyns@gmail.com). The ISPS website is at: [illinoispoets.org](http://illinoispoets.org).

### Sad Reminder from the National Office

The NFSPS will commemorate ISPS members who have passed away since June 1, 2019 by publishing their names in the August issue of *Strophes*. Please send information to ISPS President Susan T. Moss, [stm48@hotmail.com](mailto:stm48@hotmail.com).

Thank you for your help in commemorating the poets we have lost.



## Chapter Contacts

While Covid-19 gathering restrictions are in place statewide, please contact the chapter facilitator for more info on possible meetings online and how to access them.

All ISPS members are welcome at any monthly meeting (space permitting) after first contacting the facilitator.

### Southern Chapter (Carbondale)

Contact Kathy Cotton, facilitator  
[kacotton7@frontier.com](mailto:kacotton7@frontier.com)

### Central Chapter (Champaign)

Contact Kathy Robinson, facilitator  
[krobdzyns@gmail.com](mailto:krobdzyns@gmail.com)

### West Suburban Chapter (Darien)

Contact Caroline Johnson, facilitator  
[twinkscat@aol.com](mailto:twinkscat@aol.com)

### Haiku Chapter

Contact Tom Chockley, co-facilitator  
[tomzhaiku@outlook.com](mailto:tomzhaiku@outlook.com)

### Southwest Suburban Chapter (Lisle)

For the Zoom link, contact Barbara Eaton  
[Eatonb1016@aol.com](mailto:Eatonb1016@aol.com)  
or Wilda Morris  
[wem@americtech.net](mailto:wem@americtech.net)

### North Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)

Contact

Mary Beth Bretzlauf, facilitator  
[mbbretzlauf@comcast.net](mailto:mbbretzlauf@comcast.net)

### North Central Chapter (Pontiac)

Contact

Kathleen Murphy, facilitator  
[kathleenzmurphy@mail.com](mailto:kathleenzmurphy@mail.com)