



# President's Message



## ISPS Board Members

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**Caroline Johnson**

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

**Lisle - SW Suburban**  
**Wilda Morris**

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

**Pontiac - N. Central**  
**Kathleen Murphy**

Hello Fellow Poets!

I'm writing this letter on one of our hottest days in memory. Even in this extreme heat I'm seeing and feeling the signs of autumn moving in. The cooler evenings, condensation on the windshield in the mornings and a few maples are showing their colors.

Fall is my favorite time of year and I have so many poems dedicated to the season. Not only is nature an inspiration for me, but so is art. I love being presented with a work of art and unveiling its story.

I recently ran an ekphrastic workshop in Waukegan and for the dozen or so poets, they found so many stories to tell in one work of art! Two women who proclaimed to not be poets, but were curious, wrote lovely poems. Their excitement at what they accomplished was contagious!

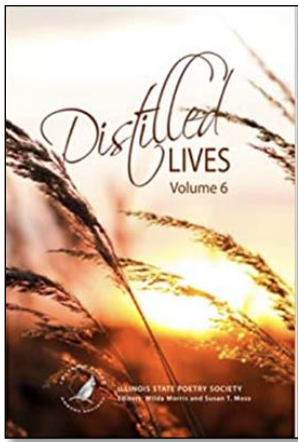
Earlier this year ISPS members were invited to write a piece in response to artwork created by the Downers Grove Artist Guild. In August, when the two creative groups met to share their work, I met a newer member, Christopher Kuhl. After the event, I had a chance to introduce myself. Christopher said he was so happy to be a member for opportunities like these.

It's making connections like this that reminds me despite the solitary moments in the life of a writer/poet, connecting on that same level is energizing and inspiring. For that reason, I'm even more excited to meet all of you wonderful creatives!

ISPS returns to Printers Row! This year, we are joining Poets & Patrons and East on Central Association to shake our peacock feathers as it were. If you're in the vicinity of Printers Row Lit Fest, Saturday and Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, please come by to say hello! If you have some time available to volunteer at the table on Sunday, please contact me at [isps.manningham@gmail.com](mailto:isps.manningham@gmail.com).

Remember, time spent with other poets is never a waste of time!

Regards,  
Mary Beth Bretzlauf



**Distilled Lives: Volume 6  
Anthology of the Illinois  
State Poetry Society**

Co-Editors: Wilda Morris and  
Susan T. Moss  
62 Contributing Poets ~ 124  
Poems ~ 114 pages  
Price: \$12.00  
Publisher: Kindle Direct  
Publishing  
ISBN: 9798370997181  
To Order: Amazon.com

Reviewed by Michael

Escoubas (reprinted with kind permission from *Quill & Parchment*)

Distilled Lives: Volume 6 is the latest in a series of superb anthologies assembled by the Illinois State Poetry Society and published by Kindle Direct Publishing. Poet Mary O. Monical has provided this writer with the perfect “hook” for the review which follows.

The last line of “Exit” hit me hard:

I want to go out like a light  
bulb. Suddenly. Snap!  
But before I do  
I want to light up the world.

What are we about as poets? We desire, I should think, to *light up the world*. Poets and the things they do make a difference in people’s lives. This sentiment is not lost on co-editors Wilda Morris and Susan T. Moss. In the foreword, they write, “We strive to bring the written word into the world to help make it whole.”

Sixty-two poets contributed two poems each. There is something for everyone: classical forms, free verse, oriental forms, ekphrastic creations, seasonal poems, funny poems, and poems steeped in pathos. Following are poems which serve as a sampling of the riches waiting to be mined:

Caroline Johnson’s golden shovel features endline words from Terrance Hayes:

Watching you in the garden, I  
delight in your hands. I want  
to take them and dance, to  
measure each moment, open  
and free like seeds. A  
shadow from clouds, a door  
to the sun, the wisdom of the  
flowers and bees, please size  
your heart so it equals the light of  
day, so it expands the

way we reach the sky.

Each end word, when written as a complete sentence says, “I want to open a door the size of the sky.” I like Johnson’s easy dictional pace as well as her reference to light.

Arthur Voellinger delight’s readers with “Ouch Prevention”:

After suffering  
a cut or bruise  
children know  
what to do

By showing  
mom or grandma  
where to kiss

And change  
the hurt  
into bliss

Only the best poets know how to capture the feelings and joys of childhood and, in so doing, “pinch” us adults out of a bad mood.

If you enjoy sonnets, Curt Vevang’s “Rainbows Are Hard to Come By” is your ticket to the dance:

Too much rain spoils a fragile rainbow’s day,  
and too much sun can make it go away.  
We see that nature lives upon the cusp,  
somewhere between too much and not enough.

Nature’s goodness shines in the day’s bright light,  
while its evil face stalks the eerie night.  
It brings earthly joys and wonders untold,  
Yet allows angst and misery unfold.

The farmer’s fields soak up the gentle rain,  
but floods and drought destroy the fledgling grain.  
Sailors delight in nature’s potent breeze  
until embroiled in ghastly typhoon seas.

Just as sunshine lights up the starry sky,  
darkness of night doth bid the day goodbye.

Vevang’s poem showcases craftsmanship of meter and rhyme. This skill is paired with keen powers of observation: nature and human nature frequently correspond. I enjoyed the mental exercise of applying this poem to my life.

No anthology would be complete without haiku. Barbara Robinette sent my imagination spinning with “Three Haiku”:

sitting by the pond

October twilight  
the sound of grain bins

the scent of wild cherry blossoms all day

dog breath  
the silence in this room  
her cloudy eyes

In her poem, “What’s Really Going One,” Melissa Huff captures something special about poetry and the irreplaceable function that poetry performs for us:

It only looks like nothing is happening—  
my feet propped on the ottoman,  
eyes gazing unfocused, abdomen rising,  
falling, in smooth waves. I might read  
a few lines, jot down a word or phrase.

Rest assured I am storing nutrients,  
for somewhere within I am feeding  
fragments of ideas, tending

new growth of dormant goals,  
encouraging an underground river  
to nurture embryonic imaginings,

so that in the coming spring

when this months-long chill  
dissolves in warm rains,  
when I shed winter’s wrappings,  
when light—long held at bay—breaks loose,  
I too will emerge with the buds—

A newness in me will flower.

Yes, a newness, a light, for the world to see, a power, an essence of what matters in life—we poets evoke in speech those harmonies that help us live our lives.

Congratulations to co-editors Morris and Moss and to all the gifted contributors to *Distilled Lives: Volume 6*. Anthology of the Illinois State Poetry Society.

## ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

# Book of the Year

# 2023

### Award

- \$100 and featured author opportunities

### Eligibility

- Current ISPS members living in Illinois at the time of publication
- Book includes **2023** copyright date
- Book has a minimum of 40 pages of poetry

### Book Submission

- Deadline: Postmarked by December 31, 2023
- Include with submission: name, address, email address and phone number
- Send \$10 Judge's Reading Fee for each book submitted—payable to Illinois State Poetry Society

## Book of the Year 2023

Submissions for the 2023 ISPS Book of the Year award will open October 1, with a December 31 deadline. Watch for mailing instructions.

Our judge for the 2023 contest will be Shirley Blackwell of Los Lunas, NM. During 2008–20, Blackwell served the New Mexico State Poetry Society as chapter chair of the RGV Poets, chancellor, president, and again as chancellor. She’s the author of two poetry books—both finalists in the NM-AZ Book Awards, and also a cofounder of the annual NFSPS performance poetry competition, BlackBerry Peach Prizes.

# ISPS Chapter News

**ISPS West Suburban (Darien) Chapter** - The next ISPS Darien poetry critiquing group will meet **Saturday, Sept. 2**, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the **Indian Prairie Library, 401 Plainfield Rd, Darien**. We meet on the 2nd floor in the boardroom. Please bring 8 - 10 copies of up to 2 poems, and a food item to share. Bring a beverage for yourself. Contact Caroline Johnson at [carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com](mailto:carolinejohnson.author@gmail.com), Chapter facilitator, if you have questions.

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

The ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter held its bimonthly Zoom chapter meeting on Sunday, August 20, 2023. Those who attended were Jo Balistreri, Tom Chockley, Jeanne Cook, Susan Farner, David Green, Margie Gustafson, Ruth Holzer, Sangita Kalarickal, Jeff Kressmann, William Ledderer, Michael Nichols-Wisdom, Elizabeth Shack, and Jennifer Thiermann. We welcomed first-time attendees Ruth Holzer, Sangita Kalarickal, and Elizabeth Shack. 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, October 15, 2022, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CDT.** The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be **Tuesday, October 10**. 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, September 17** at **1 p.m.** on Zoom. Chapter meetings are open to all ISPS members. wishing to join the meeting can contact Mary Beth at [ISPS.Manningham@gmail.com](mailto:ISPS.Manningham@gmail.com).

**ISPS North Central Chapter (Pontiac)** will meet on **Saturday, October 14 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, September 10**. 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)** The Chapter meeting in October will be hybrid. The meeting will be in-person at Lisle Public Library, 777 Front Street, Lisle, as well as on Zoom, at **1:00 pm CT on Sunday, October 1, 2023**. 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 [wildamorris\[at\]ameritech\[dot\]net](mailto:wildamorris[at]ameritech[dot]net) so they can be distributed to those attending virtually. 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, September 29. Those attending in person may bring snacks to share. You may want to bring some water, soda, or lemonade for yourself.

It is never too late to renew your membership!  
For membership information, renewal form, joining ISPS email [marjorierissman@gmail.com](mailto:marjorierissman@gmail.com), our new treasurer!

ISPS sponsors a hybrid poetry reading the last Sunday of each month from 12:30-2:00 pm at **Brewed Awakening** in Westmont (and Zoom). Featured poets TBA, plus open mic. Contact Wilda Morris for details – [wem@ameritech.net](mailto:wem@ameritech.net)



ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY

# POETRY CONTEST

30th ANNUAL CONTEST • 2023 • [www.illinoispoets.org](http://www.illinoispoets.org)

## 1. Love Award

Sponsored by Lisle Chapter in memory of Glenna Holloway, Nancy Carrigan, and Michael Galati

- SUBJECT: Love FORM: Any
- PRIZES: \$100, \$60, \$30

## 2. House Award

Sponsored by Ida Kotyuk

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

## 3. Viator Award

Sponsored by Michael Escoubas in memory of Kathleen A. Rippey, his mother-in-law

- SUBJECT: Any FORM: Viator  
[www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/viator-poetic-forms](http://www.writersdigest.com/write-better-poetry/viator-poetic-forms)
- PRIZES: \$50 \$30, \$20

## 4. ISPS Free Verse Award

Honoring retired president Susan Moss

SUBJECT: Any FORM: Free Verse

- PRIZES: \$50, \$30, \$15

## 5. ISPS Formal Verse Award

Honoring retired vice-president, Jim Lambert

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

## 6. ISPS Traditional Haiku (5-7-5) Award

Honoring retired treasurer Judith Tullis

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

## 7. ISPS Modern Haiku Award

Honoring retired email manager & historian Michael Freveletti

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

## 8. Southern Chapter Award

Sponsored by ISPS Southern Chapter

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

## 9. Humor Award

Sponsored by Harold & Marie Asner

- SUBJECT: Humor FORM: Rhyme
- PRIZES: \$50, \$25, \$15

## 10. Generosity Award

Sponsored by Jocelyn Ajami in memory of David Nekimken

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

## 11. Jack Griffis Edwards Award

Sponsored by Idella Pearl Edwards in memory of her husband

- SUBJECT: I Miss You!
- FORM: Rhyme, 20-line limit
- PRIZES: \$50, \$25, \$15

## 12. Form Challenge Award

Sponsored by Highland Park Poetry

- FORM: Rimas Dissolutas
- 30-line limit
- SUBJECT: Any
- PRIZES: \$50, \$25, \$15

Winners may be eligible for publication by HPP.

Contact [jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org](mailto:jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org)

## 13. Ekphrastic Prose Poem Award

Sponsored by Lennart Lundh

- SUBJECT: Ekphrastic poem (include a link to the image)
- FORM: Prose Poem
- PRIZES: \$25, \$20, \$10

## 14. Make Me Laugh Award

Sponsored by Nancy LaChance

- SUBJECT: Humor
- FORM: Rhyme, 24-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.
  - One single-spaced poem per 8.5" x 11" 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

- **ISPS Members.** \$8 for up to 8 poems, \$1 each additional poem.
- **NON-ISPS MEMBERS.** \$10 for up to 8 poems, \$1 each additional poem.

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Submissions must be postmarked:

**August 1 to October 31, 2023**

## MAILING

Mail submissions with 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](http://www.illinoispoets.org).

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**

# Welcome New Members!

**Tabitha Tripp** is an artist, poet, environmental activist located in the Shawnee National Forest, in the Cache River watershed. Her work can be found at [tabitha.tripp.art](http://tabitha.tripp.art). Tripp is a returning member of the Southern Chapter of the ISPS and was a proud member of poetry performance group, Transpoetic Playground.

## Dayspring

There is that minute—a moment early morning—  
when darkness relaxes its grip and a drip of light  
slips from the fist of night to wash the world watery gray.

Stillness born of breath pervades as the new day  
tip toes into dawning from shadow and sleep,  
while overhead a yawning of time sweeps the sky  
of winking constellations that disappear  
like moths fluttering beyond sight.

If God exists it is in this Dayspring of rebirth,  
when my eyes open to it from the shallow depths  
of dreaming, this seeming linking before me  
of heaven and earth.

~ Mike Orlock



**Mike Orlock** is a retired Illinois high school teacher and coach. He and his wife Liz purchased a second home in Sturgeon Bay in 2008, where they spend much of their time interspersed with visits to Lisle to visit family and friends.

He enjoys travel, reading, writing, films, and spending time with his two children and five grandchildren. From 1989 to 2001, he wrote film reviews for the *Reporter-Progress* newspapers in suburban Chicago and was a

contributing member of the Chicago Film Critics Association. He also co-edited with Tom Davis the anthology *7 By Seven: The Poet Laureates of Door County* while serving as Door County's seventh Poet Laureate from 2021 – 2023. He currently writes the "Mike at the Movies" column for the *Peninsula Pulse*. Mike is a new ISPS member of the West Suburban Chapter.

**Uma Morris** is a high school student living in Chicago's Wicker Park. Her passion for reading and writing poetry was initially sparked by her sixth grade English teacher. Since

then, her work has been published in the magazine *Voices de la Luna* and in various publications within her school. She has also found an interest in slam poetry after joining the club at her school. In April of 2023, she received the Land of Growing award from Young Chicago Authors after participating in their Rooted & Radical slam poetry festival and has performed her poetry at a couple of other venues around the city.



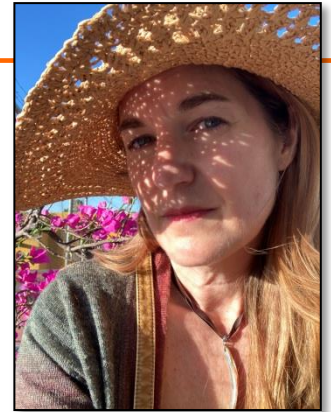
Welcome New ISPS Members! Since July 1st we have had many new members join us and for that we are most grateful. You can always recruit and bring new attendees to our chapter meetings.

David Green, Chicago / Edward J. Herdrich, Elgin / Olivia Geringer-Spagnola, Beecher / Kathryn Haydon, Lake Bluff / Kathryn Kruger, Wheaton / TJ Morris, Waukegan / Mike Orlock, Lisle, IL and Sturgeon Bay, WI / Donita Ries, Cary / Elizabeth Shack, Urbana / Jill Spealman, Glen Ellyn / Tabitha Tripp, Anna / Una Morris, Chicago

## Poetry Is Not Ice Cream

Poetry is like dust bunnies hidden on the floor,  
words rolling around in the cracks,  
and crevasses of my gray matter;  
accumulating, collecting in the corners of reality,  
a cryptic snapshot of my insides exposed.  
Poetry screams the darkest hour,  
creates reason and peace in my chaos.  
Without a pen or page,  
words run free across air and breeze,  
like wild horses on the range;  
poetry is my attempt to tame them.  
Or maybe my poetry is like ice cream;  
bitter cold on the tongue,  
eaten too fast—stabbing brain freeze,  
sweet and creamy over the page;  
performance is the cherry.

~ Tabitha Tripp



## Dal Lake

Dal Lake shimmered with  
The sun shining bright,  
The shikaras and rowing boats  
Glimmering in the light.

The Himalayas looked peaceful  
In the cradle of the meadow

Its tall peaks and summits  
Casting a chilling shadow.

Dal Lake listened as

The tulips told their tale,  
Everything placed perfectly,  
Down to each small detail.

~ Uma Morris

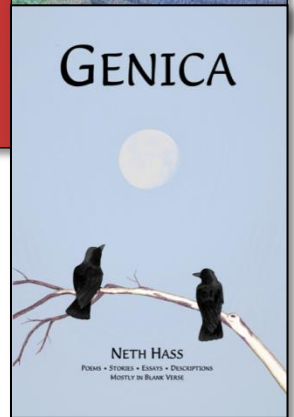
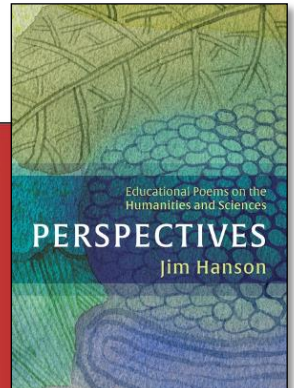
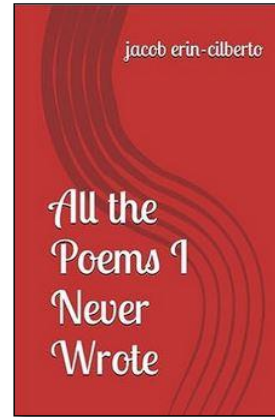
# ISPS Member News

**Caroline Johnson** invites poets to attend an Open-Mic event on **Friday, Sept. 22**, from 6 to 8 p.m. at **Barbara's Bookstore** in Yorktown for an evening of poetry, storytelling and music. The open mic is open to poets and storytellers, and we welcome anyone who wants to come to listen! Barbara's Bookstore in Yorktown is located at 120 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard. Park next to the defunct Carson, Pirie, & Scott. Come into the mall entrance, then take the elevator down to the first floor.

New Books from ISPS Southern Chapter Members:

Prolific poet **jacob erin-cilberto's** *All the Poems I Never Wrote* is his 22nd published poetry collection. It is available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/All-Poems-I-Never-Wrote/dp/BoCDNMNL7C?) along with eleven other books from his large repertoire. <https://www.amazon.com/All-Poems-I-Never-Wrote/dp/BoCDNMNL7C?> He teaches at John A. Logan CC in southern Illinois.

*Perspectives*, drawn from **Jim Hanson's** interdisciplinary career based upon sociology, employs poetry to provide perspectives on the humanities and sciences. A description of this unique hardcover collection is available on the publisher's website, where it is also available for purchase: <https://wipfandstock.com/9781666777611/perspectives/>



A review of the **Neth Hass** collection, *Genica*, will be released by Michael Escoubas September 1<sup>st</sup> in Quill & Parchment and other venues. *Genica* was the 2022 ISPS Book of the Year winner.

Poet **Marie Asner**, ISPS member in Kansas, was interviewed by The Pitch Magazine, Kansas City, Mo in their August 2023 issue, on Marie's years of being a film critic. Marie is a member of the Kansas City Film Critics Circle, the second oldest Film Critic group in the U.S. Marie has over 40 years of film and entertainment reviewing, and in the past had received the Key to the City of Shawnee, Kansas for her contribution to film reviewing. Marie Asner is a Rotten Tomatoes film critic. Rotten Tomatoes is a nation-wide Internet site for film reviews. Poems by Marie are also included in Highland Park's poetry anthology "Herbs and Spices," and a poem on the ISPS site.



On Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>, many of the local ISPS members who participated in the **Downers Grove Artist Guild Ekphrastic Event** joined the artists to share their poetic responses to the wonderful array of artwork. Members from all over the state, including some of our At-Large members submitted poems for the event. The poets present all took turns reading their poems and other members' work. Many thanks to Wilda Morris for arranging this creative exchange! Pictured from left to right: Ida Kotyuk, Mary Beth Bretzlauf, Tom Chockley, Barbara Eaton, Lennart Lundh,

Christopher Kuhl, Wilda Morris, Paul Buchheit, Rene Parks. Not Pictured: Michael Escoubas.

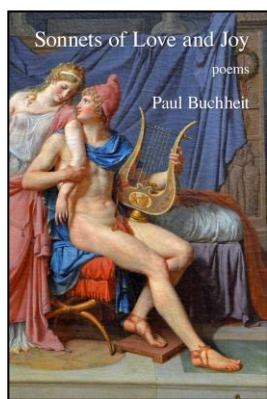
# More ISPS Member News

**Charlotte Digregorio** of Winnetka will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Conference of the Arkansas Haiku Society, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10 and 11 in the City of Hot Springs. She will give a presentation on senryu that is written in the haiku form, but has a focus on human nature. She'll also host a critique session Saturday on all Japanese poetic forms. These events will be preceded by her reading as the Featured Poet at Hot Springs' Poetry Reading, hosted by the City's Poet Laureate.

**Kathryn P. Haydon** of Lake Bluff will read from her new book of poetry, *Unsalted Blue Sunrise*, at Printers Row Lit Fest at 2 pm on Sat., September 9. <http://printersrowlitfest.org/event/kathryn-haydon/> [If you're visiting Printers Row Lit Fest, be sure to also visit ISPS' booth!] Kathryn will also read at The Book Stall in Winnetka on Sunday, October 1 at 3 pm. Free but registration is required. Link: <https://www.thebookstall.com/event/kathryn-p-haydon-unsalted-blue-sunrise-poetry-reading>

**Michael Lee Johnson** is an internationally published poet in 44 countries, a song lyricist, has several published poetry books and anthologies, and has been nominated for 6 Pushcart Prize awards and 6 Best of the Net nominations. As of August 2023, Michael has created over 293 YouTube poetry videos.

**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).



**Paul Buchheit's** newest poetry collection, *Sonnets of Love and Joy*, was recently published by Kelsay Books. The book is a collection of 60 sonnets, mostly Shakespearean in form, on love, family, friendship, nature, seasons, and the joy of being a child.

## 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@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)

### 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 E - H may submit from September 1 - 7, and poets whose last initial is I - M may submit from October 1 - 7. For submission guidelines, please go to "Submitting Poems" ([illinoispoets.org/submitting.htm](http://illinoispoets.org/submitting.htm)) in our site.

### Help us keep our database up to date!!!!!!

Please let our treasurer, Marjorie Rissman, know of any address, phone number or email changes. We can only communicate with correct info.  
[marjorierissman@gmail.com](mailto:marjorierissman@gmail.com)