

Short and Sweet: The Short Poem Challenge

Earth's natural orbit plus the daylight savings time fall-back November 1st bring Illinois short and shorter evening light. At the same time, these final months of 2015 are crammed with holidays. Whether hibernating or celebrating, you might find this season conducive to writing short poems. Consider the three-line haiku and senryu, four-line monotetra and Indian naani, five-line cinquain, tanka and Japanese lanturne, six-line cherita, and seven-line clarity pyramid and sevenling.

Fortunately, there are journals dedicated to publishing short poems. Added to the many haiku publishers are journals such as *Alba*, *Shot Glass*, *Hedgerow*, *Tiny Words* and *Noon*.

On page three we feature some responses to our last newsletter's challenge for haiku. We welcome you to submit your short poems (seven lines or fewer, excluding haiku) for consideration in the January 2016 issue. Send your little poems to kacotton7@frontier.com. ☺
—Kathy Cotton, Editor



A Message from the ISPS President

There are several subjects to cover in this fall newsletter. To start, I would like to celebrate the life and memory of Glenna Holloway, our first ISPS president. As noted on our website and a following editorial tribute, Glenna was a prolific and excellent poet. My own shared times with her were always informative with her gracious and generous suggestions. Several of us read her poems at a memorial service. She is already missed, but her poetry continues to speak.

On the topic of poetry, an exciting sixth chapter will be starting on February 21, 2016, at the Northbrook Public Library. Susan Auld, a passionate contemporary English language haiku (ELH) writer, will be leading this new chapter. Her fine skills and enthusiasm will enrich this specialized group. Learn more later in an interview with Susan (page 3).

Another addition is our Manningham contest chairman, Tom Moran. He has volunteered to lead the forthcoming student poetry contest for both our state and follow-up to the NFSPS contest with possible winners. Tom is also an at-large member of the ISPS board.

With November a short calendar page away, we are nearing the close of membership renewals. All of our members are vital attributes to an organization that started with one group and has grown to six chapters plus an online critique group. We are only as strong as each individual's contribution whether as volunteers, contributors to the website's poetry section and critique gatherings, anthology collections or simply caring about what ISPS represents and offers. The third volume of *Distilled Lives* is in the early planning stage as well as discussion of another conference and workshops. For renewal information check page 6 and also illinoispoets.org.

One last thought involves something I learned during a September workshop at Bjorklund in Door County, Wisconsin. There is a poetic form called a golden shovel which is a new and intriguing approach to using found material interwoven with your own original thoughts. Pick 6 to 24 lines of a completed poem and then use each word of the borrowed lines as the last word in each successive new line of your creation. You could also use one of your own poems and reinvent it with a whole different but often rewarding result. ☺

Enjoy Thanksgiving and happy writing, Susan T. Moss

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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 jacob erin-cilberto

jacob erin-cilberto (he prefers lower case) is a prolific poet who published his fourteenth book this year. His work, which has appeared in numerous small magazines and journals, including *Café Review*, *Skyline Magazine*, *Hudson View*, *Wind Journal*, *Pegasus*, and *Parnassus*, has garnered four Pushcart Prize nominations. erin-cilberto's latest collection, *Demolitions and Reconstructions*, as well as three previous books, *An Abstract Waltz*, *Used Lanterns*, and *Intersection Blues*, are available through Water Forest Press, Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Goodreads. He currently teaches at John A. Logan and Shawnee Community colleges and also leads poetry workshops and writes book reviews. Originally from Bronx, New York, erin-cilberto now lives in Carbondale, Illinois.

Tell us about your development as a poet.

Wrote a couple really bad poems that made the school paper in grade school (the nuns were very kind) but then got serious about writing in 1970. My two major influences were Jane Cooper (my best friend in college—who unfortunately passed in 1995, without knowing what I have done with my writing since those old days) and Simon and Garfunkel. Paul Simon's lyrics really dug deep into my heart and soul.

You are a prolific writer. What inspires you?

Just about everything imaginable. Often I get a line in my head and start from there. Sometimes I write about current events and sometimes the poems are autobiographical, but mostly I conjure up emotions from past experiences and use those for the emotion in the poems.

Whose poetry do you most enjoy reading?

Emily Dickinson, Sylvia Plath, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Robert Creeley, Frank O'Hara and Sharon Olds in that order. Dickinson is far ahead of the others. I love how she violated form.

Do you have any advice for other ISPS poets?

Write from the heart. As Sean Connery's character William Forrester said in the film *Finding Forrester*, "Write the first draft with your heart, then revise with your head." But I do feel that many poets worry way too much about form, and their work becomes more an exercise than heartfelt words that really jump off the page and slap the reader in the face. I also suggest trying different forms, but especially free verse, and finding your niche. Then whatever style comes most naturally, just keep on writing and hone that style the best you can.

Since your poetry is widely published, can you offer some publication tips?

Once you get enough work accumulated, go to *Poet's Market* or an online list of magazines and start sending your work out. Expect disappointments; they are part of it. But remember it is editor's taste, and don't give up. It's often not that the poems aren't good enough; you just need to find the right audience. Also, if you are interested in publishing a book, I recommend Water Forest Press, publisher of my last four collections. Victoria Valentine is amazing. Her artistry with putting books together greatly enhances the poet's work.

Do you set aside a regular time for working on poetry?

I am a constant writer. And 99 percent is poetry. I write poems, ordinarily in bunches, much like Frank O'Hara used to. I don't force it, or write at any particular time, but when it comes, I do it. I have always said that I feel more like a conduit: the words just come through me and my job is to get them onto the paper. I feel very lucky to be able to do this poetry thing. ☺

Poems by erin-cilberto

debunking a half-mast mythology

blither-blather

the deep throat of Dan Rather

sounds of silent heartbreak,

dramatically posed,

inflection wells voiced

at the bottom,

hearts lie

next to bodies underground

the rapid fire,

the dead don't count the bullets

the dead don't read their textbooks

the dead don't show up for the next class

the dead graduate,

but only to the next life

where maybe they make sense
of the senseless

and convey that knowledge

to those left standing

in line to pay their student fees

or in the next building, in the next town,
in the next headline

if only we could learn

maybe life would make the next grade
and death wouldn't pass
so easily, and
with such dark flying colors.

old recluse

I've hoarded so many lines
and now have a mess of dusty words
never smart enough to file them neatly

themes strewn all over the attic

in molding boxes

sort of like my leaking mind

the boards warping

sort of like my flat lined imagination
straightened phrases that used to curve
in signature metaphor

now just an ugly array of bad poems
unwoven like a half meshed widow's web
the blackness of logic

and this slight candle of consensus

won't come to agreement

so i just lock the door

and throw away the key
to an aging vocabulary. ☺

Auld to Lead Contemporary Haiku Chapter



Susan Auld of Arlington Heights joins the ISPS board of directors as facilitator of a new chapter focused on haiku. The Contemporary English Language (CEL) Haiku Chapter will begin meeting February 21, 2016, at the Northbrook Library. It will provide an opportunity for haiku poets to improve writing skills, receive peer feedback, and share resources. The chapter is open to anyone interested in writing contemporary haiku. Auld notes that the group "won't be addressing the 5-7-5 form."

Auld is an adult continuing education writing teacher whose classes motivate new writers and those who wish to use writing to heal and learn about haiku for meditation. For the past three years she also has led a haiku circle for area poets. Her haiku and haibun have been published both online and in print journals. Author of two poetry chapbooks, she is currently working on a haiku chapbook to be published next year.

Her own interest in haiku began when she attended a local workshop and "instantly knew that I was meant to write haiku." She stopped all other writing, she says, and has spent the last four years studying and writing haiku. "The simplicity of language, its meditative quality and its spiritual connection to nature soothed and challenged me," Auld adds.

ISPS members interested in haiku may enjoy reading poetry by some of her favorite haiku authors: the Japanese fathers of haiku—Basho and Issa and Buson, as well as contemporary poets, such as those whose work is found in journals such as *Modern Haiku*, *Frogpond*, *Acorn*, *Heron's Nest*, *Cattails*, *Haibun Today*, *A Hundred Gourds*, and *Wild Plum*. ☾

13 Members Take Wins in 2015 Poetry Contest

Poets from 21 states plus Canada submitted 461 poems to the ISPS 2015 Poetry Contest. Among the winners were 13 ISPS members:

FREE VERSE (99)

HM Carole Croll, Royersford, PA
HM Judith Tullis,
Indian Head Park, IL

FORMAL POETRY (54)

2nd Curt Vevang, Palatine, IL
HM Caroline Johnson,
Willow Springs, IL

HAIKU (104)

2nd Susan Auld,
Arlington Heights, IL
HM Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL
HM Mary Jo Balistreri,
Genesee Depot, WI

A HAPPY MEMORY (64)

2nd Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT

ENJOY ILLINOIS (29)

2nd Mary Jo Balistreri,
Genesee Depot, WI
3rd Caroline Johnson,
Willow Springs, IL
HM Sheila Elliot, Oak Park, IL

SUMMERTIME (28)

1st Carole Croll,
Royersford, PA
HM Michael Escoubas,
Bloomington, IL
HM Mary Jo Balistreri,
Genesee Depot, WI

HOPE (50)

2nd Caroline Johnson,
Willow Springs, IL
HM Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR

CUP O' JAVA (33)

1st Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
HM Jenene Ravesloot, Chicago, IL ☾

Issue 5 Haiku Challenge

In the last ISPS newsletter our poetry challenge was haiku. Here are a few responses from our members.

CANDACE ARMSTRONG, Murphysboro
darkness crawls away
with the first drop of daylight
inspiration glows

tell-tale white held high
shadows moving in the woods
deer at silent dawn

SUSAN AULD, Arlington Heights
November dawn...
an owl in a leafless tree
spreads its wings

(published in *Modern Haiku*)

shadow's moving
on moving shadows
October woods at dusk

(published in *Heron's Nest*)

TOM CHOCKLEY, Plainfield
repurposed
the wine demi-flask full
of baptismal water

dry fire
among the maple leaves
a long night ahead

Irish Sea sunset
our grandson cries
himself to sleep

MICHAEL ESCOUBAS, Bloomington
people in clusters
fragrant flowers laugh and chant
heaven's simile

cat curled on my lap
whole-wheat toast, butter and jam
coffee in my hand

JUDY TULLIS, Indian Head Park
snowman
in sunglasses...
eyes melting

horseshoe crab
at low tide...
out of luck

ISPS Says Farewell to our First President, Glenna Holloway



Glenna Holloway of Naperville left a legacy of poetry at her passing on September 14. A widely published, prize-winning poet and freelance writer, Holloway became the first president of the Illinois State Poetry Society in 1991.

Her prolific work appeared in more than 300 magazines and journals, including *North American Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, *The Formalist*, *The Georgia Review*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *America*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *The Lyric*, *Southern Poetry Review* and *Western Humanities*.

Holloway was a three-time winner of the Illinois Senior Poet Laureate contest, taking the title in 2009, 2010, and 2013. Her other poetry awards include the Pushcart Prize, 2001; Milton Dorfman Award; Heart Crane Memorial; Illinois Art's Council Fellowship, 2005; Grand prize, NFSPS Founders Award, 2006; and top win in the National League of American Pen Women Biennial, 2006.

We celebrate the life and poetry of Glenna Holloway with this poem by William Marr of Downers Grove.

DUST TO DUST

—In memory of Glenna Holloway

I see a strand of poetic gems
coming out of the urn
twinkle in the bright autumn sun
before falling into the open arms
of the earth
that thirsts for love
and nourishment

graceful and elegant
unhurried
a real lady from the South



ISPS members and former members at the September 19 Glenna Holloway memorial service at which several read Holloway poems. Back row: William Marr, Michael Galati, Judith Galati, Mardelle Fortier, Susan Moss, and Barbara Eaton; front row, Wilda Morris, Ann Carlson, and Georgiann Foley with Carol and Rev. Donald Niswonger.

ISPS New Members / Members' News

PHILLIP EGELSTON of Jonesboro recently published a new chapbook, *A Liberal Education and Other Poems*. His full-length collection, *Reste Placide*, was released in January.

SHELLEY HU of Northbrook is a new member of the North Suburban Chapter. Hu is an international trade consultant in the home decor industry and has published numerous poems written in Chinese for prestigious poetry magazines and newspapers in China. Hu enjoys reading and writing poems, playing golf and dancing.

LENNART LUNDH of Orland Hills is a new member of the South Suburban Chapter. He is a poet, short-fictionist, historian and photographer. His work has appeared internationally since the late 1960s. Lundh reads at Chicago-area open mics on a regular basis, as well as appearing in Indiana, Pennsylvania and Ohio several times a year.

JOAN MILLER of Carbondale is a new member of the Southern Chapter.

MADGEALICE MULLINAX recently moved to Paxton. Mullinax recalls that in 1988 she won a poetry contest with

her poem "Sailors of Life" but was unable to travel to receive the award. Still writing at age 90, she sends this recent poem:

God gave us ears,
God gave us eyes,
But also a mind to decide
What we should hear
And what we should see
So we in his grace will abide.
Since I have the choice
Of the things I am told,
Of the things that I do and I see,
May God give me the strength
To make a wise choice
So that he will be happy with me.

PATTY PIECZKA of Carbondale has her first novel, *Finding the Raven*, forthcoming from Ravenwood Press.

JIM REISS of Wilmette has two novels, *Facade for a Penny Arcade* and *When Yellow Leaves*, forthcoming from the NYC book publisher, Spuyten Duyvil.

NEIL WHITMAN of McHenry is a new member of the North Suburban Chapter. Now retired, Whitman calls himself a "casual reader and novice writer of haiku."



Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., Saturday, December 12
Pontiac Public Library, 815-844-7229
211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, November 8
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, November 8
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, December 13
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, November 14
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. ☕

Mark your Poetry Calendar for November/December 2015

- **NOVEMBER 1**, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., haiku workshop led by Lee Gurga at Starved Rock State Park, Utica.
- **NOVEMBER 2**, Poetry Writing Workshop with Jennifer Dotson. Register by contacting jdotson@cityhpl.com.
- **NOVEMBER 5**, 6:00 p.m., poetry reading: Matthew Minicucci, Caleb Curtiss and Charlotte Pence at Seminary Co-op, 5751 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago.
- **NOVEMBER 5**, deadline for submissions for the *DuPage Valley Review*, 2016 issue. Please e-mail your work by MS Word attachment (4-5 poems) to fortier@cod.edu.
- **NOVEMBER 11**, 7:00 p.m., "An Adventure Was Home: Gertrude Stein" at Chicago, Poetry Foundation, 61 West Superior Street, Chicago.
- **NOVEMBER 21**, 8:00 p.m., Bill Yarrow reading and open mic, Madame ZuZu's, 582 Roger Williams Avenue, Highland Park.
- **DECEMBER 1—14**, submission period for poems on the ISPS website.
- **DECEMBER 1**, 7:00—9:00 p.m., Poetry Writing Workshop. Register by contacting jdotson@cityhpl.com.
- **DECEMBER 4**, 8:00 p.m., Marcia Pradzinski reading and open mic at the Art Center, 1957 Sheridan Road, Highland Park.
- **DECEMBER 13**, 1:00—5:00 p.m., South Suburban Chapter holiday meeting at Lisle Library. All ISPS members are invited.
- **DECEMBER 15**, deadline, Gival Press Poetry Award, manuscript of at least 45 pages, www.givalpress.com.
- **DECEMBER 16**, deadline, Center for Book Arts, Letterpress Poetry Chapbook Competition, www.pw.org.
- **DECEMBER 19**, ISPS board meeting, to be held in Evanston.
- **DECEMBER 22**, deadline, Poetry Society of America, poetry chapbook contest, www.poetrysociety.org. ☕

Marchetti and Slot to Read at ISPS Co-Sponsored Brewed Awakening, November 29

Sandra Marchetti and Andrea Slot will be featured poets at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy, Westmont. The program on Sunday, Nov. 29, begins at 12:30 p.m. Cover charge of \$7.00 includes coffee and a snack. Open mic readings will follow. There will be no readings in December.



SANDRA MARCHETTI is the author of *Confluence*, a debut full-length poetry collection from Sundress Publications. Eating Dog Press also published an illustrated

edition of her essays and poetry, *A Detail in the Landscape*, and her first volume, *The Canopy*, won Midwest Writing Center's Mississippi Valley Chapbook Contest. Her award-winning poetry and prose appear in numerous publications. Marchetti is a teacher and freelance manuscript editor who lives and writes outside of Chicago.

ANDREA SLOT. Winner of Fiction International's 2015 Short Short Fiction Contest, Andrea Witzke Slot writes fiction, poetry, and essays, and is fascinated most by the ways in which



these genres intersect. She is author of the poetry collection, *To Find a New Beauty* (Gold Wake Press, 2012), and her work has been published widely, including *Bellevue Literary Review*, *The Adirondack Review*, *Mid-American Review*, *Poetry East*, *Measure*, *Fiction Southeast*, *Nimrod*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and in books published by SUNY Press (2013) and Palgrave Macmillan (2014). She lives between London and Chicago. ☕

ISPS Online Submissions

The next bimonthly submission period for member poetry on the ISPS website is December 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

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fortier@cod.edu

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

Renew Your Membership. . .or Help Us Find New Members

Maybe you are a "member" who hasn't sent in your renewal for the 2015-16 year that began July 1. Or perhaps you know a poet who would be inspired by belonging to ISPS. 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, Haiku 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 Renewal & New Membership Form PLEASE PRINT

Complete the information below and send the form with a check 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 Haiku, Northbrook At-Large

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home or cell) _____

Email _____

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