

# President's Message



## ISPS Board Members

**Mary Beth Bretzlauf**  
President

**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**

Darien - 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**

Dear Fellow Poets,

As I write my first letter as president, I am aware of the big shoes I'm about to fill. **Susan T. Moss** (President), **Jim Lambert** (VP), **Judith Tullis** (Treasurer), and **Mike Freveletti** (Wm Shakespeare/Historian), welcomed me to the board just four years ago. They have been wonderful leaders for our organization and have shown me so much of what they did and still do to contribute to ISPS, and I am deeply grateful.

That is the reason ISPS is honoring them for all their hard work by sponsoring contests in appreciation of their efforts and leadership as they leave to fulfil other dreams and commitments. We hope that a few of you will sponsor a contest as well. The contest flyer will be sent out August 1<sup>st</sup>, so be sure to send in your sponsorship form by the 15<sup>th</sup> of this month (see page 2).

I'm excited to work alongside our new board members, **Gay Guard-Chamberlin** (Vice President), **Marjorie Rissman** (Treasurer), and **Lennart Lundh** (William Shakespeare and Historian). I know they will provide insights that we will all benefit from.

Our Secretary **Tom Chockley** loves what he's doing and I absolutely appreciate his hard work. Our At-Large Members, **Sheila Kirschner** and **Alan Harris** keep our out-of-state members represented in our decision making. Our Chapter Facilitators, **Tom Chockley** (Haiku), **Kathy Cotton** (Southern), **Caroline Johnson** (West Suburban), **Wilda Morris** (Southwest Suburban), **Kathleen Murphy** (North Central), **Jim O'Brien** (Central), and myself (North Suburban) are the lifeline of this organization. They keep you abreast of what the board is working on for you. Please feel free to reach out to any of us with ideas and/or concerns.

We are offering another opportunity for members to sponsor the student contest. Last year, we reconfigured our student contest after the National Federation of State Poetry Societies redesigned the Manningham contest, including cash prizes and publication of the winning poems in a book, *Fresh Ink 2023* (available on Amazon). Members wishing to sponsor a student contest will also be able to judge them! The student contest kicks off in this fall.

By the time you read this, I will have returned from my first NFSPS Convention taking place in West Des Moines, Iowa. I'm really excited to attend the workshops, the slam competition and meeting the extended members of our poetry family. I know I'll come back energized and ready to roll!

In the coming few months, through the magic of Zoom or a road trip, I hope to meet so many of you and hear your poems!

Keep on writing,  
Mary Beth Bretzlauf



## ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY 2023 Poetry Contest Sponsorship

- Complete and mail a form for each 2023 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 **Deadline extended to July 15, 2023!**
- Mail form(s) 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)**

# Time To Renew Your Membership



## ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

### 2023-2024 Membership

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

\$20 Regular Membership    \$30 Patron    \$50 Benefactor

For new or renewal membership, mail this form with check or money order payable to Illinois State Poetry Society to:

**ISPS c/o Marjorie Rissman  
1100 Kent Avenue  
Highland Park IL 60035**

Please check one:    New Member    Renewal

Members are welcome to attend and participate in multiple chapters but must select one voting chapter for ISPS or chapter business.

**Voting Chapter** (select one): *Check [illinoispoets.org](http://illinoispoets.org) for meeting information.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Chapter, Zoom        | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Chapter, Alternate Months: In Person/Zoom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haiku Chapter, Zoom          | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Suburban Chapter, Hybrid In Person/Zoom  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Central Chapter, Zoom  | <input type="checkbox"/> West Suburban Chapter, In Person                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Suburban Chapter, Zoom | <input type="checkbox"/> At Large Chapter                                   |

**Please print:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW MEMBER BIO:** We encourage new members to send a brief bio (no more than three lines) for the newsletter and website so we can introduce you to our members. Send your bio as an attachment or in the body of an email to Alan Harris, [oasis@alharris.com](mailto:oasis@alharris.com), or send the bio with your check to Marjorie Rissman. Other membership information will be kept confidential within the ISPS.

# ISPS Chapter News

**ISPS West Suburban (Darien) Chapter** - The next ISPS Darien chapter meeting will be **Saturday, July 1st**, from **1 to 4 p.m.** at the **Indian Prairie Library**, 401 Plainfield Rd, Darien. Please bring 8 - 10 copies of up to 2 poems, a food item to share, plus a drink for yourself. Contact facilitator Caroline Johnson with questions: [carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com](mailto:carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com). We will be meeting as usual on the 2nd floor, Board Room. Masks are not required, but feel free to wear one if you feel more comfortable.

## **ISPS-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter -**

The ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter held its bimonthly Zoom chapter meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2023. Those who attended were David Chandler, Tom Chockley, Jeanne Cook, Janice Doppler, David Green, Lee Gurga, Michael Kozubek, Jeff Kressmann, William Lederer, Wilda Morris, and Jill Spealman. We welcomed first-time attendee, David Chandler. Altogether, we critiqued nine poems with participants exploring their thoughts and reactions to each poem. Each poet had ample opportunity to tell us the haiku moment that had occasioned and inspired the poem.

**Our next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting: Sunday, August 20, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CDT.** The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, August 15. Contact Tom Chockley ([tomzhaiku@outlook.com](mailto:tomzhaiku@outlook.com)) to attend the Zoom meeting and to receive further information.

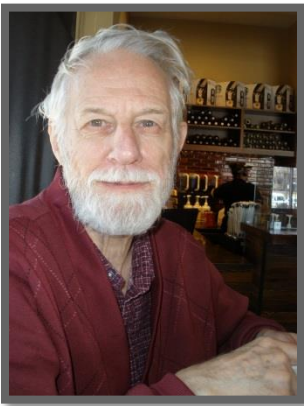
**ISPS Northern Chapter** and **ISPS Champaign – Central Chapter (Champaign)** will hold a joint meeting via Zoom and will meet on **Sunday, July 9 at 1 p.m.** on Zoom. Chapter meetings are open to all ISPS members. Anyone interested in participating, please send a poem for critique to Mary Beth Bretzlauf at [mbbretzlauf@comcast.net](mailto:mbbretzlauf@comcast.net).

**ISPS North Central Chapter (Pontiac)** will meet on **Saturday, August 12 at 10:00 am** via Zoom. Contact Kathleen Murphy, Facilitator, [kathleenzmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenzmurphy@gmail.com) for how to participate.

**ISPS Southern Chapter** meets at the Carbondale Library at **1:30 p.m., Sunday, July 9**. The Library is located at 405 West Main, Carbondale, IL 62901. [<https://www.carbondale.lib.il.us>]. Kathy Cotton, Facilitator, [sipoets7@gmail.com](mailto:sipoets7@gmail.com). 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**.

**ISPS Southwest Suburban Chapter (Lisle)** had another successful hybrid meeting in June, with some members getting together at the Fountaindale Library in Bolingbrook and some attending via Zoom. At the June meeting, the chapter voted to sponsor a category in the ISPS contest--Subject: Love; Form: any. Prize amounts will depend on donations from chapter members. The Chapter will have another hybrid meeting on **August 6 at the Lisle Public Library from 1:00-4:00 p.m.** You do not have to be a member of this chapter to participate. If you wish to attend, please email [wildamorris@ameritech.net](mailto:wildamorris@ameritech.net) (with "ISPS Chapter" in the subject line) to receive the Zoom link. If you would like to have poems critiqued, send up to three poems to that same email address by August 3 so they can be distributed in advance of the meeting.

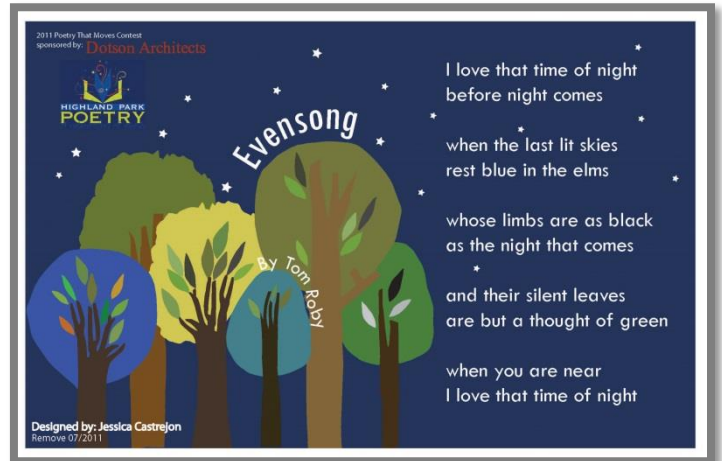




## In Memorium

**Tom Roby** (deceased December 31, 2022) published and performed his poetry in a variety of venues in Chicago, while leading workshops, writing criticism, and winning various competitions. He created The Poetry Wheel, a non-competitive alternative to poetry slams, in which each poet must read in relation to the previous one and state the connection, so that the poets would improvise their selections as the performance wended its way through unplanned creative waters. He was President and critique leader of the Poets' Club of Chicago, and chairperson of their annual sonnet contest. Smoke and Mirror Productions selected his poems about the adventures of

George and Judy with Grim Reaper for performances at the Loop Theater in April 2004. Tom was ChicagoPoetry.com's Poet of the Month for National Poetry Month, April 2006. A member of the National Association for Poetry Therapy, he made presentations based on his chapbook, *Griever's Circuit* (Fractal Edge Press, 2004), poems on the death of his wife, Mary. He and his multi-instrumentalist son, Lem, comprised Omniphonic, a duo that performed "The Sounds of Poems, the Poetry of Sound."



## Last Sunday of the Month at Brewed Awakenings

The poetry reading sponsored by ISPS and Brewed Awakening on **Sunday, July 30**, will feature **Marianne Tefft** on Zoom from the Caribbean and **Wilda Morris** in person. The event will run from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Central Time. You may participate via Zoom or by going to Brewed Awakening (19 W Quincy Street, Westmont, IL; just off Cass Avenue, across the street from the METRA station). There is a \$12 cover charge, which entitles you to a beverage and snack. Zoom tickets may be purchased for \$5. The link will be posted on the ISPS Website at [illinoispoet.org](http://illinoispoet.org). Open-mic participation is both in person or on Zoom.

**Marianne Tefft** is a poet and voiceover reader who daylights as a Montessori teacher on the Dutch Caribbean island of Saint Maarten. Her poems and short stories appear online and in print in anthologies and journals in North America, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean. She is the author of the 2022 poetry collections *Full Moon Fire: Spoken Songs of Love* and *Moonchild: Poems for Moon Lovers*.

**Wilda Morris** is past president of both the Illinois State Poetry Society and Poets & Patrons of Chicago. She is the author of three full-length poetry books: *Szechwan Shrimp and Fortune Cookies: Poems from a Chinese Restaurant*, *Pequod Poems: Gamming with Moby-Dick*, and *At Goat Hollow and Other Poems*.

The Brewed Awakening reading on Sunday, **August 27**, will feature **Jared Smith**, a former member of ISPS who now lives in Maryland, on Zoom, and local poet **Laurel Poe Gallagher**, in person.

**Jared Smith's** 16th book of poetry, *A Sphere Encased in Fires and Life*, has just been released by New York Quarterly. A former member of ISPS and Chicago Poets Club, he is a poetry editor of *Turtle Island Quarterly*. His work has appeared in hundreds of publications and anthologies in this country and abroad. Jared now lives in Maryland with his wife.

**Laurel Poe Gallagher** is a storyteller who has presented her original stories at venues, including *Do Not Submit, This Much Is True*, *Green Man Theater* and the Chicago Public Library. This is Laurel's first public reading of original poetry. She is deeply grateful for the opportunity to share her verses with the Illinois State Poetry Society.

# Welcome New Members!

**Augie Fintak** is an elementary school special education teacher in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has written about two dozen poems and is writing a book about closing the achievement gap in education. He looks forward to joining this group, talking poetry, and learning to hone our craft.



**James Wilkerson** is from Decatur, Illinois and recently joined ISPS' Central Chapter in Champaign. James was a featured poet at the James Millikin Homestead's "Poetry at the Homestead" event on April 30<sup>th</sup> this year in Decatur, Illinois. He has published a book of poetry about his time as a student at Millikin University. His verse has also been included in a few publications including *Collage*, *Folio*, *More Big Thoughts*, *TKE Today*, and *Treasured Poems of America*.



## ISPS Member News

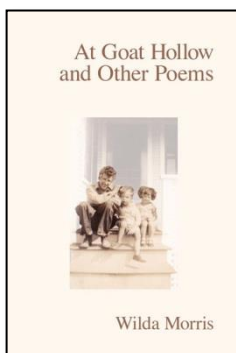
The Haiku Foundation publishes interviews with accomplished haiku poets with their advice to those who are "New to Haiku." Their interview with **Jo Balistreri** (which includes some of her haiku) can be found at [New to Haiku: Advice for Beginners - Jo Balistreri - The Haiku Foundation](#).

**Amelia Cotter's** debut poetry collection *apparitions* (Highland Park Poetry Press, 2022) was Shortlisted for The Haiku Foundation 2022 Touchstone Awards for Distinguished Books as well as nominated for the 2023 Eric Hoffer Book Award. The book is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/0578343312> and through [Amelia's online store](#).



**Charlotte Digregorio** won the Marie Brass Haiku Award. In other news, she was invited to participate in Teacher/Haiku Author John O'Connor's 9<sup>th</sup> Grade haiku project at New Trier High School in Winnetka. O'Connor asked his English students to collaborate with individual U.S. haiku poets to create a film production (imagery/sound/spoken word) of each poet's selection of haiku. It was a challenging and fun project for high school students, and it increases the visibility/education of the art of haiku for young people.

**Mark Hammerschick's** poem, "Primordial Stew," has been accepted for publication in the Florida Writers Association's 2023 Collection Volume 15, titled *Secrets*.



Congratulations are extended to **Wilda Morris**. Her newest poetry collection, *At Goat Hollow and Other Poems*, has just been published by Kelsay Books. This new book is composed mostly of poems about her Uncle Norman, many of which made their public debut at Brewed Awakening.

# More ISPS Member News

The **Downers Grove Artists' Guild** invites ISPS members to select a piece of artwork as inspiration for an ekphrastic poem. The art is visible at <https://www.downersgroveartistsguild.com/artandpoetry.html>. Select only one piece (*if there are some left over, we will let you know at a later time*). Fill out the form at the bottom of the page and click to send it. If two people happen to select the same piece, you will be notified within 24 hours. The page manager for the Guild will mark pieces which have been selected each day. If all of these are taken, a few more may be added. Poems will be read at an event at the Downers Grove Public Library on Sunday afternoon, **August 13**. If you cannot be present, someone will read your poem for you. Please send a copy of your poem in 14-point font as a Word .doc or .pdf file to [wildamorris@ameritech.net](mailto:wildamorris@ameritech.net) (With **DGAG** in the subject line) by August 8.

**Highland Park Poetry's** Summer Muses' Gallery on the theme of Herbs & Spices includes work by the following ISPS members: **Marie Asner, Candace Armstrong, CR Bolinski, Mary Beth Bretzlauf, Paul Buchheit, William Carey, Jennifer Dotson, Idella Pearl Edwards, Dan Fitzgerald, Judith Stern Friedman, Cynthia Gallaher, Julie Isaacson, Elizabeth Stanley King, William Marr, Lakshmy Nair, Marilyn Peretti, Donna Pucciani, Marie Samuel, Irfanulla Shariff, and Joris Soeding**. The online gallery will be available at [www.HighlandParkPoetry.org](http://www.HighlandParkPoetry.org) later in July. A publication party for the printed anthology is being planned as well.

**Highland Park Poetry** seeks submissions of unpublished poetry manuscripts for **The Prairie State Poetry Prize for a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Book** by authors who have published no more than one full-length poetry collection. Winning author receives a cash award of \$150 in addition to publication by Highland Park Poetry Press, 20 copies of the winning title, and a featured poet spot at an HPP event. Manuscripts are judged anonymously. This year's final judge is poet & author (*and ISPS member*) **Lennart Lundh**. The deadline for submissions is October 31<sup>st</sup> at midnight. For complete contest guidelines, visit [www.highlandparkpoetry.org](http://www.highlandparkpoetry.org).

## 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 July 1 - 7, and poets whose last initial is A - D may submit from August 1 - 7. For submission guidelines, please go to "Submitting Poems" ([illinoispoets.org/submitting.htm](http://illinoispoets.org/submitting.htm)) in our site.

## 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 (Darien)

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

### Haiku Chapter

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

### Southwest Suburban Chapter (Lisle)

For the Zoom link, contact  
Wilda Morris  
[wem@americitech.net](mailto:wem@americitech.net)

### North Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)

Contact  
Mary Beth Bretzlauf, facilitator  
[mbbretzlauf@comcast.net](mailto:mbbretzlauf@comcast.net)

### North Central Chapter (Pontiac)

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