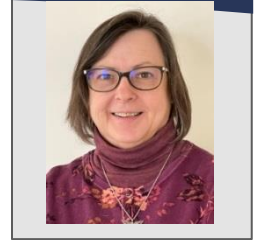


# President's Message



## ISPS Board Members

Mary Beth Bretzlauf  
**President**

Susan T. Moss  
**President Emerita**

Gay Guard Chamberlin  
**Vice President**

Thomas Chockley  
**Secretary**

Marjorie Rissman  
**Treasurer**

Lennart Lundh  
**Historian and  
Wm Shakespeare**

Sheila Kirscher  
**At-Large Board  
Member**

Alan Harris  
**At-Large Board  
Member  
Webmaster**

Jennifer Dotson  
**Newsletter Editor**

## Chapter Facilitators

**Carbondale - Southern**  
Kathy Cotton

**Champaign - Central**  
Jim O'Brien

**Brookfield – W. Suburban**  
Caroline Johnson

**Haiku (meets via Zoom)**  
Tom Chockley

**Lisle – SW Suburban**  
Wilda Morris

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

**Pontiac - N. Central**  
Kathleen Murphy

July 1, 2024

Dear Poetry Family,

I returned from the NFSPS Convention in Roswell, Georgia with pages of notes, several poems in various stages of drafts and most of all, I made wonderful connections with so many poets from across the country. Besides, workshops and keynote speakers from the Atlanta, Georgia area and Ihor Pavlyuk from Kyiv, Ukraine (virtually), there was business – the election of the NFSPS officers. I hope to share more with you soon.

Congratulations to all ISPS members who are 2024 NFSPS winners:

Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago, IL  
Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL  
Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL  
Stephanie DuPont, Roswell, GA  
Daniel Fitzgerald, Pontiac, IL

Barbara Funke, St. George, UT  
Melissa Huff, Champaign, IL  
Emore D. Jones, Iuka, MS  
Elizabeth King, Elgin, IL  
Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL

I want to keep you up to date on the progress of a new website. We have selected a design and are working on getting things up and running soon. One of the jarring realizations is that our webmaster, Alan Harris has done so much single-handedly!

Realistically, it will take several of us to keep the website going from here on out, so while I do have a couple of volunteers, a few more are needed to get us where we need to be **and stay up to date**. Please reach out to me at [isps.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:isps.manningham@gmail.com).

Keep writing!  
Mary Beth Bretzlauf

# ISPS Chapter News

**Champaign – Central Chapter (Champaign)** will hold a meeting via Zoom on **Sunday, July 7** at **1 p.m.** on Zoom. To RSVP and if you wish to have a poem critiqued, please submit it to facilitator Jim O'Brien, [journaljim@gmail.com](mailto:journaljim@gmail.com), no later than Saturday night prior. Jim will forward the link and the poems early Sunday morning.

**Founding Chapter (Lisle)** hosts a hybrid meeting at **1:15 pm CT on Sunday, August 4, 2024**. Join in-person at Lisle Public Library, 777 Front Street, Lisle, or on Zoom. Email [wildamorris@ameritech.net](mailto:wildamorris@ameritech.net) for the Zoom link. You may submit up to three poems (or three pages) for critique to so they can be distributed ahead of the meeting. Please put your poems in one single document, with each poem beginning on a separate page, with your name in the upper right-hand corner of each page [not in a header]. Poems should be submitted by Thursday, August 1. Those attending in person should print out the poems for themselves. You may want to bring snacks to share and some refreshment for yourself.

**ISPS-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter** - The ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter held its bimonthly Zoom chapter meeting on Sunday, Sunday, June 9, 2024. Those in attendance were Jo Balistreri, Tom Chockley, Susan Farnar, David Green, Margie Gustafson, Wilda Morris, Elizabeth Shack, Jill Spielman, and Jennifer Thiermann. After introductions and a brief description of our workshopping method, we spent the rest of the meeting in rewarding discussion of the twelve poems submitted for critique. **Our next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting: Sunday, August 18, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. CDT.** The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, August 13. Contact Tom Chockley ([tomzhaiku@outlook.com](mailto:tomzhaiku@outlook.com)) to attend the Zoom meeting and to receive further information.

**North Central Chapter (Pontiac)** Our next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, August 10** at **10AM** via Zoom. Contact Kathleen Murphy, Facilitator, [kathleenzmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenzmurphy@gmail.com) for how to participate.

**Northern Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)** - Meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 14** at **1PM** via Zoom software - contact Mary Beth Bretzlauf at [isps.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:isps.manningham@gmail.com). Those wishing to attend can RSVP to Mary Beth. You can also submit a poem for critique at that time as well.

**Southern Chapter (Carbondale)** has an upcoming meeting at **1:30 p.m., Sunday, July 14**, at the Carbondale Library, 405 West Main, Carbondale, IL 62901. For directions, visit <https://www.carbondale.lib.il.us>. Please bring 10-12 copies of your poem for critiquing.

**West Suburban Chapter** – Next meeting is **Saturday, July 6, 2024, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm CT at the Brewed Awakening Coffee Shop, 19 West Quincy Street, Westmont, Illinois**. Please bring 8 - 10 copies of up to two poems for critique. There is no fee to attend, but you are encouraged to purchase a beverage and pastry. You can bring your own snacks. Any questions please contact the facilitator, [carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com](mailto:carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com).

**Reminder!** Renew your ISPS membership, send your fee, information to Treasurer Marjorie Rissman. June 30 was the annual expiration. Email queries to [marjorierissman@gmail.com](mailto:marjorierissman@gmail.com). Forms available on website, [illinoispoets.com](http://illinoispoets.com).

The Last Sunday of the Month Poetry Readings at **Brewed Awakening** in Westmont from 12:30 – 2:00 pm (co-sponsored by ISPS). Email Wilda Morris [@wildamorris@ameritech.net](mailto:@wildamorris@ameritech.net) to recommend someone as featured poet.

# ISPS Members Take 35 Awards in NFSPS Contests

Congratulations to the ISPS Members selected for awards in this year's National Federation of State Poetry Societies' Contests.

## Jocelyn Ajami, Chicago IL

HM1 Contest 2, "A Safe Place"  
HM6 Contest 14, "Ghazal to Caillebotte"

## Paul Buchheit, Chicago, IL

1st Place Contest 24, "Redundant Doors"  
2nd Place Contest 35, "The Morning Wood"  
3rd Place Contest 50, "A City Street, December, 8pm"  
HM3 Contest 6, "The Angel Raphael Answers Questions"  
HM6 Contest 2, "Grandfather's Cabin"  
HM6 Contest 18, "Sounds of Solitude"  
HM7 Contest 25, "Storm"  
HM7 Contest 33, "In This Way She Returned"

## Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

2nd Place Contest 46, "Show Me Your Names"  
3rd Place Contest 35, "No Hiding Place"  
HM1 Contest 41, "Spring Rising"  
HM2 Contest 26, "Clean the Litter Box"  
HM3 Contest 3, "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes"  
HM4 Contest 27, "Waiting"  
HM5 Contest 14, "Borrowed Inspiration"  
HM6 Contest 12, "The Way It Was"  
HM7 Contest 28, "The Smalling Effect"

## Stepanie Dupont, Sugar Hill GA

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Contest 22, "A Scratched Symphony"  
HM1 Contest 43, "Trading the Heating Money"

## Daniel J. Fitzgerald, Pontiac IL

1st Place Contest 5, "Last Night"  
HM1 Contest 22, "Grace"

## Barbara Funke, St. George UT

HM3 Contest 8, "Greek to Me"  
HM4 Contest 2, "Among Switchbacks"  
HM5 Contest 11, "Legacy: Mother to Daughter"  
HM5 Contest 17, "They Call Me Big Thickets"  
HM7 Contest 4, "Antipodes, 2002"

## Melissa Huff, Champaign IL

HM3 Contest 11, "Music for the Eye"

## Emory D. Jones, Iuka MS

HM3, Contest 16, "Border Country"  
HM6, Contest 48, "Deep Freeze"  
HM7, Contest 32, "Singing of the River"

## Elizabeth King, Elgin IL

HM2 Contest 19, "Oxtail Soup"

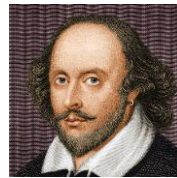
## Donna Pucciani, Wheaton IL

1st Place Contest 14, "Bank of the River Oise"  
2nd Place Contest 25, "Glitter"  
HM6 Contest 11, "Dockside, Night"

## Seeking ISPS Archives

The ISPS Board is working toward establishing an Archive of our history. If you have any physical or digital items (such as documents, photographs, videos, or audio files) which you think might be deserving of inclusion, please contact William Shakespeare, [illinoispoets@gmail.com](mailto:illinoispoets@gmail.com), with a description of the items.

## Seeking New Shakespeare



ISPS seeks a new William Shakespeare ASAP. This is volunteer position on the ISPS Board of Directors. Our current one is set to move abroad. William Shakespeare's major function is to share emails of event notices or poetry opportunities with ISPS members. If you are interested in the position or wish to recommend an ISPS member who might be a great candidate, please contact Mary Beth Bretzlauf at [isps.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:isps.manningham@gmail.com).

# WANTED: ISPS Contest Sponsors – Deadline is July 15!



## ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY 2024 Poetry Contest Sponsorship

- Complete and mail a form for each 2024 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 **MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024**
- Mail form(s) and check to: **Majorie Rissman, 1100 Kent Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035**

### SPONSOR INFORMATION [Please Print]

Name of Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPOSED CONTEST INFORMATION

Contest Category Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Contest Category NOT In Memory or In Honor

Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_

Subject:  Any  Designated Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Poetry Form:  Any  Designated Form \_\_\_\_\_

Line Limit:  40 Lines  Designated Line Limit \_\_\_\_\_

Prizes: <input type="checkbox"/> \$190 Sponsorship:	1st \$100	2nd \$60	3rd \$30
<input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Sponsorship:	1st \$75	2nd \$50	3rd \$25
<input type="checkbox"/> \$120 Sponsorship:	1st \$60	2nd \$40	3rd \$20
<input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Sponsorship:	1st \$50	2nd \$25	3rd \$15
<input type="checkbox"/> \$55 Sponsorship:	1st \$25	2nd \$20	3rd \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER \$ _____	1st \$ _____	2nd \$ _____	3rd \$ _____

Thank you for encouraging and supporting the art of poetry with this sponsorship.  
For more information contact: **Mary Beth Bretzlauf, [isps.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:isps.manningham@gmail.com)**

kac5924

To sponsor a category in the 2024 ISPS Poetry Contest, complete the following form and send it with a check for your designated prize no later than July 15th. We're grateful for your generous support of one of the Society's most popular annual projects.

# In Memoriam – Beth Staas & Joe Glaser

## Chief Mourner

By Beth Staas

Grown daughters on the left, sons on the right,  
the room smothered in roses and lament.  
I think about the past and its wonders –  
of acts that unbuckled me from myself,  
moments in the drizzling rain, holding hands,  
exploring the mysteries of love, of birth.

The time that remains has another dimension,  
not to savor a gain but survey what remains,  
to take that Paris flight long overdue,  
sashay the hotel with a whoosh and a swish  
and eye the concierge with a sneer.  
I will learn to drink Scotch, eat raw oysters and snails,  
and test drive a Jaguar, Mercedes and Porsche.

Dressed like a gypsy, I'll dance to the jangle of beads  
and shout incantations to the moon,  
unpack old sketches, hurling magenta and puce  
to make them bleed with delight,  
then buy a horse and ride naked,  
my hair astride the wind.

Getting old is not for sissies  
when dying is yet to come.

First place, published in *Ink to Paper 2016*, Indiana State Poetry anthology

**Beth Staas** (February 6, 1930 - April 26, 2024) was a coal miner's daughter, the first of her family born in the United States, who lived in a trailer across the tracks (all this is true). After following her husband in a corporate gypsy existence and raising five children, she went back to school, and later taught for some 25 years. Beth earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in English literature. Being told she was a "good writer" all her life, she began putting ideas together and authored four books including *The Two Percent Miracle* and *An Audience of One* (both available at amazon.com). Not until some few years back did she begin writing poetry, for she thought it was presumptuous to do so. Since then, she's had several pieces published and received awards for her poetry. Beth is survived by, her children Kris, Karen, August, Jim, David, and her sister Gertrude. As well as, eleven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her late husband, Jim Staas.



## Joseph ("Joe")

**Glaser** – (Dates not known)

Originally educated

in Engineering Physics and Mathematics at Cornell, CCNY (BS) and NYU (MS), most of Joe's career was spent in technical business management. In retirement, he dove into Liberal Arts, got an MLA from the University of Chicago, and began writing poetry in 2008. His poems have appeared in *The Journal*, printed by Northwestern University's OLLI program, *Front Porch Review*, *Decades Review*, *Muses' Gallery of Highland Park Poetry*, *Journal of Modern Poetry (JOMP-16, 18, 19*, winning best modern poem prize and Pushcart nomination in



2013), ISPS' *Distilled Lives* anthologies, and *East on Central*. Joe also pursued candid photography, especially when traveling, and his photos were published in some of the same media as his poems.

## My Tooth Fairy

By Joe Glaser

When first I saw him,  
Coat shining starchy white,  
Hair rising to a white pompadour,  
He projected confidence – calmness – caring.

I thought "Could this finally be my perfect dentist?"  
And willingly succumbed to the spell of his chair.

Over 30 years,  
fillings to root canals to crowns,  
bridges built, collapsed and reconstructed,  
patched via the alchemy of blue-light tuck-pointing,  
I stayed – strayed – got burned – and kept coming back.

Eighty-one now, mostly retired,  
he drills only on Tuesdays,  
and only 30 miles south – in *Flossmoor!*

These days I stick with what works,  
so I rent a car and dare the Dan Ryan.

Previously published in *East on Central*, 2019-20 issue  
and in *Highland Park Poetry's 2022 Odes Anthology*.

# Welcome New Members!

## Dog

who would have ever chosen me  
 for a Kansas farm dog?  
 dustmop animal  
 too dumb to herd sheep  
 too little to guard the chickens  
 too demanding of attention  
 my city owners tired of me  
 drove to the country and opened the door  
 ordered me to jump  
 left in a cloud of exhaust  
 I hobbled down a dirt road  
 until I found her  
 girl of my dreams  
 feeder of scraps  
 protector, friend  
 she totes me with her everywhere  
 we belong only to each other

~ Anara Guard

[from *Kansas, Reimagined* (The Poetry Box, 2024)]



She writes from her home in northern California.

**Anara Guard** is author of the prize-winning novel, *Like a Complete Unknown*, a collection of short stories, and two poetry collections, *Kansas, Reimagined* and *Hand on My Heart*. Her poems have received the John Crowe Ransom Poetry Prize from Kenyon College, a Jack Kerouac prize, first place from the California State Poetry Society, and been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her writing has been published in *Persimmon Tree*, *On the Seawall*, *Gold Man Review*, *Under the Gum Tree*, a *New York Times* Tiny Love Story, and elsewhere.

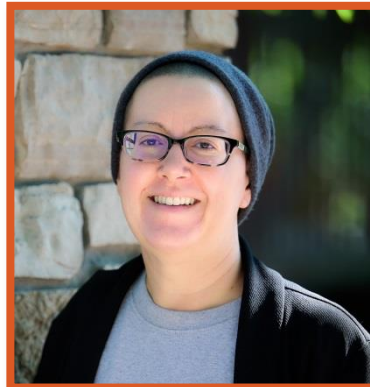
**James Lowell Hall** is a practicing physician in Chicago, Illinois. He is married with two children and a quirky German Shepherd, Moli. He is member of ISPS North chapter, the author of *Good Night Sweetheart Goodnight*, and *Lillibridge Houses*, and edits the poetry column



in *Wilmette Living Magazine*. See *Member News* for information about his newly released collection.

## Blair Martin

grew up on a small farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. They received their PhD in Clinical Psychology from Bowling Green State University and teach at Joliet Junior College. Their work has appeared in or is forthcoming in *Anti-Heroic Chic* and *Highland Park Poetry's Summer Muses*



## Ivy and Enterprise

In the time of icicle and drift,  
 I will shrivel and brown to dry husk.  
 You were nascent flesh inside  
 a thin membrane and bare skin.

When the sun's centered and heavy,  
 I meander on the pergola to shade the robin.

You decorated your cubbyhole  
 and stacked your many books  
 as you told Davie to keep to his side.

My leaves cultivate a dark thick verdant,  
 sheltering small critters.  
 You drive your yellow car  
 very fast, to be your own man.

I grow at the edges, filling in  
 empty spaces with freshness.  
 You open the door to a high house  
 which you fortify with the  
 emblems of status.

I took shape tentatively,  
 delicate tendrils unfurling.  
 You enter the mausoleum's crypt  
 to spread out all your bones.

I was new vine and possibility.  
 You will become the dissolution  
 of barriers, fissuring stone  
 partitions through which I burst.

~ Blair Martin

"Poetic Ponderings" in

## Nordic Ski, Devil's Thumb

mountains span horizon view  
 white clouds cleave vivid  
 heaven's blue

soaring mountain trail, Lowell  
 turns, telemarks down  
 double pole

raucous raven swooping high  
 halts. Waits for me to  
 learn to fly

skiing to the sun  
 Devil's Thumb

~ James Lowell Hall

*This poem was awarded 1st Place for a Prime 53 by an Adult Non-Resident in Highland Park Poetry's 2024 Poetry Challenge.*

Gallery/anthology. They are participating in the Lit!Commons community with the Loft Literary Center and are a member of the North Suburban Chapter of ISPS.

# Welcome New Members! *continued*



**Monica K. Allen** (she/her) is a professional organizer with Realistic Reorganization. She was diagnosed with Triple Negative Breast Cancer in February 2021, two months after losing her mom to Covid. A few months later, she took an online Intro to Poetry course as a way to promote healing. She continued writing hundreds of poems during cancer treatments and beyond. Ms. Allen hopes her poetry helps others to feel less alone in this wild world. She is a loving mom of two elementary-aged children and was a professional piano teacher and pianist, before Covid and Cancer. She is a member of the North Suburban Chapter of ISPS.

## Reach

Why not reach for the stars?

If you collapse, there is a blanket of fallen wishes ready to catch you.

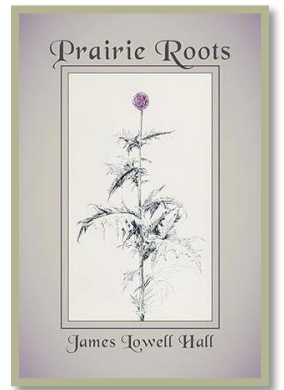
~ **Monica Kay Allen**

## ISPS Member News

**James Lowell Hall's** first poetry collection, ***Prairie Roots***, was released by Shanti Arts Publishing on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Visit his website to purchase your copy either from Amazon or direct from Shanti Arts Publishing - <https://www.jameslowellhall.com/prairie-roots>

**M.E. Hope** had two poems selected as semi-finalists in the James H. Nash contest from the Saint Louis Poetry Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The poem titles are "The History of Science" and "What We Will Find".

Highland Park Poetry is currently seeking to register contestants for this summer's Poetry Pentathlon. Visit [www.HighlandParkPoetry.org](http://www.HighlandParkPoetry.org) to download the details for participants. Advance registration is required by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Or email Jennifer Dotson with any questions – [Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org](mailto:Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org).



## Poetry Pentathlon: North Shore Edition

It's the Olympics for poets!  
Poets compete in 5 rounds before a live audience & 3 judges.  
*Only 1 is named champion!*  
**Saturday, August 10, 2024**  
**4-6 PM @ Madame ZuZu's**  
1876 First Street, Highland Park, Illinois.  
*Cover is one café purchase minimum.*



5 ROUNDS OF CHALLENGES



- CASCADE
- LIST
- POETRY POT LUCK
- ZEJEL
- ON-THE-SPOT

[HIGHLANDPARKPOETRY.ORG](http://HIGHLANDPARKPOETRY.ORG)

## More ISPS Member News & Events

**Marie Asner's** poem, *Trip to Perpetual Siesta*, will be published in Highland Park Poetry's 2024 Summer Muses' Gallery and print anthology available on Amazon.com. Marie has also participated in two live Poetry Reads at the Bear Necessities Coffee Shop in Overland Park, Kansas. The Reads are sponsored by the Johnson County, Kansas Library System. Marie has also participated in two Zoom Poetry Reads sponsored by the Kansas Authors Club.

**Highland Park Poetry** offers monthly reading & open-mic events on the Second Saturday of each month from 4PM – 6PM. Venues vary so be sure to visit the events page at [www.highlandparkpoetry.org](http://www.highlandparkpoetry.org). Upcoming features include: July 13: **Gail Goepfert & Patrice Boyer Claey**s.

Congratulations to **Charlotte Digregorio!** Her blog with "The Daily Haiku" was recently ranked #7 out of the 100 most popular haiku blogs worldwide by Feedspot, an online monitoring resource. She blogs at [www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com](http://www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com). Begun in 2010, her blog also includes other poetic forms; general surveys of poets about their art; author interviews; poetry writing and publishing tips; reviews and announcements of books about the Japanese poetic forms; and scholarly haiku essays.

East on Central, Highland Park's own journal of arts and letters, is sponsoring a **Haiku Workshop with Mary McCormack: An introduction to modern haiku moving beyond 5-7-5**. This \*FREE\* workshop will be held on **Tuesday, July 9 from 3 – 4:30 PM** at Secret World Books, 1774 Second Street in Highland Park. Advance registration required – email [info@eastoncentral.org](mailto:info@eastoncentral.org).

**Dr. Emory P. Jones** has been busy this spring so we will just a few of his recent accomplishments. "Living Lantern" and "Summer Autumn" were both included in the Summer 2024 print edition of *The Avocet*. His poem "Deep Freeze" earned 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Bobbie Drobeck Memorial Award, a contest of the Poetry Society of Tennessee, as well as publication in the April 2024 issue of *Pennsylvania's Poetic Voices*. Well done, Dr. Jones.

## Chapter Contacts

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)

Jim O'Brien, facilitator  
[journaljim@gmail.com](mailto:journaljim@gmail.com)

### West Suburban Chapter (Westmont)

Contact Caroline Johnson, facilitator  
[carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com](mailto:carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com)

### Haiku Chapter

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

### Founding Chapter (Lisle)

Contact Wilda Morris, facilitator  
[wem@americtech.net](mailto:wem@americtech.net)

### North Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)

Contact  
Mary Beth Bretzlauf, facilitator  
[ISPS.Manningham@gmail.com](mailto:ISPS.Manningham@gmail.com)

### North Central Chapter (Pontiac)

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