

## News of the Illinois State Poetry Society January/February 2025

### ISPS Board Members

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Jennifer Dotson  
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### Chapter Facilitators

Central (Champaign)  
Jim O'Brien

Founding (Lisle)  
Wilda Morris

Haiku (meets via Zoom)  
Tom Chockley

North Central (Pontiac)  
Kathleen Murphy

North Suburban  
Mary Beth Bretzlauf

Southern (Carbondale)  
Kathy Cotton

West Suburban  
Caroline Johnson

# President's Message



Dear Poetry Family,

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a safe, warm, and wonderful holiday.

Congratulations to our winning members of our contest! We will be hosting a virtual reading of the prize-winning poems on **Thursday, January 23rd at 6:30PM CST**. To meet the poets and listen to their poems, email me at [isps.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:isps.manningham@gmail.com) to reserve a spot. Remember, we all love an audience!

We will also have our second Poetic Connections all poet open mic – with special guests, members of Ohio Poetry Association!!! Date to be determined but look for later in February.

We are gearing up for Poetry Month with a spotlight on you! We have so many incredible poets that it would be a tragedy if we didn't have the opportunity to meet, greet, and listen to them. The ISPS Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter will be spotlighted Thursday, April 17th, which happens to be International Haiku Poetry Day. Mark your calendar! More dates for the other chapters to come.

The student contest is open until February 28th, so if you know of a junior high or high school student, teacher, please share the flyer with them. It is free to enter.

Look for the Poets for Peace information in this newsletter. Submissions for an anthology opens soon.

Let's use those warm fuzzies from the past couple weeks to write some poetry to carry us through these long cold nights of January and February and share with our Ohio poets!

Keep writing,

Mary Beth

# ISPS Chapter News

**Champaign – Central Chapter (Champaign)** will hold its next meeting via Zoom on **Sunday, January 5 at 1 PM**. This meeting will be hosted by facilitator Jim O'Brien. Contact Jim at [journaljim@gmail.com](mailto:journaljim@gmail.com).

**Founding Chapter (Lisle)** hosts a hybrid meeting at **1:15 pm CT on Sunday, February 2, 2025**. 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 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, January 30. Those attending in person should print out the poems for themselves. You may bring snacks to share and a refreshment for yourself.

**ISPS-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter** - The Illinois State Poetry Society-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter held its bimonthly Zoom chapter meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2024. Those who attended were Tom Chockley, Susan Farner, David Green, Lee Gurga, Margie Gustafson, Win Morgan, Michael Nichols-Wisdom, Carole Novak, Judy SooHoo, and Elizabeth Stanley King. After introductions and a brief description of our workshopping method, we spent the rest of the meeting in rewarding discussion of the seven poems submitted for critique. Additionally, Tom presented a new Illinois State Poetry Society initiative to spotlight Zoom poetry readings by members of ISPS chapters. The Haiku Chapter will be the first chapter to offer such an event to all ISPS members. The date is tentatively set for April 17, 2025. **Our next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting: Sunday, February 16, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CDT.** The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be **Tuesday, February 11**. Contact Tom Chockley ([tomzhaiku@outlook.com](mailto:tomzhaiku@outlook.com)) to attend the Zoom meeting and to receive further information.

**North Central Chapter (Pontiac)** - The next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, February 8 at 10AM** on Zoom. Contact [kathleenzmurphy@mail.com](mailto:kathleenzmurphy@mail.com) for the Zoom link.

**Northern Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)** - Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 1PM** via Zoom. Those wishing to attend may contact Mary Beth Bretzlauf at [isps.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:isps.manningham@gmail.com) to RSVP. You can also submit a poem for critique at that time as well.

**Southern Chapter (Carbondale)** – Kick off your New Year poetry resolutions and attend the first meeting of the new year on **Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 1:30PM** at the Carbondale Library. The Library is located at 405 West Main. Contact Kathy Cotton, Facilitator, [sipoets7@gmail.com](mailto:sipoets7@gmail.com), with any questions. Please bring 10-12 copies of your poem for critiquing. **Driving directions** can be obtained on [MapQuest.com](http://MapQuest.com), or by calling the library at **(618) 457-0354**.

**West Suburban Chapter** – Next meeting is **Saturday, January 4, 2025, 1 PM to 4 PM CT at the Westmont Public Library, 428 N. Cass Avenue, Westmont, Illinois 60559 \*NEW LOCATION\***. 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](mailto:carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com).

**Reminder – It is never too late to renew your ISPS Membership!** Send your fee, and completed form to Treasurer Marjorie Rissman, 1100 Kent Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035. The new year began July 1<sup>st</sup>! Email [marjorierissman@gmail.com](mailto:marjorierissman@gmail.com). Forms available on website, [www.illinoispoets.com](http://www.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.

# Elementary, High School & College Student Contests



## 2025 ISPS STUDENT CONTESTS

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY December 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025

### AWARDS in EACH CONTEST

**Top Three plus Two Honorable-Mention** poems will be published in the 2025 *Fresh Ink* anthology. Winning poets receive a copy of the book (also available on amazon.com), a certificate, and a one-year ISPS membership.

**Top Three Winners** also receive cash prizes, and their poems advance to the National Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest. For details, visit the NFSPS website: [nfsps.net/manningham-student-poetry-contest](http://nfsps.net/manningham-student-poetry-contest)

### SENIOR DIVISION CONTESTS Grades 9-12

#### 1. ISPS President's Challenge Award

Sponsored by Mary Beth Bretzlauf

- SUBJECT: Dreams
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 30 lines, includes spaces between stanzas
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

#### 2. Sejong Poetry Award

Sponsored by the Sejong Cultural Society

- SUBJECT: Any FORM: SIJO, Korea's Poetry form, <https://bit.ly/3qN30IZ>
- LINE LIMIT: 3 lines, total 45 syllables
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

#### 3. Ida Kotyuk Award

Sponsored by Ida Kotyuk

- SUBJECT: Monday Morning
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

#### 4. Music Poetry Award

Sponsored by Jill Spealman

- SUBJECT: Music
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 30
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

#### 5. Poems That Sing Award

Sponsored by Colleen McManus Hein

- SUBJECT: Poems that could be song lyrics
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40 lines
- PRIZES: \$40/\$30/\$20

#### 6. Huitain Award

Sponsored by Highland Park Poetry

- SUBJECT: Any
- FORM: Huitain: 8-line stanza; ababbcb rhyme scheme; usually 8 to 10 syllables per line. LINE LIMIT: 8
- PRIZES: \$35/\$25/\$15

#### 7. Lederer Award

Sponsored by Bill Lederer

- SUBJECT: Confinement
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$35/\$25/\$15

### JUNIOR DIVISION CONTESTS Grades 6-8

#### 8. ISPS President's Challenge Award

Sponsored by Mary Beth Bretzlauf

- SUBJECT: Dreams
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 30 lines, includes spaces between stanzas
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

#### 9. Sejong Poetry Award

Sponsored by the Sejong Cultural Society

- SUBJECT: Any FORM: SIJO, Korea's Poetry form, <https://bit.ly/3qN30IZ>
- LINE LIMIT: 3 lines, total 45 syllables
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

#### 10. Ida Kotyuk Award

Sponsored by Ida Kotyuk

- SUBJECT: Monday Morning
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$30/\$20/\$10

#### 11. Lederer Award

Sponsored by Bill Lederer

- SUBJECT: Confinement
- FORM: Any LINE LIMIT: 40
- PRIZES: \$15/\$10/\$5

### 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.** Only one poem per category. No poem can be submitted to multiple categories.
- 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 not eligible.

### POEM & PAGE FORMATS

- **English only.**
- **Lines.** All text and blank lines count except the title and one blank line after title.
- **Line width.** Maximum: 50 characters, includes punctuation marks and spaces.

includes punctuation marks and spaces.

- **Single-spaced lines.**
- **One poem** per 8.5" x 11" page.
- **Typed** or computer-generated, 12 point, plain font (Times New Roman, etc.) on white paper. No artwork.
- **Title** all poems except haiku.

### PREPARING SUBMISSIONS

**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 include:

- Student's name, age, grade level.
- School/home-school name and address (city/state/zip required).
- Teacher/Sponsor's name (first and last name and Mr./Ms./Mrs.).
- Teacher/Sponsor's email address.
- Add on the page a statement signed by the student: "I certify that this poem is my original work (no AI assist) and has not been copied in whole or part from any author's poem in print or posted on the Internet."

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Copies.** Do not separate the copies. Do not staple the copies together.

**4. 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 or paper clips).
- Include your email address.

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

**6. Fees.** There are no entry fees.

**DEADLINE:** Postmark must be between: **December 1, 2024–February 28, 2025**

### SEND TO:

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

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Mary Beth Bretzlauf  
[ISPS.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:ISPS.manningham@gmail.com)  
website: [www.illinoispoets.org](http://www.illinoispoets.org)

11/15/24/ha



National Federation  
of State Poetry Societies

36th Annual  
College Undergraduate

# Poetry Contest

Winners receive:

- \$500
- chapbook publication & 75 copies
- \$300 stipend to attend national convention, Albuquerque, July 2025

submit 10 original, unpublished poems  
by Jan 31, 2024

\$10 entry fee

guidelines and submissions:  
[nfsps.net](http://nfsps.net)

The above listed deadline date of January 31, 2024 is a typo – the actual deadline is **January 31, 2025**. Please encourage the students & teachers in your life.

## You're Invited - Mark Your Calendar Now!

YOU ARE INVITED TO  
ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY  
POETIC CONNECTIONS

# OUR CONTEST WINNERS' READING

6:30PM CDT  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025  
VIA ZOOM

To connect, listen or read, RSVP to Mary Beth Bretzlauf at [isps.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:isps.manningham@gmail.com) by January 21st to receive the link on the 23rd.





# Congratulations ISPS 2024 Poetry Contest Winners!

## Contest Category: Holloway Free Verse Award

Sponsor: Donna Pucciani in memory of Glenna Holloway Judge: Diane Taylor, AL

### ISPS MEMBERS IN BOLD

First Place	Janice Freytag	Souderton	PA	Leveling the Water
Second Place	Jamie Wendt	Chicago	IL	Aqua (after Pharaoh's daughter)
<b>Third Place</b>	<b>Pauline Kochanski</b>	<b>Skokie</b>	<b>IL</b>	<b>dragon fly &amp; friends</b>
Honorable Mention #1	Terry Jude Miller	Richmond	TX	
<b>Honorable Mention #2</b>	<b>Johanna Haas</b>	<b>Murphysboro</b>	<b>IL</b>	
Honorable Mention #3	Mike Wahl	Athens	AL	

## Contest Category: Smile Award

Sponsor: Ida Kotyuk Judge: Michael Spears, UT

<b>First Place</b>	<b>Carole Croll</b>	<b>Royersford</b>	<b>PA</b>	Clean Sweep
Second Place	Grace Diane Jessen	Glenwood	UT	Last Request
<b>Third Place</b>	<b>Paul Buchheit</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>IL</b>	Smile For Me
<b>Honorable Mention #1</b>	<b>Michael Orlock</b>	<b>Lisle</b>	<b>IL</b>	
Honorable Mention #2	John Crawford	Arkadelphia	AR	
Honorable Mention #3	Denis Feehan	Mesquite	NV	

## Contest Category: Any Subject/Any Form Award

Sponsor: Marjorie Rissmann Judge: Diane Taylor, AL

First Place	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	Oh, Baby, It's Cold Out There
<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Emory Jones</b>	<b>Iuka</b>	<b>MS</b>	THE THING ABOUT QUILTS
Third Place	Amy Wray Irish	Lakewood	CO	Hummingbird Jazz
<b>Honorable Mention #1</b>	<b>Gail Denham</b>	<b>Sunriver</b>	<b>OR</b>	
Honorable Mention #2	Lorraine Jeffrey	Orem	UT	
Honorable Mention #3	V. Kimball Barney	Kaysville	UT	

## Contest Category: Wilda Morris Award

Sponsor: Bakul Banerjee Judge: Amelia Martens, KY

<b>First Place</b>	<b>Johanna Haas</b>	<b>Murphysboro</b>	<b>IL</b>	Absent Hills
Second Place	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	Nature's First Gold is Gray
<b>Third Place</b>	<b>Kathryn Haydon</b>	<b>Lake Bluff</b>	<b>IL</b>	Along I-55 South to Saint Louis
<b>Honorable Mention #1</b>	<b>Cynthia Gallaher</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>IL</b>	
<b>Honorable Mention #2</b>	<b>Kathleen Cotton</b>	<b>Anna</b>	<b>IL</b>	
Honorable Mention #3	Laura Bridges	Hot Springs	AR	

## Contest Category: Dreams Award

Sponsor: Susan T. Moss Judge: Elise Ball, TN

<b>First Place</b>	<b>Kathleen Cotton</b>	<b>Anna</b>	<b>IL</b>	A Disappearing Dream
<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Paul Buchheit</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>IL</b>	Nightmare
<b>Third Place</b>	<b>Cynthia Gallaher</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>IL</b>	Good Dreams of a Septuagenarian
Honorable Mention #1	Tanya R. Whitney	Sorrento	LA	

<b>Honorable Mention #2</b>	<b>Camille Balla</b>	<b>Lisle</b>	<b>IL</b>
<b>Honorable Mention #3</b>	<b>Brian D. Pondenis</b>	<b>Charleston</b>	<b>IL</b>

**Contest Category: ISPS Free Verse Award**  
**Sponsor: ISPS Board Judge: Pat Laster, AR**

<b>First Place</b>	<b>Jocelyn Ajami</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>IL</b>	The Poet of <i>Ishbiyya</i>
Second Place	Crystie Cook	Sandy	UT	Life Under the Shadow of Herons
Third Place	Peter Witt	College Station	TX	Waterlily Whispers
<b>Honorable Mention #1</b>	<b>Carol Alfus</b>	<b>Woodstock</b>	<b>IL</b>	
Honorable Mention #2	Cathy Moran	Little Rock	AR	
Honorable Mention #3	Maggie Van Dyke	Brookfield	IL	

**Contest Category: ISPS Formal Verse Award**  
**Sponsor: ISPS Board Judge: Barbara Blank, TX**

First Place	John McPherson	Searcy	AR	On the Death Of A Single Waxwing
Second Place	Lynda La Rocca	Salida	CO	The Night Watch
Third Place	Jerri Hardesty	Brierfield	AL	The Recital
Honorable Mention #1	Crystie Cook	Sandy	UT	
<b>Honorable Mention #2</b>	<b>Gail Denham</b>	<b>Sunriver</b>	<b>OR</b>	
<b>Honorable Mention #3</b>	<b>Candace Armstrong</b>	<b>Murphysboro</b>	<b>IL</b>	

**Contest Category: ISPS Traditional Haiku Award**  
**Sponsor: ISPS Board Judge: Martha Balph, UT**

First Place	Janice Freytag	Souderton	PA	drops of blood on snow
Second Place	Lynda La Rocca	Salida	CO	wild horses gallop
<b>Third Place</b>	<b>Camille Balla</b>	<b>Lisle</b>	<b>IL</b>	SNOW ON PALM SUNDAY
Honorable Mention #1	Maggie Van Dyke	Brookfield	IL	
<b>Honorable Mention #2</b>	<b>Jim Wilkerson</b>	<b>Decatur</b>	<b>IL</b>	
Honorable Mention #3	Grace Diane Jessen	Glenwood	UT	

**Contest Category: ISPS Modern Haiku Award**  
**Sponsor: ISPS Board Judge: Elaine Person, FL**

First Place	Edward Huddleston	Baxley	GA	crumbling church
Second Place	Dennis Patton	Alexander	AR	arching backs
Third Place	Emory Jones	Iuka	MS	Squawks coming from above
Honorable Mention #1	Jocelyn Ajami	Chicago	IL	
Honorable Mention #2	John O'Connor	Winnetka	IL	
Honorable Mention #3	Terry Jude Miller	Richmond	TX	

**Contest Category: Alan Harris Award**  
**Sponsor: Mary Beth Bretzlauf Judge: Julie Cummings, CO**

First Place	Brian D. Pondenis	Charleston	IL	Years Ago
Second Place	Jim Wilkerson	Decatur	IL	Embedded
Third Place	Grace Diane Jessen	Glenwood	UT	Scammed
Honorable Mention #1	Amy Wray Irish	Lakewood	CO	
Honorable Mention #2	Sandra McGarry	Fort Collins	CO	
<b>Honorable Mention #3</b>	<b>Emory Jones</b>	<b>Iuka</b>	<b>MS</b>	

**Contest Category: Sheila Kirscher Award**  
**Sponsor: Mary Beth Bretzlauf    Judge: Budd Mahan, TX**

First Place	Lorraine Jeffrey	Orem	UT	Finding You Way Home
<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Jim Wilkerson</b>	<b>Decatur</b>	<b>IL</b>	Goodbye to Summer Rains
Third Place	Denis Feehan	Mesquite	NV	Traveling with Trixie
Honorable Mention #1	Victor Klimoski	Saint Paul	MN	
Honorable Mention #2	Maggie Van Dyke	Brookfield	IL	
<b>Honorable Mention #3</b>	<b>Michael Orlock</b>	<b>Lisle</b>	<b>IL</b>	

**Contest Category: Triolet Award**  
**Sponsor: Highland Park Poetry    Judge: Stephen George, PA**

First Place	Dennis Patton	Alexander	AR	Noir Movie Star
Second Place	Sara Gipson	Scott	AR	When Grass Danced
Third Place	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	As the Sun Settles Down
Honorable Mention #1	Crystie Cook	Sandy	UT	
<b>Honorable Mention #2</b>	<b>Paul Buchheit</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	<b>IL</b>	
Honorable Mention #3	Mike Wahl	Athens	AL	

**Contest Category: Nair Award**  
**Sponsor: Lakshmy Nair    Judge: Pat Taylor, AR**

First Place	Terry Jude Miller	Richmond	TX	Raking a Poem
Second Place	Janice Freytag	Souderton	PA	Billboards
Third Place	Kathryn Schmeiser	Fairview	NC	Not My Story
Honorable Mention #1	Lynda La Rocca	Salida	CO	
Honorable Mention #2	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	
<b>Honorable Mention #3</b>	<b>Daniel Moreschi</b>	<b>West Glamorgan.</b>	<b>WALES</b>	

**Contest Category: Ekphrastic Poetry Award**  
**Sponsor: Lennart Lundh    Judge: Sheila Moore, TX**

<b>First Place</b>	<b>Sheila Elliott</b>	<b>Oak Park</b>	<b>IL</b>	What Every Child Wants
<b>Second Place</b>	<b>Barbara Funke</b>	<b>St. George</b>	<b>UT</b>	Legacy: Generations of Work
<b>Third Place</b>	<b>Daniel Moreschi</b>	<b>West Glamorgan.</b>	<b>WALES</b>	Black Burns Red
Honorable Mention #1	Victor Klimoski	Saint Paul	MN	
Honorable Mention #2	Barbara Blanks	Garland	TX	
Honorable Mention #3	Marc Davidson	Ormond Beach	FL	

**Contest Category: Wombat Award**  
**Sponsor: Gail Denham in memory of Jane West of the Wombat Writers Group**  
**Judge: Russell Strauss, TN**

First Place	Lynda La Rocca	Salida	CO	When God Takes a Vacation
Second Place	John Crawford	Arkadelphia	AR	Ode to Spam
Third Place	Laura Bridges	Hot Springs	AR	Online Dating
<b>Honorable Mention #1</b>	<b>Jill Spealman</b>	<b>Glen Ellyn</b>	<b>IL</b>	
<b>Honorable Mention #2</b>	<b>Jennifer Dotson</b>	<b>Highland Park</b>	<b>IL</b>	
<b>Honorable Mention #3</b>	<b>Elizabeth Stanley- King</b>	<b>Elgin</b>	<b>IL</b>	



# Calling all...

POETS OF PEACE™

Join Ihor Pavlyuk, the Peoples Poet of Ukraine and a 2024 Nobel Prize nominee, as we engage our time, talents and treasure to support war orphans in Ukraine.

*...because we accomplish more together.*

## #1 Who We Are

Poets for Peace is open to all poets interested in supporting world-peace projects. The group organized in response to the inspiring June 2024 presentation of "Writing Under Fire" by celebrated poet Ihor Pavlyuk at a National Federation of Poetry Societies convention.

## Our Initial Projects: #2

- **A 2024 fundraiser for trauma therapy equipment** for a Ukraine orphanage. Donations have exceeded the \$6,000 goal.
- **A 2025 anthology of peace poems.** Any poet may send submissions. Detailed guidelines will be posted on [www.nfsps.net](http://www.nfsps.net).
- **Free 2025 entertainment events** that feature poetry readings along with music, drama or other arts, plus information about Poets for Peace. Donations accepted at the events will fund future projects.

## #3 How to Join:

Membership is voluntary and without dues. To be added to the mailing list, send your name and email address to: Shei Sanchez, Communications Coordinator, [sheisheiwrites@gmail.com](mailto:sheisheiwrites@gmail.com)



# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

**Poets for Peace** is creating an anthology of peace poems to raise awareness about challenges facing orphans of war in Ukraine. All proceeds from this project will provide much-needed assistance to programs that provide crucial recovery resources for Ukraine's orphans.

## Submission Guidelines

Any submission not meeting all guidelines will be disqualified.

- 1. Eligibility.** Submissions are open to all, including international poets.
- 2. Theme.** The theme of all anthology poems will be peace, including the toll of war, life during wartime, fears, hopes, challenges, dreams, etc.
- 3. Literary Standards.** We will not publish work that includes gratuitous profanity, or is obscene, sexually graphic, hate-mongering, or abusive of any social, racial, ethnic, religious, or gender group.
- 4. Poems.** By making a submission, the poet affirms poems are their original work, without A.I. assistance. Previously published poems must include source attribution.
- 5. Line limits.** Each poem is limited to 35 lines, including blank lines. Do not count the title and blank line following the title. No line will exceed 50 characters, including punctuation.
- 6. Font.** Use a plain font. Times New Roman, 12 point is preferred.
- 7. Submissions.** Make only one submission, which can include up to three poems (three is preferred). An experienced review panel will select one qualifying poem for the anthology.
- 8. Submission Files.** Submit poems, one poem per page, as pdf., .doc, .docx, or .rtf file. Poet's name, address, email address and phone number must be included on the upper left corner of each page.

Submissions from Ukrainian poets may be in their native language, accompanied by an English translation.

- 9. Submission period.** Submissions will close at a **maximum of 150 poets**, between January 1, 2025 through midnight EST, March 31, 2025.
- 10. Submission email.** Send **only one** email. In the subject line, type POETS FOR PEACE SUBMISSIONS. In the body of the email, type your name as you want it to appear in the anthology, plus your address, email address, phone number, and the number of poems you are submitting. Attach poem file, and send via email to: poets4peace.anthology@gmail.com.
- 11. Exclusions.** We cannot accept poems embedded in the body of an email or paper copies sent by mail.
- 12. Submission fee.** There is no fee for Ukrainian poets. A fee of \$10 for all other poets can be paid by credit or debit card or PayPal at the [Sunflower Poetry Society of Kansas](#) website. Click on "Poets for Peace Anthology fee" at the bottom of the homepage.
- 13. Notification.** Poets will be notified of receipt of poems, fee payment, and anthology selection no later than May 1, 2025.

Please consider submitting your poems and share your voice with the many poets of Poets for Peace who are dedicated to this mission..

Sunflower Poetry Society of Kansas serves as fiscal agent for **Poets for Peace**



# ISPS Member News

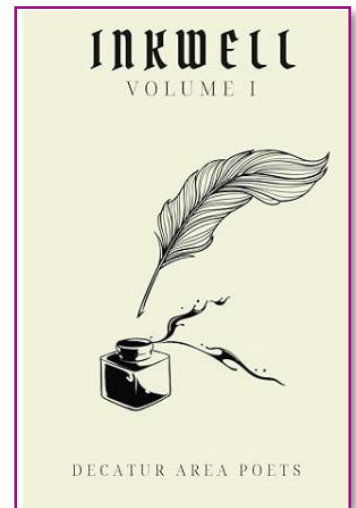
**Marilyn Peretti** had her poem about the rebuilding of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris published in The New Verse News Newsletter. For those unfamiliar with the publication, The New Verse News presents politically progressive poetry on current events and topical issues. Marilyn's poem, *Our Lady's Triumph*, was published as a rebuttal response to another author's poem criticizing the practices of the Catholic Church. Both are correct and as Marilyn noted, "a very interesting juxtaposition." *Editor's note: Since this was included in a newsletter email and not published on their website, I cannot provide a link – if you are interested in reading, request a copy from Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org*



**Melissa Huff** has been nominated by the editor of *Blue Heron Review* for a 2025 Pushcart Prize. Her nominated poem, *Talking with Trees*, can be found in their Spring 2024 issue: <https://blueheronreview.com/bhr-issue-18-spring-2024/>. Two other poems by Melissa were just published in December, one in *RockPaperPoem's* Issue #10: [https://rockpaperpoem.com/current\\_issue.html](https://rockpaperpoem.com/current_issue.html) and the other in *The Orchards Poetry Journal* (Winter 2024 issue): <https://orchardspoetry.com/>. Congratulations, Melissa, and fingers crossed that your work is selected to appear in the 2025 Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses anthology.

**Jim Willkerson** is pleased to report "Our group in Decatur has just published our first anthology, *Inkwell*. We are hosting a Book Release & Poetry Reading on January 25th. Also published in this book are the top 8 finalists from our first Decatur-wide high school student poetry competition. Members of ISPS were the judges for this competition. Over 100 students participated! I would like to invite you to the event in January, and also let you know where you can get a paperback or hardcover version of the anthology on Amazon, if you would like to support us. Also, feel free to "like and follow" the Decatur Area Poets Facebook page while you are there. Several of our members are also members of ISPS! Bonus - other ISPS poets in this anthology as well!

Event Link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/14xRxBsxf8/> and Amazon Link: <https://a.co/d/1Fc6b7B>



## 2025 POETRY CHALLENGE

Highland Park Poetry is now accepting submissions for the 2025 Poetry Challenge from poets of all ages - 1) **The Roaring Twenties** (honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> publication anniversary of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*); 2) **Ode to a Geographic Place** (inspired by Diane Redleaf's *Odes to the States: Poems Inspired By the 50 States and the District of Columbia*) ; or 3) **Dodoitsu** (any subject written as a dodoitsu, Japanese form of four lines where first three lines have 7 syllables and the last line has 5; usually concerning topics of work or love. **Download submission guidelines, entry form, and Dodoitsu form instructions and examples.**

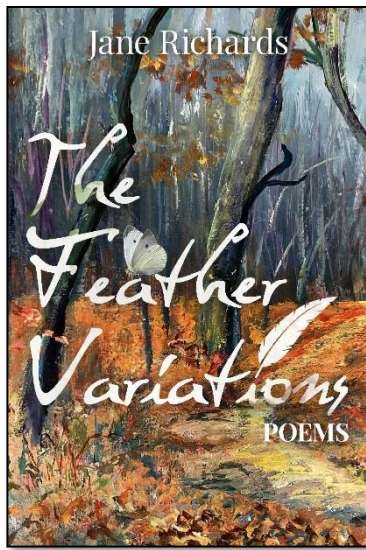


**Deadline is Monday, January 27, 2025.**

**East on Central**, Highland Park's Journal of Arts & Letters, is open for submissions for its 2025-2026 edition (Volume 24) between **January 1 – February 28, 2025**. Writers may submit up to 4 pieces for a \$10 reading fee. EOC welcomes your best work on any subject for the main section of the journal. A smaller special section will address the topic, **Focus on Exploration**. Visit [www.eastoncentral.org/submissions](http://www.eastoncentral.org/submissions) for more information.

# More ISPS Member News & Events

**Jane Richards**, a North Suburban Chapter member, will be a featured reader at Highland Park Poetry's monthly reading and open-mic on Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 4 – 6PM. Jane will read poems from her book, *The Feather Variations* as well as newer poems. Copies of her book will be available for purchase. There is no cover charge. The event will be at the Wayfarer Theater office, 1850 Second Street, Highland Park. Poets wishing to participate in the open-mic after the features may bring up to 3 short poems. Come a few minutes early to sign up for the line-up. Visit [www.HighlandParkPoetry.org](http://www.HighlandParkPoetry.org) for more information.



**Michael Escoubas** and **Jennifer Dotson** are both pleased to have their work translated into Chinese by editor Xu Yingcai and published in the upcoming issue of *Poetry Hall* (Volume 26), a contemporary journal with poems published in both Chinese and English. Michael's poem is titled "February Snow." Jennifer has three very short poems: "Reading is Breath, a Trinet", "Working Tanka", and "Weather Tricube." Poets interested in learning more about Poetry Hall should visit <https://poetryh.com>. Copies available on Amazon.



Deadline for the March/April 2025 issue of the ISPS Newsletter will be **Sunday, February 24, 2025**. Members are encouraged to submit their poetry news – recent publications, upcoming readings and events, workshops or classes.

Newer ISPS members who have not yet been featured in a newsletter are invited to send a brief bio, photo (.jpg preferred and optional for the camera-shy) and 2 - 3 short poems (previously published with acknowledgement). Send to Jennifer Dotson, newsletter editor [jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org](mailto:jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org).

## 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](mailto:journaljim@gmail.com)

### Founding Chapter (Lisle)

Wilda Morris, facilitator  
[wildamorris@ameritech.net](mailto:wildamorris@ameritech.net)

### Haiku Chapter

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

### North Central Chapter (Pontiac)

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

### North Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)

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

### Southern Chapter (Carbondale)

Kathy Cotton, facilitator  
[s.i.poets7@gmail.com](mailto:s.i.poets7@gmail.com)

### West Suburban Chapter (Westmont)

Caroline Johnson, facilitator  
[carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://illinoispoets.org)). Poets whose last initial is N - Z may submit from January 1 - 7, 2025 and poets whose last initial is A - D may submit from February 1 - 7. For submission guidelines, please go to "Submitting Poems" on our website ([illinoispoets.org/submitting.htm](http://illinoispoets.org/submitting.htm)).

