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Kathy Cotton

Champaign - Central
Jim O'Brien

Darien - W. Suburban
Caroline Johnson

**Haiku chapter (meets in
Northbrook)**
Tom Chockley

Lisle - SW Suburban
Wilda Morris

Northbrook - N. Suburban
Mary Beth Bretzlauf

Pontiac - N. Central
Kathleen Murphy

President's Message



Members have attended Charlotte Digregorio's Zoom presentation on writing senryu and haiku poems and recently submitted to the annual ISPS contest. Another creative event will be an opportunity to join Addison Center for the Arts artists with another ekphrastic response in February. More details are forthcoming for an early February poetry submission. A new possibility offered by ISPS is a competition for Book of the Year prize. More details can be found in this newsletter. Also, check on the BlackBerry Peach National Poetry competition that member Wesley Frazier-Keys competed in this year. Remember to keep your membership active in order to participate in ongoing and future activities.

Recently, I attended a workshop that was about writing poetry that is personally hard to express and thus, difficult to put down on paper. It could be about any number of different topics such as telling someone we love them, disclosing fears of dying, terror resulting from world events or what has happened in our town or family among many other ideas. The topic is an evocative challenge often difficult to face or describe. It is not necessarily meant to be shared with everyone; although, it might be appreciated by readers who feel the same way and could gain some solace from the poem.

What we poets have is a long reach into not only ourselves but the connection with other poets and nonpoets. We can express what poets have done long before us— a voice that is unafraid to address the human range of emotions from angst to great joy. We can be the bearer of words not only spoken to ourselves but to others who also seek a better understanding of our mortality, as Emily Dickinson expressed in the following excerpt:

I'm Nobody! Who are you?
Are you nobody too?
Then there's a pair of us—don't tell!
They'd banish us, you know!

Happy writing,
Susan T. Moss



Illinois State Poetry Society 2023 STUDENT CONTEST

November 1, 2022 — January 31, 2023

AWARDS

Top Three Winners & Two Honorable-Mention Winners in each contest

- Have their poems published in *Illinois Student Voices, Vol. 1*
- Receive a copy of the book (also to be available on amazon.com) and an award certificate.
- Receive a one-year membership in the Illinois State Poetry Society.

Top Three Winners in each contest

- Also receive cash awards:
 - 1st Place: \$30
 - 2nd Place: \$20
 - 3rd Place: \$10
- Poems advance to National Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest and will be judged for additional Manningham prizes. [More information at www.nfmps.com.]

2023 STUDENT CONTESTS

SENIOR DIVISION, Grades 9-12

1. President's Challenge Award

- SUBJECT: Peace
- FORM: Any

2. Lake Michigan Award

- SUBJECT: Water
- FORM: Any

3. Robert Frost Award

- SUBJECT: Any
- FORM: Rhyming Poem

JUNIOR DIVISION, Grades 6-8

4. Vice President's Challenge Award

- SUBJECT: Family
- FORM: Any

5. Mississippi River Award

- SUBJECT: Water
- FORM: Any

6. Land of Lincoln Award

- SUBJECT: Abraham Lincoln
- FORM: Any

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any submission that does not follow ALL guidelines will be disqualified.

- 1. Eligibility.** Original work of a single student in a public or private Illinois school or home-schooled in Illinois.
- 2. Entries.** Submit only one poem per contest.
- 3. Unpublished.** Poems published in print or online or accepted for publication (except in school publications) are ineligible.
- 4. Simultaneous submissions.** Poems currently entered in other contests are ineligible.

POEM & PAGE FORMAT

- **English** only.
- **30 line limit:** All text and blank lines count except the title and one blank line following the title.
- **Line width.** No line may exceed 50 characters, including punctuation marks and spaces.
- **Single-spaced lines.** (Set line spacing options to 0 pt. before and 0 pt. after).
- **One poem** per 8.5" x 11" page.
- **Typed** or computer-generated, 12 point, plain font (Times New Roman preferred) on white paper.
- **Title** all poems except haiku.

HOW TO PREPARE MAILINGS

- 1. Submit two typed copies of each poem** (one anonymous for the judge; one with ID). Include contest number and title on the upper left of both.
- 2. ID COPY ONLY:** On the upper right of ID copy, add:
 - Name of Student
 - Age and Grade
 - Name of School
 - School address with city/state/zip (required for ISPS and Manningham notification of winners)
 - Teacher/Sponsor (include first and

last name and Mr./Ms./Mrs.).

- Teacher/Sponsor's email address.

3. Originality declaration. The ID copy must also include a statement of originality, signed by the student:

"I certify that this poem is my original work and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poem in print or posted on the Internet."

Signed _____

4. Copies. Do not separate the copies. Do not staple the copies together.

5. Batched Mailings: Teachers/sponsors may send all students' poems in one envelope.

- Sort poems by contest number.
- Keep anonymous and ID copies together (no staples).
- Include your email address.

6. Self-entered. An individual student may submit entries in a single mailing.

SUBMISSIONS

There are no entry fees.

DEADLINE

Postmark must be between:

Nov. 1, 2022 – Jan. 31, 2023

MAILING ADDRESS

Send submissions to:

**ISPS c/o Mary Beth Bretzlauf
426 Park Avenue
Highland Park, IL 60035**

QUESTIONS?

Contact the contest chair:

**Mary Beth Bretzlauf
ISPS.manningham@gmail.com**

Copies of the contest guidelines are also available at: www.illinoispoets.org.

ISPS Chapter News

ISPS West Suburban (Darien) Chapter - The Darien ISPS critiquing group will meet **Saturday, November 5, from 1 - 4 p.m.** at the Indian Prairie Library's 2nd floor Board Room, 401 Plainfield Road, Darien. Bring 8 - 10 copies of up to 2 poems to share for critique. Also bring a food item to share, and a beverage for yourself. Also bring a mask in case they are required. <https://ippl.info> Caroline Johnson, Facilitator, twinkscat@aol.com. Driving directions can be obtained on [MapQuest.com](https://www.mapquest.com), or by calling the library at **630-887-8760**.

ISPS-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter will meet **Sunday, December 18, 2022, 1 pm to 3 pm using Zoom**. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Tom Chockley at tomzhaiku@outlook.com by Tuesday, October 11. To those who RSVP, Tom sends the meeting agenda and further information when he receives your reservation. ISPS and HSA haiku enthusiasts are invited to attend. We ask that those who wish to workshop their haiku for feedback, please limit the number to one haiku per participant. The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, December 13. Contact Tom Chockley (tomzhaiku@outlook.com) to attend the Zoom meeting and to receive further information.

ISPS Northern Chapter holds its next meeting on **Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 1 p.m.** via Zoom. If you would like to submit a poem for critique, you may do so before November 11th. Questions or to receive the link, email Chapter facilitator Mary Beth Bretzlauf, mbbretzlauf@comcast.net.

ISPS Champaign – Central Chapter (Champaign) will next gather on **Sunday, November 13, 2022, 12:30 pm CT** on Zoom. Jim O'Brien is the facilitator. To RSVP and if you wish to have a poem or two critiqued, please submit them to Jim by sending them to journaljim@gmail.com no later than Saturday night. Jim will forward the link and the poems early Sunday morning.

ISPS North Central Chapter (Pontiac) will meet on **Saturday, December 10, 2022 at 10:00 am** via Zoom. Contact Kathleen Murphy, Facilitator, kathleenzmurphy@gmail.com for information on how to participate.

ISPS Southern Chapter will meet at the Carbondale Library at **1:30 p.m., Sunday, November 13**. There will be no December Zoom meeting. The Meeting is held at the at the Carbondale Library, 405 West Main, Carbondale, IL 62901. [<https://www.carbondale.lib.il.us>]. Kathy Cotton, Facilitator, sipoets7@gmail.com. Please bring 10-12 copies of your poem for critiquing. Driving directions can be obtained on [MapQuest.com](https://www.mapquest.com), or by calling the library at **(618) 457-0354**.

ISPS Southwest Suburban Chapter (Lisle) will hold their next meeting on **Sunday, December 4, 2022, 1 p.m.** via Zoom. You may submit up to three poems (or three pages) for critique to wildamorris[at]ameritech[dot]net. Please, if possible put your poems in one document, with each poem beginning on a separate page, with your name in the upper right-hand corner of each page. Poems should be submitted by Friday, December 2.

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

Book of the Year 2022

Award

- \$100 and featured author opportunities

Eligibility

- Current ISPS members living in Illinois at the time of publication
- Book includes 2022 copyright date
- Book has a minimum of 40 pages of poetry

Book Submission

- Deadline: Postmarked by December 31, 2022
- Include with submission: name, address, email address and phone number
- Send \$10 Judge's Reading Fee for each book submitted—payable to Illinois State Poetry Society

Mail your 2022 poetry book to:

ISPS Book of the Year
1019 Applewood Lane
Anna, IL 62906





Welcome New Members

Judy Cummings has worked as a reading interventionist, teaching literacy and composition skills at all levels. She helped develop and manage a Literacy Program for refugee and immigrant families in Chicago and is also an accomplished musician/singer having traveled to the UK, Kenya, and South Africa with outreach choirs. She recently joined the Rockford Writers' Guild and teaches remotely from her home in northern Illinois.

ISPS Member News

In 2021, **Mary Jo Balistreri** was recognized in *New Resonance 12* as one of 12 rising voices in haiku. This summer, the online haiku journal, *Blōō Outlier*, has a special feature about Jo and her work. After an analysis of one of Jo's haiku (which *Alan Summers*, the editor, says was the reason he started the journal), readers are treated to eighteen of her previously unpublished poems and eleven more of Jo's haiku which have been published elsewhere. You can download this issue at <https://blooutlierjournal.blogspot.com/2021/08/blooutlier-journal-issue-3-is-haiku.html?m=1>.

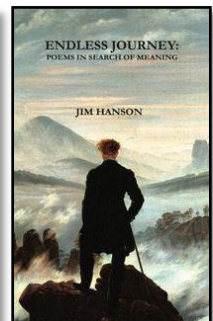
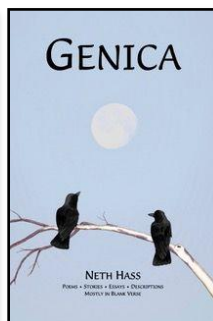
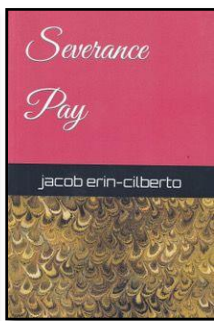
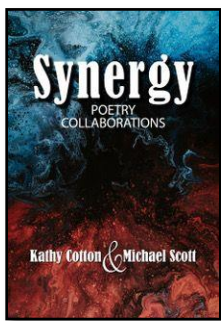
Bakul Bannerjee shared a few of her publication highlights from this summer and fall. *An Immigrant Woman's Fish Stories* appeared in the Fall issue of *Allium: A Journal of Prose and Poetry*. *Panoply*, A Literary Zine, picked up her poem, *An Accidental Appalachian*, this past summer. Locally, *Loving Lurie Garden* was included in the DuPage Monarch Project "Poets for Pollinators" and *Where Do Puffins Go* on the ISPS website.



Ruth Siburt, a member of the Champaign Urbana Poets, informs us that her rhyming picture book, *Spoon Song*, was released recently by Words Matter Publishing and is available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and WordsMatterPublishing. There are both soft and hard copies available.

Gail Denham, member at large living in Oregon, is pleased that her poem, *Waiting in Emergency*, garnered the 1st place award for Free Verse in this year's Poets & Patrons contest. Gail says, "(1st place) is a place I don't hit too often." Gail must be having a lucky streak this season as she was also awarded 1st and 2nd prizes in Massachusetts and Indiana poetry society contests. Her poem, *Barb*, was accepted for publication by *Lone Star*.

Several members from the ISPS Southern Chapter have been very productive recently. *Synergy*, a collection of collaborative and individual poems by **Kathy Cotton** of Anna and **Michael Scott** of Carbondale, is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). *Severance Pay*, the 20th poetry collection by **Jacob Erin-Cilberto** of Carbondale, is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). *Genica*, a collection of poems, stories and essays by **Neth Hass** of Anna, is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). *Endless Journey*, a poetry collection by **Jim Hanson** of Collinsville, is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).



Mark Hammerschick's poem *Lost in the Quantum Dimension of Your Eyes* was chosen as the second place winner in the open form, any style category of the Arizona State Poetry Society Annual Contest and will appear in *Sandcutters* anthology. Mark is a member of the Northern Chapter.

More ISPS Member News

Highland Park Poetry offers monthly in-person poetry readings and open-mics--**now** at a new location and new time in downtown Highland Park – Laughlin Gallery, 1900 Sheridan Road. All events at Saturdays at 4PM. Poets may read up to 3 poems in the open-mic. There is no cover charge and no café service but attendees are encouraged to make a donation to the venue. Upcoming dates are **November 12** and **December 10**. For more details, please visit www.HighlandParkPoetry.org.

Charlotte Digregorio will judge the "Write a Limerick" Contest in February, sponsored by the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District. All are welcome to enter. For more info, click here: <https://winnetkalibrary.libcal.com/calendar/events/?cid=3782&t=d&d=2023-02-01&cal=3782&inc=0>

Charlotte also seeks haiku or senryu submissions on the theme of any holidays that fall in November, December, or January for The Daily Haiku on her blog, www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com. You may email her from Nov. 5 through Nov. 15 with just one of your best holiday haiku or senryu at c-books@hotmail.com. A previously-published poem is fine. An unpublished poem may be edited for clarity. All are welcome to submit, especially those who've never appeared on her blog that features poets from sixty-one countries. Charlotte's goal is to feature all active haikuists/senryuists worldwide, beginners and experienced, who wish to appear. You will find her book, *Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All*, at libraries, and it will help you compose a publishable poem.

On October 29, three ISPS members, **Caroline Johnson**, **Wilda Morris** and **Susan T. Moss** read poems in the P2 Collective program at The Art Center of Highland Park.

Procedure for Posting ISPS Member Poems on Website

ISPS members may submit one poem and/or one haiga for posting on our website (illinoispoets.org). Poets whose last initial is N - Z may submit from November 1 - 7, and poets whose last initial is A - D may submit from December 1 - 7. For submission guidelines, please go to "Submitting Poems" (illinoispoets.org/submitting.htm) in our site.

If you have bio updates to share, send to oasis@alharris.com.
For possible member news or Welcome New Member (*brief bio, photo and two short poems*), send to ISPS newsletter editor Jennifer Dotson, Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org (be sure to include "ISPS News" in the subject line of your email).
The ISPS website is at: illinoispoets.org

Chapter Contacts

While Covid-19 gathering restrictions are in flux 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

Central Chapter (Champaign)

Jim O'Brien, facilitator
journaljim@gmail.com

West Suburban Chapter (Darien)

Contact Caroline Johnson, facilitator
twinkscat@aol.com

Haiku Chapter

Contact Tom Chockley, co-facilitator
tomzhaiku@outlook.com

Southwest Suburban Chapter (Lisle)

For the Zoom link, contact
Wilda Morris
wem@americtech.net

North Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)

Contact
Mary Beth Bretzlauf, facilitator
mabbretzlauf@comcast.net

North Central Chapter (Pontiac)

Contact
Kathleen Murphy, facilitator
kathleenzmurphy@mail.com