

News of the Illinois State Poetry Society September/October 2024

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Mary Beth Bretzlauf

Southern (Carbondale)
Kathy Cotton

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Caroline Johnson

President's Message



Dear Poet Family,

Is it just me, or has Mother Nature placed little reminders that summer will soon come to an end? The condensation on the car windows in the morning, patches of leaves on oak trees signaling a turn and the cool mornings dawning into less humid days. But as quickly as She plants these signs, She returns with 90-degree days!

Most of those who ordered our 7th anthology, *Distilled Lives*, should have them if you asked them to be mailed to you; otherwise you'll be able to pick them up at your next Chapter meeting. Watch your inbox for a William Shakespeare email about a virtual reading from our anthology.

Many, many thanks to Lennart Lundh, Marjorie Rissman and Kathy Cotton for their time and talents!

Speaking of Lennart, we wish him and his wife, Lin, safe travels and a wonderful life in Portugal! Thank goodness technology will keep us connected.

I have a bit of news from NFSPS President Joe Cavanaugh. He is focusing on raising money for Ukrainian orphanages, through "Poets for Peace". One of the fundraising ideas is an anthology. As I get more information about the project I shall let you know, and in return, if you are interested in helping with the fundraising, please let me know. Things are in the planning stage, but I love the idea of using our voices for helping others.

Another anthology opportunity is the Decatur Area Poets where several members Jim Wilkerson, Ruth Siburt and Beth Langdon gather. Here is a link for more information:

<https://www.decaturareapoets.com/inkwell>

Don't forget our annual contest! Deadline to enter is October 31st.

Keep writing,
Mary Beth

ISPS Chapter News

Champaign – Central Chapter (Champaign) will hold a meeting via Zoom on **Sunday, September 8 at 1 PM** on Zoom. This will be a joint meeting with the North Suburban Chapter. Contact Mary Beth Bretzlauf at isps.manningham@gmail.com to RSVP. You can also submit a poem for critique at that time as well.

Founding Chapter (Lisle) hosts a hybrid meeting at **1:15 pm CT on Sunday, October 6, 2024**. Join in-person at Lisle Public Library, 777 Front Street, Lisle, or on Zoom. Email wildamorris@ameritech.net for the Zoom link. You may submit up to three poems (or three pages) for critique 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, October 3. Those attending in person should print out the poems for themselves. You may bring snacks to share and refreshment for yourself.

ISPS-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter - The ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter held its bimonthly Zoom chapter meeting on Sunday, August 18, 2024. Those in attendance were Susan Auld, Tom Chockley, Janice Doppler, Lee Gurga, David Green, Margie Gustafson, Jeff Kressmann, Win Morgan, Wilda Morris, Michael Nichols-Wisdom, Elizabeth Shack, Jill Spealman, Jennifer Thiermann. After introductions and a brief description of our workshopping method, we discussed ten haiku submitted by participants and engaged in a detailed analysis of ten haiku poems, discussing the use of language, imagery, and the historical and seasonal references. Lastly, we shared our recent publications and Len Lundh's upcoming projects. **Our next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting: Sunday, October 20, 2024, from 1PM to 3PM CDT.** The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, October 15. Contact Tom Chockley (tomzhaiku@outlook.com) to attend the Zoom meeting and to receive further information.

North Central Chapter (Pontiac) held their August meeting on Zoom Saturday, August 10, at 10AM. Connie Kostelc, Donna O'Shaughnessy and myself were present. We were glad to welcome back Donna, who used to be in the group a few years ago. Connie gave us an update on plans for this year's collaboration with the Pontiac Art Center. Usually it's held in the spring, but this year it's going to be in October and have a Halloween theme. The Halloween theme is Grimm's Fairy Tales. The way the collaboration works is that we write poems for the artists, and they do art works based on our poems. We'll need to start writing poems pretty soon, so the artists will have time to finish their art works before the exhibit starts in October. The reception for the artists and poets will be held at the Pontiac Art Center on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 12 at 10AM on Zoom. Contact kathleenzmurphy@gmail.com for the Zoom link or more info about the PAC collaboration.

Northern Suburban Chapter (Northbrook) - Meeting will be held on **Sunday, September 8 at 1PM** via Zoom. Contact Mary Beth Bretzlauf at isps.manningham@gmail.com to RSVP. You can also submit a poem for critique at that time as well.

Southern Chapter (Carbondale) has two upcoming meetings: (1) **Sunday, September 8 at 1:30PM** 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. (2) **Sunday, October 13 at 1:30 PM** via Zoom.

West Suburban Chapter – Next meeting is **Saturday, September 7, 2024, 1 PM to 4 PM CT at the Oak Brook Public Library, 600 Oak Brook Road, Oak Brook, Illinois *NEW LOCATION***. Meeting will take place in the "Friends of the Library Meeting Room." Please bring 8 - 10 copies of up to two poems for critique. Also a food item to share, and a beverage for yourself. Any questions please contact the facilitator, carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com.

Reminder! Renew your ISPS membership, send your fee, and completed form to Treasurer Marjorie Rissman. The new year began July 1st! Email queries to marjorierissman@gmail.com. Forms available on website, 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 to recommend someone as featured poet.

ISPS 2024 Poetry Contests



ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

POETRY CONTEST

31st ANNUAL ISPS POETRY CONTEST • 2024 • www.illinoispoets.org

1. Holloway Free Verse Award

Sponsored by Donna Pucciani in memory of Glenna Holloway.

- SUBJECT: Water FORM: Free Verse
- PRIZES: \$100, \$60, \$30

2. Smile Award

Sponsored by Ida Kotyuk

- SUBJECT: Smile FORM: Any
- PRIZES: \$75, \$50, \$25

3. Any Subject & Form Award

Sponsored by Marjorie Rissman.

- SUBJECT: Any FORM: Any
- PRIZES: \$60, \$40, \$20

4. Wilda Morris Award

Sponsored by Bakul Banerjee In honor of Wilda Morris.

- SUBJECT: Sustainability FORM: Any
- PRIZES: \$60, \$40, \$20

5. Dreams Award

Sponsored by Susan T. Moss

- SUBJECT: Dreams
- FORM: Free Verse
- PRIZES: \$50, \$30, \$20

6. ISPS Free Verse Award

- SUBJECT: Any
- FORM: Free Verse
- PRIZES: \$50, \$30, \$15

7. ISPS Formal Verse Award

- SUBJECT: Any
- FORM: Any set form (Identify the form, upper left corner of submission)
- PRIZES: \$50, \$30, \$15

8. ISPS Traditional Haiku Award

- SUBJECT: Any
- FORM: Traditional 5-7-5 haiku
- PRIZES: \$50, \$30, \$15

9. ISPS Modern Haiku Award

- SUBJECT: Any
- FORM: Modern haiku
- PRIZES: \$50, \$30, \$15

10. Alan Harris Award

Sponsored by Mary Beth Bretzlauf in honor of ISPS webmaster and board member Alan Harris.

- SUBJECT: Technology
- FORM: Any LINES: Limit 30
- PRIZES: \$50, \$25, \$15

11. Sheila Kirscher Award

Sponsored by Mary Beth Bretzlauf in honor of ISPS board member Sheila Kirscher

- SUBJECT: Family FORM: Any
- PRIZES: \$50, \$25, \$15

12. Triolet Award

Sponsored by Highland Park Poetry

- SUBJECT: Any FORM: Triolet
- writersdigest.com/personal-updates/triolet-an-easy-way-to-write-8-lines-of-poetry
- PRIZES: \$50, \$20, \$10

Winners may be eligible for publication by HPP.

Contact jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org

13. Nair Award

Sponsored by Lakshmy Nair

- SUBJECT: Any FORM: Any
- PRIZES: \$30, \$20, \$10

14. Ekphrastic Poetry Award

Sponsored by Lennart Lundh

- SUBJECT: Any (Must include citation for source image)
- FORM: Any
- PRIZES: \$25, \$20, \$10

15. Wombat Award

Sponsored by Gail Denham in memory of Jane West of the Wombat Writers Group.

- SUBJECT: Humor, Make Me Laugh
- FORM: Free Verse, 30-line limit
- PRIZES: \$25, \$20, \$10

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. **Eligibility.** Contest is open to anyone.
2. **Original, unpublished work.** Not in print or published electronically.
3. **Previous awards.** Poems which have won monetary awards are not eligible.
4. **Poem format**
 - In English, typed/computer-generated, 12 or 14 point.
 - No fancy fonts or illustrations.
 - 40-line limit, unless specified. Title and one following blank line are not included in the line count. All other blank lines are included in the count.
 - One single-spaced poem per page.

5. Simultaneous Submissions/Awards

- No poem may be submitted in more than one category.
- No poet can win two awards in the same category.

6. Titles.

Except haiku, title all poems.

7. Submit two copies of each poem.

- **Originals.** In the upper left-hand corner include: Number and name of category; your name, address, e-mail, and phone number; the word "MEMBER" if you have current membership in ISPS.

- **Duplicates.** In the upper left-hand corner include ONLY number and name of contest category.

- **Two Stacks.** Separate originals from duplicates and stack in numerical order with originals on top.

8. Entry Fees (one poem per category)

- **ISPS Members.** \$10 flat fee, includes an entry in one or all categories.

- **NON-ISPS MEMBERS.** \$20 flat fee, includes an entry in one or all categories.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Submissions must be postmarked:

August 1 to October 31, 2024

MAILING

Mail submissions with a check payable to Illinois State Poetry Society, to:

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

WINNERS' LIST

List of all contest winners will be posted on our website: www.illinoispoets.org, and emailed to the membership via William Shakespeare. For a mailed copy, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your submission.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the contest chair:

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

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What's New at Brewed Awakening

For more than 18 years, the Illinois State Poetry Society has sponsored a poetry reading the last Sunday of each month (except December) at **Brewed Awakening Coffeeshop** in Westmont. On September 29, **Dr. E.J. Wade** will be one of the features. A three-time *Pushcart Award* nominee, she is an educator and poet whose writing focuses on the silencing, exclusion, and invisibility of African-American Women and their narratives. Literary Editor of the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, she currently works as a Homebound Tutor for Oak Park River Forest High School located in Oak Park, Illinois. Wade's poems are published in the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers*, *Women Speak*, the *New Ohio Review*, *Salvation South*, and *Callaloo Literary Journal*. She holds a Doctor of Education from National Louis University, an MA in Appalachian Studies from Shepherd University and an MA of Creative Media Practices from the University of The West of Scotland.

There is a cover charge of \$15, which entitles you to a beverage and snack. Zoom tickets will be available for \$8.00. Zoom link and other details will be posted on our website (www.illinoispoets.org).

Two highly celebrated Chicago-area poets, **Gail Goepfert** and **Patrice Boyer Claeys** will be featured on October 27. Their bios will be posted on the ISPS website.



Lennart Lundh at
Brewed Awakening on
August 25, 2024

The August reading featured **Lennart Lundh**, who gave his last poetry reading in Illinois before his upcoming move to Portugal. Since there was only one featured poet instead of the usual two, we held a contest to write a poem in first person which was not about yourself. The winner, **Karian Markos**, will have her cover charge paid for the next time she attends.

Other recent readers have included fourteen-year-old twins, **Piper** and **Henry Sobel**, both of whom were winners in our Manningham Contest; **Karen Fullett-Christensen**, who was the first Poet Laureate of Aurora, Illinois, **Carole Novak**, an active member of the Oak Park Writers Group; and **Mike Orlock**, who divides his time between Lisle, Illinois and Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and has served as the Poet Laureate of Door County, Wisconsin. If you haven't been attending in person or online, you have missed some wonderful events!

Later this year, we expect to hear from a Manningham Contest winner who will accompany his poem with his violin. We are hoping to also contract other winners of our youth contests. We wish to encourage young poets, while continuing to hear from more seasoned writers. Let Wilda Morris (wildamorris@ameritech.net) know who you want to have featured.

Welcome ISPS New Member!



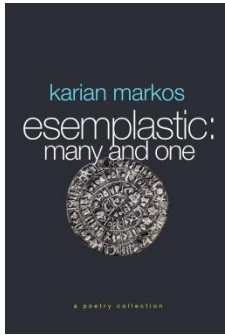
Brian Pondenis is originally from Chicago's south suburbs, and eventually relocated to Charleston, Illinois. In addition to writing poetry, Brian studied science and law, has served in local government, and currently resides with his faithful canine companion, Toby.

Drifting through the dusk,
A wandering soul seeks light,
In endless twilight.

~ **Brian Pondenis**

ISPS seeks a new **William Shakespeare** ASAP. This is volunteer position on the ISPS Board of Directors. Our current one is moving abroad this month. 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.

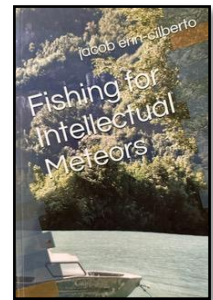
ISPS Member News



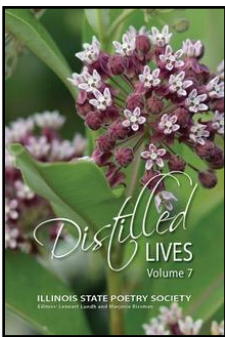
Karian Markos' poetry collection, *Esemplastic: Many and One*, won the 2024 Prairie State Poetry Prize for a First or Second Book and has been published by Highland Park Poetry Press. Karian is a featured poet for Highland Park Poetry on Saturday, September 14, 2024 at 4PM at the Wayfarer Theater, 1850 Second St., Highland Park. Visit <https://www.karianmarkos.com> – to learn about upcoming appearances or to order your copy direct from Amazon.

Highland Park Poetry is now accepting submissions of poetry manuscripts for their **2025 Prairie State Poetry Contest for First or Second Book**. This year's guest judge is Wisconsin poet Jan Chronister. Winner receives \$150 cash prize, 20 copies of the published manuscript plus the opportunity to be a featured poet at a Highland Park Poetry reading event. October 15th is submission deadline. Visit www.highlandparkpoetry.org to download the submission guidelines.

jacob erin-cilberto published his 24th poetry collection, *Fishing for Intellectual Meteors*, available on amazon.com.



Southern Chapter member **Dr. Johanna Haas** of Murphysboro is publisher of a new

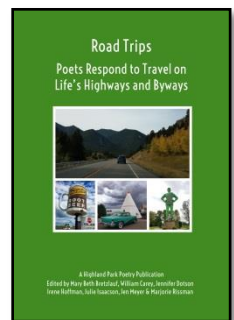


company, Cicada Song Press. To “help words take flight,” they offer large-press services especially tailored for small writing forms such as poetry collections and short stories. Visit cicadasongpress.com for more information.

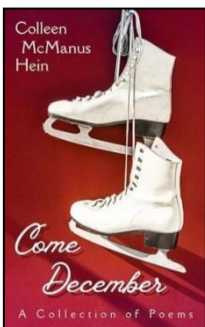
The ISPS biennial anthology, *Distilled Lives, Volume 7*, is available on amazon.com. Pre-ordered copies will be shipped when copies are available from the printer. ISPS plans a follow-up Zoom book-launch reading by anthology poets.

Marie Asner is included in the Highland Park Poetry Press' 2024 anthology "Road Trips"

with her poem, "Perpetual Siesta." Marie has also participated in two Zoom poetry readings sponsored by the Kansas Authors Club. Upcoming at the end of August 2024 at the Coffee Shop in Overland Park, Kansas is a duo poetry reading by Harold and Marie Asner with poems written by Harold Asner in alternate verses with each person having a "voice."



In addition to Marie Asner as mentioned above, the following ISPS members are included in Highland Park Poetry Press' *Road Trips: Poets Respond to Travel on Life's Highways and Byways* – **Mary Beth Bretzlauf***, **Joseph Kuhn Carey**, **William Carey***, **Kathy Cotton**,



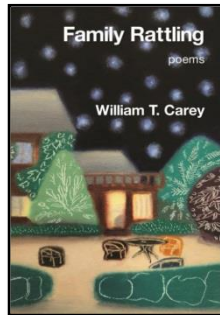
Gail Denham, **Charlotte Digregorio**, **Jennifer Dotson***, **Lynn Fitzgerald**, **Judith Stern Friedman**, **Cynthia Gallaher**, **Mark Hammerschick**, **Kathryn P. Haydon**, **Colleen McManus Hein**, **Melissa Huff**, **Julie Isaacson***, **Michael Lee Johnson**, **Maggie Kennedy**, **Elizabeth Stanley King**, **Pauline Kochanski**, **Jill Angel Langlois**, **William Marr**, **Blair Martin**, **Wilda Morris**, **Susan T. Moss**, **Lakshmy Nair**, **Marjorie Rissman***, **Judith SooHoo**, **Jill Spealman**, **Linda Wallin**, **Jim Wilkerson**, and **Rita M. Yager**. Names noted with an asterisk served as contributing editors. Printed copies are available on Amazon or at Secret World Books, 1774 Second Street, Highland Park, Illinois. Or visit The Muses' Gallery to enjoy all of the poems online accompanied by art and photography - <https://highlandparkpoetry.org/themusesgallery/>.

Colleen McManus Hein recently self-published her debut poetry collection, *Come December*, earlier this summer and it is now available on Amazon.

More ISPS Member News & Events

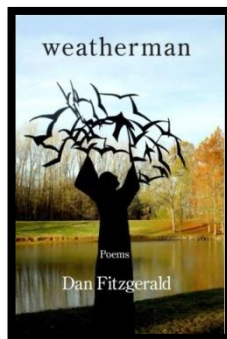
Charlotte Digregorio runs The Daily Haiku and other poems on her blog with poets from sixty-one countries published. www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com. ISPS members are invited to send either one haiku or one tanka for consideration. Contact Charlotte at c-books@hotmail.com with your poem. Charlotte is the author of *Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All*, adopted by universities globally as a supplemental text.

William Carey's poetry collection, **Family Rattling**, was published this spring by Kelsay Books. You can hear him read selections on Saturday, September 14 at 4PM at Highland Park Poetry's monthly reading and open-mic event. A review of his book was posted August 1st and is available to read - <https://highlandparkpoetry.org/reviewsandthanks/>.



Jennifer Dotson facilitates an online generative poetry workshop through the Highland Park Public Library's *Library U!* Program. Designed for both beginning and experienced poets. In-class writing exercises will challenge your inner muse as we experiment with various poetic forms and sparks for inspiration. There are six sessions which meet every other Tuesday evening from 6:30 – 8:30 PM on Zoom. Dates are 9/24, 10/15, 10/29, 11/12, 11/26, and 12/10. Cost is \$60 for six classes. 8 students max. Registration now: <https://www.hplibrary.org/libraryu-5486>.

Dan Fitzgerald, author of **weatherman: poems** (Kelsay Books, 2023), will be a featured poet for Highland Park Poetry's October 19th reading & open-mic event from 4 – 6 PM at the Wayfarer Theater (1850 Second Street). *Please note the date has been changed from HPP's customary second Saturday so as not to conflict with Yom Kippur.*



Kathryn Haydon recently launched the publication entitled **Deep Soul Strengths** on Substack. "Deep Soul Strengths is designed as a sunrise, to shine gradual light on the thinkers we need that are too often misunderstood." Poetry and art are included in this publication, as are opportunities to connect with other deep souls. ISPS poets are invited to sign up for free to receive monthly articles via email <https://deepsoulstrengths.substack.com/>

Chapter Contacts

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

Central Chapter (Champaign)

Jim O'Brien, facilitator
journaljim@gmail.com

Founding Chapter (Lisle)

Wilda Morris, facilitator
wildamorris@ameritech.net

Haiku Chapter

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kathleenzmurphy@mail.com

North Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)

Mary Beth Bretzlauf, facilitator
ISPS.Manningham@gmail.com

Southern Chapter (Carbondale)

Kathy Cotton, facilitator
kacotton7@frontier.com

West Suburban Chapter (Westmont)

Caroline Johnson, facilitator
carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com

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 September 1 - 7, and poets whose last initial is A - D may submit from October 1 - 7. For submission guidelines, please go to "Submitting Poems" (illinoispoets.org/submitting.htm) in our site.