



2014, ISSUE 4
EDITOR, KATHY COTTON

Also archived
on our website
www.illinoispoets.org/
news-links.htm

IN THIS ISSUE

Pre-order Anthologies	1
President's Message	1
How Maya Angelou Wrote	2
Poetry Calendar	2
JOMP 16 Notables	2
Email Critique Groups	2
Featured Poet Patty Pieczka	3
Pontiac Chalks the Walks	4
New Members/Members' News	4
July/Aug. Chapter Meetings	4
July/Aug. Brewed Awakening	4
Enter Poetry Contests	5
Board of Directors Contacts	6
Website Poetry Submissions	6
Renew Membership Now!	6
Membership Application	6

WANTED: PHOTOS, NEWS

Your editor is looking for fresh ideas for feature stories, interviews and writing prompts, as well as news and photos of chapter meetings and poetry events.

Email photos (jpg or tiff) or an idea or news for consideration to kacotton7@frontier.com. Please send photo files as attachments.

Pre-order Extra Anthologies: Half-Price until July 15

Distilled Lives, Volume 2, a fine collection of poetry by 81 ISPS members, will be available at the prepublication price of \$6.00 until Tuesday, July 15. After publication, individual copies can be ordered at \$11.95 plus shipping on Amazon.com.

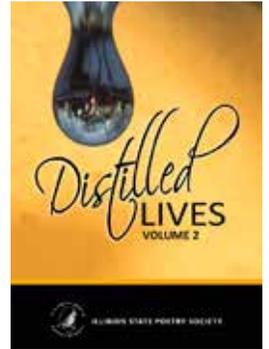
PICK UP. For books to be picked up at an ISPS chapter meeting, send:

- \$6 per book
- Your name
- Your chapter name

BY MAIL. For books to be mailed directly to you, send:

- \$9 per book (includes shipping)
- Your name, delivery address and phone number

Mail to: Judith Tullis, 6455 Big Bear Drive, Indian Head Park, IL ✉



A Message from the President



Several other ISPS members and I will be attending the NFSPS convention in Salt Lake City in late June. This yearly event, held in varying parts of the country, offers a variety of opportunities to hear informative speakers, meet new poets and visit with those already known from previous years. Energy runs high with anticipation of presentations by fine poets, possibly winning contest awards and sharing optional daily open mic readings.

Energy should also be part of our writing. Recently, I spent a week in a poetry workshop at The Clearing in Door County. Three other ISPS members were also there and shared their work and discussions about writing poetry. One topic was how we fill our poetry with vitality. Some of the ways include keeping a balance or tension such as between gain and loss, past and present, opposites of feelings, levity and seriousness, among many other themes, tones and approaches.

It can be a challenge to find new and fresh approaches to poetically transcribing something calling to us. Early drafts may be list-like in recording the event, feeling or observation and thereby, miss the underlying breath and subtext driving the desire to make a subject more elevated and inspirational. At this juncture, we need to evaluate what drew us to the initial idea and then delve deeper into our intimate self, and the motivating élan that needs to share something with a larger audience.

When I considered how I get energy into my poetry, I took a cause and effect approach. First the idea, thing, etc. emanates its vigor and kindles my interest. Then I write down these initial responses and try to capture the intention and goal to further discover yet a deeper purpose—the soul of the poem. Next, I step back, take a walk or do something else to provide a little time away in order to let the first thoughts marinate and form their own voice that often speaks to me if given a chance.

The following phase is the reworking of the structure, word choice and rhythm that help energize the poem. Eventually, the poem dances or in some way slips off the page into a broader realm of existence, thus combining the message and animation to deliver a poem. At completion, I have tried to capture, hold and then send out to the world a piece of myself that will perhaps also speak to others.

To be a poet is know what and how something affects us. Detecting and defining what motivates an idea, listening to its message and deciphering the code into poetic language become the ultimate challenges and creative joy. Happy writing, Susan T. Moss ✉

How Maya Angelou Wrote

April 4, 1928 – May 28, 2014

We remember Maya Angelou, one of the most influential women of our time, for powerful poems like "And Still I Rise," which has more than 1,500,000 hits on youtube.com.

In a 1983 interview Angelou described her process for writing. She found it difficult to write in a "pretty surrounding" like her home. "It throws me," she said. So her creative space was a plain hotel room.

Angelou leaves us with the inspiration of both her gifted poetry and this peek into the life of a dedicated author of memoirs, poetry, plays and scripts.

"I usually get up at about 5:30, and I'm ready to have coffee by 6, usually with my husband. He goes off to his work around 6:30, and I go off to mine. I keep a hotel room in which I do my work—a tiny, mean room with just a bed, and sometimes, if I can find it, a face basin. I keep a dictionary, a Bible, a deck of cards and a bottle of sherry in the room. I try to get there around 7, and I work until 2 in the afternoon. If the work is going badly, I stay until 12:30. If it's going well, I'll stay as long as it's going well. It's lonely, and it's marvelous. I edit while I'm working. When I come home at 2, I read over what I've written that day, and then try to put it out of my mind. I shower, prepare dinner, so that when my husband comes home, I'm not totally absorbed in my work. We have a semblance of a normal life. We have a drink together and have dinner. Maybe after dinner I'll read to him what I've written that day. He doesn't comment. I don't invite comments from anyone but my editor, but hearing it aloud is good. Sometimes I hear the dissonance; then I try to straighten it out in the morning."

From *Daily Rituals: How Artists Work* by Mason Currey, published by Alfred A. Knopf, pp. 122-124.

Mark your Poetry Calendar

- **JULY 1**, new ISPS year begins. Have you renewed your membership? See form and information on page 6.
- **JULY 1**, deadline Great River Shakespeare Festival/Maria W. Faust Sonnet Contest, GRSF.org.
- **JULY 12**, Write! Chicago plans a day at the Chicago Historical Museum.
- **JULY 15**, deadline for pre-publication rate (\$6) for Distilled Lives Volume 2.
- **JULY 19**, ISPS board meeting, location to be arranged.
- **JULY 26**, 8 p.m., Albert DeGenova reading and open mic at Madame ZuZu's, 582 Roger Williams Avenue, Highland Park.
- **JULY 27**, 12:30 p.m., poetry readings by Donna Pucciani and Judith Valente followed by open mic at Brewed Awakening in Westmont.
- **AUGUST 14** Write! Chicago plans a visit to the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum.
- **AUGUST 17-22**, "Your Journey in Poetry," workshop by Wilda Morris at the Green Lake Christian Writers' Conference, <http://glcc.org/Adult%20Conferences>.
- **AUGUST 31**, 12:30 p.m., poetry readings by Albert DeGenova and Larry Janowski, followed by open mic at Brewed Awakening in Westmont.
- **SEPTEMBER 1**, deadline for Poets and Patrons 58th Annual Chicagoland Poetry Contest, www.poetsandpatrons.net/contest13.
- **SEPTEMBER 1**, Schaible Sonnet Contest deadline.
- **SEPTEMBER 1**, deadline for submissions to ISFPC (Indiana) contests.
- **SEPTEMBER 20**, 2:00 p.m., poetry slam, open mic, Chicago Library, North Austin, 5724 W. North Avenue, Chicago.
- **OCTOBER 15**, deadline for 2014 ISPS Poetry Contest, www.illinoispoets.org. ✍

ISPS Members Noted in JOMP 16

ISPS member Joseph Glaser won *The Journal of Modern Poetry 16* Best Modern Poem Prize for his submission, "Nickel Pickle." The poem was also a 2014 Chicago Poetry Press Pushcart Prize nominee, along with "Workshop Words" by Wilda Morris and "I Can Only Imagine" by Pamela Larson.

ISPS members among those short-listed in the judging process for the 2014 contest were Marcia Pradzinski and Mary Jo Balistreri. ✍

Members Join Email Critique Groups

Five-member groups have formed in the new ISPS email critique program. As more members request to participate, additional groups composed of five poets will be assigned in such a way as to maximize geographic diversity, according to coordinator Wilda Morris.

Each group member is entitled to submit one poem for critique monthly and, in turn, agrees to critique poems submitted by the other members

To join an ISPS email group or to request a full copy of the guidelines, contact Wilda Morris at wildamorris@ameritech.net. Put "ISPS Email Critique Group" in the subject line of the email. Be sure to include your name with your request. ✍

Spotlight on ISPS Poet Patty Dickson Pieczka



Patty Dickson Pieczka of Carbondale, Illinois, won the 2012 Library of Poetry Book Award from Bitter Oleander Press for her second book of poetry, *Painting the Egret's Echo*. She was also featured in the *Bitter Oleander* spring 2014 issue with a 30-page interview and new poetry. Other awards include the 2010 Frances Locke Memorial Poetry Award, a first place in the 2012 ISPS poetry contest free verse category, and a nomination for an Illinois Arts Council Award. Pieczka is the author

of *Lacing Through Time* (Bellowing Ark Press, 2011) and a chapbook, *Word Paintings*, (Snark Publishing, 2002). Her writing contributions have appeared in many journals, including *Bluestem*, *Blue Unicorn*, *California Quarterly*, *The Cape Rock*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Eureka Literary Magazine*, *Green Hills Literary Lantern*, *Red Rock Review*, *Sierra Nevada Review*, *Versedaily.org*, and *Willow Review*. Pieczka is a graduate of the Creative Writing Program at Southern Illinois University.

When did you first start writing poetry?

Growing up in Evanston, I read and listened to lots of poetry, since my father, John Dickson, was a prolific writer. When I was older, I typed his manuscripts on a Selectric II typewriter which required entire poems to be retyped for each revision, so I learned poetry by sheer repetition. He had a compelling, conversational style. My own poetry is more condensed and extremely visual and first came to me in the form of dreams in 1996, about a month after my best friend died of cancer.

What inspires you to write?

Magic. Since poetry is my escape from the literal and harsh, I like to look for the "almost possible" in any situation, to saw a poem in half and turn it into two white doves.

What is your advice to aspiring poets?

Read and read some more. You'll know the poets who speak to you and those who don't. Follow the writers who inspire you and make you want to locate the nearest pen. Turn your topic inside out, look at things from a new angle, write from your heart.

Do you have any advice about how to get published?

It's helpful to have a group like ISPS or a friend who writes to run your work past before sending it out. It's easy to lose objectivity on our own work, and another person may see the flaws more readily. Seek out journals whose work you admire. If you find inspiration in what they're publishing, chances are they'll like your work, too. Then, as my dad used to say, "Just send it out and forget it." Don't get too distracted either way by the response.

Do you ever get writer's block? How do you overcome this?

I think most of us do, at times. I try not to censor myself before the words can get to the paper. Instead, I write what comes to mind and edit later. Music helps, staying close to nature or walking barefoot along the shores of the subconscious mind and dipping into the pool of the half-asleep state. ✍

POETRY by PATTY DICKSON PIECZKA

Songs from an Empty Bowl

1.

She reads rivers, plants,
stars, measures her life
between wolf moon and candle-flame,
Polaris and roseroot.

Wooly worms and the croaks of toads
tell her when to take shelter.
Falling stars augur fair
weather and a blood moon

brings rain: ashes, dirt, swirls
of black feathers. She drops a stone
into the well but finds the loudest
echoes ripple through her mind.

2.

At night she closes her eyes
and boards the constellation Carina,
the sparkling ship that sails the sky.

She looks back at earth with its broken
people and wonders what is left
when a snake's rattle
makes the night's music.

3.

She becomes a stream, rocks
along her spine, vines wending
through her fingers, mint, ripe

berries, the scent of green.
Men dip their cups into her heart;
cows lick her toes.

4.

Silences slip between breath
and heartbeat, the pause
after a bird's call;

she fills her hands with emptiness
of spaces between leaves
and learns to become whole.

First published in *Bluestem Magazine*

ISPS Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 9
Pontiac Public Library
815-844-7229
211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, July 13
Northbrook Public Library (second floor, inter-
active classroom) 847-272-6224
1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL
Bring your beverage, 8-10 copies of poems
for critique. No food allowed in this room.

SOUTHERN CHAPTER, CARBONDALE

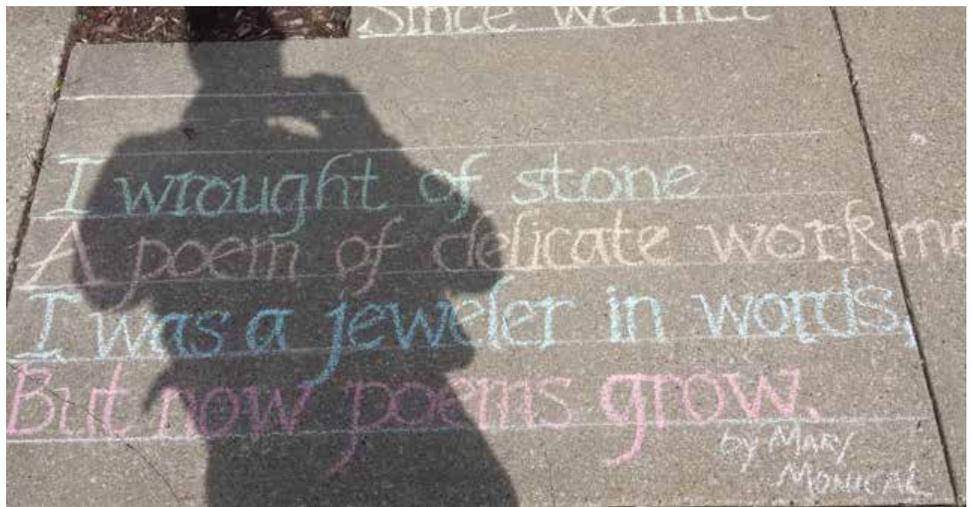
2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Sunday, July 13
Carbondale Public Library
630-986-1976
405 West Main, Carbondale, IL
Bring 8-10 copies of poems for critique
and a snack to share.

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER, LISLE

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 3
Lisle Public Library 630-971-1675
777 Front St., Lisle IL
Bring your beverage, 20 copies of poems
for critique, and a snack to share.

WEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER, HINSDALE

1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, July 5
Hinsdale Public Library
630-986-1976
20 East Maple Street, Hinsdale, IL Bring
your own beverage, 12 copies of poems for
critique, and a snack to share.



AN IDEA WORTH COPYING. Central Chapter, Pontiac, chalked city sidewalks with poetry May 3–4. A poem by member Mary Monical is featured in calligraphy by chapter facilitator David Alexander, also the shadowed photographer.

New Members / Members' News

MARY ANN BARNETT of Cypress is a new member of the Southern Chapter. She is the author of the poetry collection, *The Invisible Girl Dresses Herself*.

TIM BREITZMANN of Chicago is a new member at large and ISPS Benefactor.

JOAN COLBY has a new poetry book, *Bittersweet*, available at the special pre-publication price of \$6 at www.mainstreetrag.com

EVE LOMORO of Aurora is a new member. Read samples of her poetry in the new volume of *Distilled Lives*.

SUSAN T. MOSS' new chapbook, *From The Dark*, will be published in late July.

JAMES REISS is the author of five books of poetry, the latest, *Riff on Six: New and Selected Poems*. His first collection, *The Breathers*, was nominated for the National Book Award, and the fourth book, *Ten Thousand Good Mornings*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. In January 2015 CW Books will publish Reiss' sixth poetry collection, *The Novel*. A more extensive and impressive bio of this new ISPS member is available on our website and at www.jamesreiss.com. ✍

ISPS and Brewed Awakening Sponsor Featured Poets and Open Mic Events

Readings by featured poets at 12:30 p.m., followed by open mic, are set for July 27 and August 31 at Brewed Awakening, 19 W. Quincy Street, Westmont. A cover charge of \$7 includes beverage and snack.



JULY 27. Donna Pucciani's poetry has appeared in diverse journals, has been published on four continents and is translated into Chinese, Japanese and Italian. Pucciani's fifth and most recent collection of poetry is *Hanging*

Like Hope on the Equinox.



Judith Valente is an award-winning broadcaster and poet. Her book, *Twenty Poems to Nourish Your Soul*, was runner up for the 2008 Eric Hoffer award. She has been a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize twice.



AUGUST 31. Albert DeGenova is a poet, editor, teacher, and blues saxophonist. He is the author of two books of

poetry and three chapbooks; his latest, in 2014, is *A Good Hammer*. In June of 2000 he launched the literary/arts journal *After Hours*, for which he continues as publisher and editor.



Larry Janowski is an award-winning poet. His book, *Brother Keeper*, was published in 2007, and he's at work on a new manuscript called *Second Collection*. Although he is a Franciscan friar, the Loyola Jesuits allow him to teach at the University.

Check Out Dozens of Poetry Categories Available in Upcoming Contests

Illinois State Poetry Society 21st Annual Contest

Complete guidelines for the ISPS poetry contest are now available at www.illinoispoets.org.

Four Categories

1. Free Verse
2. Formal Poetry (classical or modern)
3. Haiku
4. Theme of "journey" (any form)

Prizes in each category

First, \$50; Second, \$30; Third, \$15
Three Honorable Mentions

Rules

1. Contest is open to anyone.
2. All poems must be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in print or electronically. Poems that have won monetary awards are ineligible.
3. All poems except haiku must be titled.
4. Poems must be in English, no longer than 40 lines, typed in 12- or 14-point type. No fancy fonts or illustrations.

Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs: 31 Contests

ISFPC's 36th annual poetry contests are open for submissions July 1 through September 1, 2014. For non-members of ISFPC, entry fee is \$10 and covers one or all entries.

Submissions must be the original, unpublished work of the entrant. Only one poem may be entered in each category and poems may not concurrently be entered in any other contests.

Send an original and a copy of each poem on white 8 ½ x 11 paper with no personal identification on the original; name and address in the upper right-hand corner of the copy. All pages must have the contest number and CORRECT contest name in the upper left-hand corner. Separate originals from copies and arrange them in order

5. One poem per 8.5 x11" page.
6. Simultaneous submissions are accepted.
7. Submit two copies of each poem: First copy with ID (name, address, e-mail, phone number) and category in upper left hand corner. Second copy without ID but with category.

Entry fees

ISPS members: \$5 for up to five poems, \$1 each additional poem.
Non-ISPS members, \$8 up to five poems, \$1 each additional poem.

Submissions

Make checks payable to:
Illinois State Poetry Society

Mail submissions with your check to:
ISPS Contest % Judith Tullis
6455 Big Bear Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525

Deadline

Entries must be postmarked on or before October 15. ✍

by contest number.

Make checks payable to ISFPC and send by U.S. Postal Mail to: Caroline Dewey, ISFPC Contest Director, 5309 Stonecreek Trail, Fort Wayne, IN 46825. For complete information, see the society's website: www.isfpc.org. ✍

Contests from Other NFSPS Member Societies

The Arizona State Poetry Society offers a dozen contest categories, including memorable characters, Facebookians unite!, cinquain, horses, rhyming poetry, short free verse, breaking words, and longer tales. Deadline for submissions is September 30. For contest details, go to <http://azpoetry.webs.com/2014annualcontestinfo>.

Georgia Poetry Society has seven contests available with submission period from September 1 through November 15. See contest details at <http://georgiapoetrysociety.org> ✍

Schaible Sonnet Contest

ISPS poet Beth Staas took first-place in last year's Helen Schaible International Sonnet Contest. We hope sonnet honors will again go to ISPS members. To enter the no-fee contest send two copies of a Shakespearean or a Petrarchan sonnet to Barbara Eaton, 416 Gierz Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515. One copy should have ID (name, address, phone no. and email of poet) and one should be unidentified. Deadline is September 1; winners will be notified by November 1. Additional information is available at www.illinoispoets.org. ✍

Poets and Patrons Contests

Poets & Patrons 58th Annual Chicagoland Poetry Contest includes seven open categories—religious, humorous, formal verse, free verse, social conscience, miniature poem, and nature. Five additional categories with Chicago themes are available for those who live within 100 miles of Chicago.

Prizes are \$45, \$20, \$10 and three in each category. Non-members may enter all open categories (1 poem per category) for \$15; members may enter for \$12. Each additional poem fee is \$2 (\$1 for members). Deadline is September 1.

For complete information, go to www.poetsandpatrons.net/contest12. ✍

ISPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President, Susan T. Moss
stm48@hotmail.com

Vice President, Jim Lambert
jim@jimlambert.net

Secretary, Wilda Morris
wem@ameritech.net

Treasurer, Judith Tullis
jtullis@ameritech.net

Historian, Carolyn Jevelian
gjeve@aol.com

Newsletter Editor, Kathy Cotton
kacotton7@frontier.com

Central Chapter, Pontiac
Facilitator David Alexander
pontiacpoetry@aol.com

North Suburban Chapter, Northbrook
Facilitator Susan Moss
stm48@hotmail.com

Southern Chapter, Carbondale
Facilitator Kathy Cotton
kacotton7@frontier.com

Southwest Suburban Chapter, Lisle
Facilitator Barbara Eaton
eatonb1016@aol.com

West Suburban Chapter, Hinsdale
Facilitator Caroline Johnson
twinkscat@aol.com

Past President Mardelle Fortier
fortier@cod.edu

At-Large Member, Sheila Kirscher
jkirscher@comcast.net

ISPS Online Submissions: Even Months, First Two Weeks

The next bimonthly submission period for member poetry on the ISPS website is Friday, August 1, through August 14. Members may submit one piece of original work, maximum two pages, to Alan Harris at oasis@alharris.com or by mail to Alan Harris, 543 E. Squirrel Tail Dr., Tucson, AZ 85704. Member poetry is viewable by poet, poem title, or submission period at www.illinoispoets.org. ✍

Happy New Year, ISPS: Did You Renew?

The 2013-14 ISPS membership year ended June 30. Renew now for the continuing benefits of the 2014–2015 ISPS year. For the small investment of \$20 (optional \$30.00 for Patron status or \$50.00, Benefactor status), you support poetry in Illinois and receive all these perks:

- ☆ Triple membership: the Illinois State Poetry Society AND the National Federation of State Poetry Societies AND any of the ISPS chapters.
- ☆ ISPS bimonthly newsletter plus email notices of events throughout the state.
- ☆ NFSPS quarterly publication, *Strophes*.
- ☆ Special submission rates for annual ISPS and NFSPS contests.
- ☆ Free admission to ISPS seminars and lectures and all chapter meetings.
- ☆ Poetry critiques at chapter meetings across the state, plus online critique groups.
- ☆ Bimonthly publication of a poem submitted to the ISPS website.

If you have not submitted a brief bio for the newsletter and website, you are invited to send one with your membership form. ✍



ISPS Membership Form PLEASE PRINT

Complete the information below and send the form with a check for July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015 annual dues of \$20.00 (optional \$30 for Benefactor or \$50 for Patron) to the address below. New members please send also a short bio for our newsletter and website.

MEMBERSHIP:

Renewal New Member \$20 Regular \$30 Benefactor \$50 Patron

VOTING CHAPTER (select one):

Central, Pontiac North Suburban, Northbrook Southern, Carbondale
SW Suburban, Lisle West Suburban, Hinsdale At-Large

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home or cell) _____

Email _____

Mail to: Judith Tullis, 6455 Big Bear Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525