



ISPS Board Members

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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



Happy, healthy and creative New Year! As we start another passage through the calendar, thoughts drift toward what new approaches and themes we could try in our poetry. What are some topics such as concerns, reminiscences, regrets, hopes, and connections or goals that have not been explored yet? Is there a song that brings back a memory and feeling, an object that invokes a story worth condensing into a poem? The blank pages seem to invite fresh starts, a revitalization of what could come from our inventive imagination. Unexplored ideas and approaches can rejuvenate our writing and open the path to insightful productivity.

Congratulations to the winners of the latest ISPS poetry contest. Seventy-eight poets entered and submitted five hundred and twenty-nine poems. A student contest is presently being planned for the new year.

The ISPS Board is considering programs for the coming year which includes the coming of the promised anthology. The process had a couple of snags but all is well. Efforts to expedite the publication have been taken. Among forthcoming events is "Expressions: Art & Verse Festival 2023" at the Addison Center for the Arts. The exhibit, opening February 15, 2023, features a recital of ISPS poets on Saturday, **February 18 from 1-4 pm**. Thirty-five members have signed up to participate. Everyone is invited to view the show and hear the poems.

Joy Harjo, the U.S. Poet Laureate, offers the following advice for poets: "Find the language to express yourself and approach your art with deeper motivation. Explore rhythm in art, navigate the world of revisions, and unlock your innate creativity to help you express your unique stories."

Happy writing,

Susan T. Moss

The ISPS has revised the student contest program to resemble the adult contest! The deadline for student entries is February 28th. *Please share this information with any eligible students you may know or parents/teachers of eligible students.* Any questions can be directed to Mary Beth Bretzlauf at isps.manningham@gmail.com

~ 2023 ~
**ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY
Student Poetry Contest**

Senior Division
Grades 9–12

Junior Division
Grades 6–8

**Top 3 Winners in
each of 6 Contests:**

- Win cash prizes
- Advance to the national Manningham competition

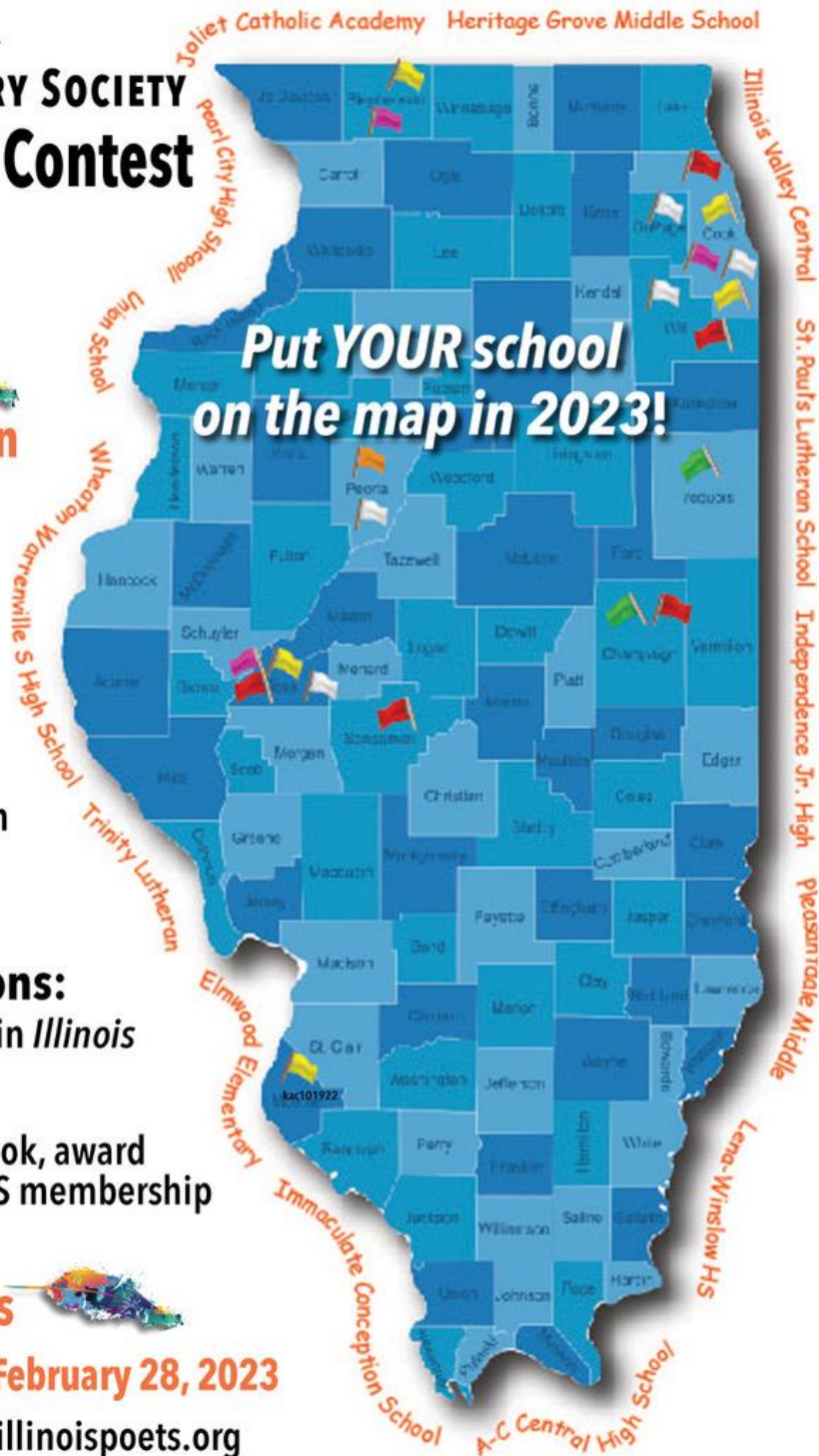
**Top 3 Winners plus
2 Honorable Mentions:**

- Have poems published in *Illinois Student Voices*, Vol. 1
- Receive a copy of the book, award certificate, and 1-year ISPS membership

Contest Submissions

- Deadline: Postmark by **February 28, 2023**
- Full guidelines at www.illinoispoets.org

QUESTIONS? Contact the contest chair at isps.manningham@gmail.com



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ISPS Chapter News

ISPS West Suburban (Darien) Chapter - The Darien ISPS critiquing group will meet **Saturday, January 7, 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 - The ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter held its bimonthly Zoom chapter meeting on December 11, 2022. Those who attended were: Susan Auld, Jo Balistrieri, Tom Chockley, Jeanne Cook, Janice Doppler, Susan Farner, Michael Kozubek, Jeff Kressmann, Wilda Morris, and Jennifer Thiermann. After check-in and announcements, we moved on to the workshop conversation of draft haiku from participants, who wanted feedback regarding their poems. Each haiku was presented anonymously and discussed. After which, we asked the poet to tell us a bit about the "haiku moment" that inspired the haiku, and this time, we talked about journals that might welcome each of the haiku.

Our next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting: Sunday, February 19, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CDT. The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, February 14. Contact Tom Chockley (tomzhaiku@outlook.com) to attend the Zoom meeting and to receive further information.

ISPS Northern Chapter and ISPS Champaign – Central Chapter (Champaign) will hold a joint meeting via Zoom **Sunday, January 8th at 1p.m.** Any member who wishes to join the critique session may contact Mary Beth Bretzlauf at isps.manningham@gmail.com.

ISPS North Central Chapter (Pontiac) will meet on **Saturday, February 11, 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 Carbondale Library at **1:30 p.m., Sunday, January 8,** and plan a Zoom meeting on **Sunday, February 12.** Chapter members closed 2022 with the publication of seven new books, seven awards in the ISPS contest, and three poets featured on Brewed Awakening. 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) next meets on **Sunday, February 5, 2023, 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, February 3.

Welcome New Members

Membership Privileges

A poet? Never, I imagined,
Until I started playing
With words and rhythms—often absurd—
Do I really have something worth saying?

Imposter syndrome among this group
Of poets so proud and true.
I'm privileged, hopeful, that perhaps one
day,
I can be like you.

~ Judith Friedman

Judith Stern Friedman is a writer, teacher, coach, and advocate for keeping the written word alive. Beginning in second grade with dreams of publishing her poems in *Reader's Digest*, Judy eventually found her voice in national magazine and book publications. More recently, Judy is exploring themes of nature, folklore, and human experience, with emphasis on writing short. Her poetry and prose have been published in Highland Park's *East on Central* and Highland Park Poetry's published anthologies, including nomination for a 2021



Pushcart Prize. Her flash non-fiction piece, "A Favor for a Friend," also won a prize from Rose Metal Press.

Charlotte Hart's new book, *Desert Flow*, in collaboration with abstract digital artist Adrian Caldera, is published by Cloud Hands Press in English and Spanish. Hart's first book was *The Pegasus Ring*. Her chapbook, *Organic Spirits* was from Finishing Line Press. Her poetry has been published in many journals and anthologies and she has won awards. Her poem, "Clark Street Beach" is incised in concrete in front of the public library in Evanston, Illinois. Charlotte Hart has shown visual art at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. and has drawings in the permanent collection of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her show of art and poetry, *Lebendige Linien* (Living Lines) was shown in Berlin, Germany.



Carole Novak graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies. She is a member of the Oak Park Writers Group, attending both in person and zoom meetings whenever possible. She enjoys writing all forms of poetry and continues to work on a full-length novel. As a frequent participant in the open-mic portion of poetry readings held at Brewed Awakening in Westmont, she was encouraged to join the Illinois State Poetry Society and is now a member in the Darien Chapter. "Shower at the End of the Day" is her first submission to their website.

Shower at the End of the Day

The shower head emits
a steady stream of water droplets
which scour my skull like an ancient
phrenologist
trying to determine my character traits.
The warm flow of water encourages my brain
to release endless creativity;
the problem is preventing my thoughts
from going down the drain.

~ Carole Novak

ISPS Member News

Marilyn Peretti will have her poem, *Not Elizabeth Barrett Browning*, published in the new British/international anthology, *OurChanging Earth*. This poem was previously published online at *The New Verse News*. This is in a series of anthologies by the Poet Magazine and Editor Robin Barrett.

Mark Hammerschick's poem, "Let My People Go," was awarded a first place Gold from the Florida Writers Association during their annual 2022 Royal Palm Literary Awards in October. His poem, "Walking in Sunset Woods Park," is published on Highland Park Poetry's Fall/Winter Muses' Gallery and an excerpt was printed in Highland Park Neighbors magazine in December.



Jennifer Dotson will facilitate the Second Saturday Poetry Writing Workshop on Saturday, January 14 from 9AM until noon at the Palatine Public Library District, 700 N. North Ct. Jennifer will discuss writing poetry about architects and architecture. The workshop, which is hosted by the Northwest Cultural Council, is open to the public. There is a fee. For information on how to participate, contact nwcc@att.net.

It is a delightful and often rare occasion for a poet and his book get attention of this kind on social media. **Tom Moran** was asked to autograph his book, *Mile Markers*, by a student at the school where he works. A photo was snapped for social media. Be sure to check out who liked the post at the bottom of the image at left.

Whiptail, an online journal that specializes in monocu, published an interview with **Mary Jo Balistreri**. You can read it at <https://www.whiptailjournal.com/contributor-interviews#/>.

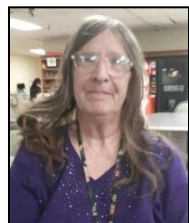
Judy Cummings' Halloween poem was broadcast on WNIJ (public radio) and published on their website at <https://www.northernpublicradio.org/2022-10-28/poetically-yours-happy-halloween>.

Wilda Morris has three poems published in an anthology of Christmas poems – along with works by Longfellow, Coleridge, Hopkins, Ted Kooser, Christina Rossetti, Paul Laurence Dunbar, etc. *Remembering that it Happened Once*, ed. by Dennis L. Johnson, is available on amazon, as well as the publisher's website, <https://wipfandstock.com/9781666732603/remembering-that-it-happened-once/>.

Emory Jones, a member-at-large living in luka, Mississppi enjoyed a productive year. His poem, "The Thing About Quilts," received 1st Place in the 2022 Poetry Society of Texas Competition's Owens Award. The 2022 *Made in Mississippi Anthology* included four of his poems. *The North Dakota Quarterly* published his "Tin Roof: An Etheree." Lastly, his "Soul Song" was published in the Fall/Winter 2022 *Jerry Jazz Musician*.

You won't want to miss the poetry reading sponsored by the Illinois State Poetry Society and Brewed Awakening on **Sunday, January 29, 12:30-2:00 PM** featuring Jocelyn Kuntz, first youth poet laureate of Rockford appearing in person, and Barbara Eaton will read via Zoom. There will also be an **open mic**. You may participate by going to Brewed Awakening (19 W Quincy Street, Westmont, Illinois; just off Cass Avenue. There is a \$12 cover charge, which entitles you to a beverage and snack. Or you may listen to the featured poets and participate in the open mic via Zoom. Zoom tickets can be purchased for \$5 from a link that will be available on the ISPS website and via email well ahead of the event.

Jocelyn Kuntz, a Senior at Guilford High School, is the City of Rockford's first Youth Poet Laureate. Outside of writing, Jocelyn has trained in Ballet for 14 years, Muay Thai and Boxing for 4 years, and has been playing piano for 11 years. She enjoys rollerblading, ice skating, and hiking in her free time. Jocelyn is currently applying for college, and is looking to pursue a degree in Biology.



Barbara L. Eaton was born and raised in the Chicago area and had her first poem published in second grade. She earned B.A. and M.A.T.E. degrees from the University of Illinois and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Maryland. She has taught writing, literature, and humanities at the college level for 40 years. More recently, she served as facilitator for the founding chapter of the Illinois State Poetry Society and chaired the Poets & Patrons Chicagoland poetry contest for many years. Barbara has published over 100 poems in

More ISPS Member News

various literary journals. Her full-length poetry collection, *Long-Distance Romance*, is currently available on Amazon.

The February 26 reading will feature **Thomas Chockley** reading in-person at Brewed Awakening. He has had haiku, senryu, haiga, and haibun published in a variety of print and online haiku journals: *Bottle Rockets*, *Frogpond*, *Modern Haiku*, *Shamrock Haiku Journal*, *Cattails Haiku Journal*, and *World Haiku Review* as well as the former *A Hundred Gourds Haiku Journal* and *Haibun Today*. Tom's first chapbook is *Personal Myths 1: Born in Mystery* from Red Moon Press. His second book is *Personal Myths: Numbers 2, 3, and 4* from Lulu.com.



Highland Park Poetry offers monthly poetry readings and open-mics at Laughlin Gallery, 1900 Sheridan Road. All events are on Saturdays. Doors open to poetry at 4PM (*please do not enter gallery early*) and the reading begins shortly after. Poets may read up to 3 poems in the open-mic. Upcoming dates are **January 14** (*new ISPS member Charlotte Hart is featured*) and **February 11**. For details, please visit www.HighlandParkPoetry.org. Highland Park Poetry is accepting submissions for the 2023 Poetry Challenge on flowers, architecture or on any subject in the form of an imayo. Deadline is **January 31**. Submission guidelines, entry form and imayo instructions are on the website.

East on Central, a journal of arts and letters from Highland Park, is now accepting submissions of poetry, prose, and art for its 2023-24 issue. Submissions may be of a general nature or specific to the Creative Exchange section themed "Illumination." Please see the link here to learn about how to submit. The deadline is **Feb. 28, 2023**. <https://www.eastoncentral.org/submissions>

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@americitech.net

North Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)

Contact
Mary Beth Bretzlauf, facilitator
mbbretzlauf@comcast.net

North Central Chapter (Pontiac)

Contact
Kathleen Murphy, facilitator
kathleenmurphy@mail.com