

2017, ISSUE 4

Editor, Kathy Cotton
kalcotton@gmail.com

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Challenge: the Found Poem	1
President's Message	1
New Members / Members' News	2
Illinois Manningham Winners	2
Brewed Awakening	2
Feature: Bonnie J. Manion	3
NFSPS Convention	4
Two Ekphrastic Events	4
New ISPS Secretary	5
ISPS Poetry Contest	5
Summer Poems & Reading	5
Contest Tips from Judges	5
Mark Your Poetry Calendar	6
Chapter Meetings	6
Renew Your Membership	6
Renew Your Membership	6

ISPS BOARD

President, Susan T. Moss
Vice President, Jim Lambert
Secretary, Melissa Huff
Treasurer, Judith Tullis
Historian, Carolyn Jevelian
Newsletter Editor, Kathy Cotton
Central Chapter
Facilitator Kathleen Murphy
Haiku Chapter
Facilitator Susan Auld
North Suburban Chapter
Facilitator Susan Moss
Southern Chapter
Facilitator Kathy Cotton
Southwest Suburban Chapter
Facilitator Barbara Eaton
West Suburban Chapter
Facilitator Caroline Johnson
Past President Mardelle Fortier
At-Large Member
Sheila Kirscher

Poetry Challenge: Creating the "Found Poem"

Let's welcome the new U.S. Poet Laureate, 35-year-old Tracy K. Smith. Director of the creative writing program at Princeton University, the new laureate is a poet with a powerful voice to share with America.

I found Smith's poem, "Watershed," which pulls the reader into the emotions of a chemical contamination case, to be one of the strongest found poems I've ever read. From a 2016 *New York Times Magazine* article and excerpts of narratives from contamination survivors, Smith crafted a heart-piercing poem that transcends the news story facts. Her poem is a good example of how careful editing and formatting can enhance readability. See (and hear the poet read) "Watershed" at www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/watershed.

In honor of Smith, our writing challenge for the September/October ISPS newsletter is to create a found poem with words, phrases, or passages from selected sources. Create new meaning as you make changes in spacing and lines, add or mix texts. Be sure to note the source material for your found poem. Send your "word collage" submission to me at kalcotton@gmail.com. We hope to share a few with our readers in the next issue. -Kathy Cotton, Editor



A Message from the ISPS President

July 1 marked the beginning of a new two-year term for ISPS board members, including chapter facilitators who will be chosen at upcoming chapter meetings. We shall be keeping the same officers with the exception of Wilda Morris who retired and contributed a great deal as the past secretary. We welcome our new secretary, Melissa Huff, who will attend her first board meeting in August. Tom Moran will continue as the Manningham contest chairman but has stepped down as a member-at-large. Thank you to all who have served these past two years.

I recently participated in a week-long poetry workshop in Wisconsin and had the opportunity to join with others who also wanted to hone their work and share ideas. While it can be difficult to write poetry in twelve-minute exercises, work can evolve from those "on demand" sketches. As the week progressed, it became a little easier when able to give myself over to the creative process and supportive group energy. At the end of the session, I had three new poems.

However, it's important to seek one's own company and discover new slants on ideas and word-play. Those many solitary hours are necessary for contemplation that comes with talking to oneself. For many poets, the combination of sharing critique sessions or even attending short workshops lasting just a couple of hours plus alone time can be rewarding.

Besides taking in the warmth of the season, we need to be good keepers of our poetic gardens and consider what the poet Robert Herrick suggested: "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may/Old Time is still a-flying."

Happy writing, Susan T. Moss

ISPS New Members / Members' News

GLORIA JAGUDEN of Fox Lake, IL, is a new member of the Haiku Chapter.

RON BOETTGER from Villa Park, IL, is a new ISPS member.

THOMAS R. KEITH, originally from Austin, TX, but now residing in Chicago, is a classics teacher by profession, specializing in ancient Greek language and literature. He has work forthcoming in the literary journals *Westview* and *Modern Haiku*, and recently completed a verse translation of Euripides' play, *Andromache*.



CAROLE BOLINSKI of Carterville, IL, is a new member of the Southern Chapter. She has published a poetry book, *Pearls Beneath the Rind*, with her brother, Richard. Bolinski has an MA in art education and an MEd in secondary education and is a recent transplant to southern Illinois.

DAVE MCKAY is a new member of the Southern Chapter and has been writing poetry for a short time. He taught English for many years in McHenry County, IL, and moved to southern

Illinois about ten years ago, where he enjoys the hills, lakes, state parks, and the armadillo infestation.

CAROLINE JOHNSON of Willow Springs, IL, announces the upcoming publication of her poetry collection, *The Care-giver*, by Holy Cow! Press in spring 2018. The manuscript was also a top-10 finalist in the 2016 NFSPS Stevens Competition and a semi-finalist in the Concrete Wolf Competition.

DAVID GROSS of Pinckneyville and **IDA KOTYUK** of Villa Park have each sponsored new categories in the 2017 ISPS Poetry Contest.



SENIOR DIVISION WINNERS

- 1st Adrian Cole, East Moline
- 2nd Simone Robinson-Stevens, Morris
- 3rd Matt McDonnell, Lisle
- 4th Nick Overby, Bloomington
- 5th Jamari Chalmers, Chicago

SENIOR HONORABLE MENTIONS

- 1st Maisa Muhammad, Chicago
- 2nd Kelli Billish, Lisle
- 3rd Julia Nelson, Bloomington
- 4th Lindsey Payne, Glen Ellyn
- 5th Makenna Huff, Manito

JUNIOR DIVISION WINNERS

- 1st Rachel Perales, Ingleside
- 2nd Nicolas Bujan, Ingleside
- 3rd Aaron Brown, West Salem
- 4th Aerianna Marceaux, West Salem
- 5th Amber Bou, Pine Grove

JUNIOR HONORABLE MENTIONS

- 1st Cole Fishel, West Salem
- 2nd Isaiah Clodfelter, West Salem
- 3rd Bryton Steber, West Salem
- 4th Sophie Nelson, Ingleside
- 5th Alexander Castellini, Pine Grove

Manningham Winners



The poems of 20 Illinois students advanced to the national Manningham Poetry annual NFSPS contests. Three of our state winners read their poems at a May 28 event at Brewed Awakenings. Amber Bou (above) from Pine Grove is a junior division winner. Simone Robinson-Stevens from Morris and Adrian Cole from East Moline, pictured below with state contest chair and judge Tom Moran, are both Illinois senior division winners. Read student poems on our website, illinoispoets.org.

Brewed Awakening Readings to Feature Jocelyn Ajami, Elbert Briggs, and Mike Bayles

On Sunday, July 30, Jocelyn Ajami and Elbert Briggs will be reading at Brewed Awakening, the coffee shop at 19 West Quincy in Westmont. Iowa poet Mike Bayles will be one of the featured poets on August 27 (possibly accompanied by another poet). These events run from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and include an open mic. The \$10 cover charge entitles each person to coffee or other beverage and a snack.



JOCELYN AJAMI is an award winning painter, independent documentary filmmaker and writer. She is the founder of Gypsy

Heart Productions which specializes in documentary projects related to cultural awareness and social justice. Among her award winning films are *Gypsy Heart*, *Oasis of Peace* and *Queen of the Gypsies*. Born in Caracas, Venezuela, and educated in Italy and France, Ajami speaks five languages; she now works and lives in Chicago. You can learn more about her at www.gypsyheartproductions.com.

ELBERT TAVON BRIGGS was born in Minneapolis, MN, and raised in Omaha, NE. He studied at Arizona State University and currently resides in Chicago. His poems have been published in *New Verse News*, *Caravel*

Journal and *Seeds Literary & Visual Arts Journal*. Briggs served two years in AmeriCorps VISTA fighting the war on poverty in the Lower Delta.

MIKE BAYLES is the author of three books of poetry: *The Harbor I Seek*, *The Rabbit House*, and *Threshold*. He has also published



Breakfast at the Good Hope Home (918 Studio Press.), a literary collage about a son visiting his Alzheimer's father in the nursing home, and loss of the family life he's known. He enjoys his associations with both the Quad Cities' writing community and the Rockford Writers' Guild.

Spotlight on ISPS Poet Bonnie J. Manion



Finally finding time for reflection after her sixth child started college, Bonnie Manion began to write poetry in the late 1990s. At 75 years old, this prolific poet now has more than 600 poems published in 60 venues, both print and online, and has published five poetry chapbooks. She also composes music for piano and has done some seascape oil painting as well.

Manion grew up in South Bend, Indiana, received a bachelors degree in elementary education from DePaul University of Chicago, and now lives with her husband Paul in the small east-central city of Hoopston, Illinois.

Tell us about your journey into writing poetry.

About three years into this journaling (i.e., poetry composition), a friend encouraged me to attend a writers conference. Those folks urged me to submit my poems to publishers. In 2001 my first poems appeared in print! I have five chapbooks—three are on Amazon.com., but no long, book-length collections.

With more than 600 published poems to your credit, what advice can you offer our readers about getting poetry published?

Getting published is work! I estimate that I send out at least ten times as many poems as are accepted. The best place to find publishers is in *Poets Market* (for the current year). You have to take the time to examine the requirements and published work of any sources that interest you before selecting similar work to send, and composing a nice letter of introduction to accompany your poems. I send out about fifteen or twenty queries with about three or four poems each at the same time, about three times per year.

Do you have a regular place/time for writing or any regular writing practices?

I have my own desk and computer in a now-unused bedroom upstairs (out of the way of my retired husband!). I keep a file of all the poetry I compose, by the year. I also maintain

a website, BonnieManion.com, for my published poetry. At least every other week, I set aside a couple hours for editing my poetry in the yearly files. Very few poems feel finished enough to send out without going through at least half a dozen edits. Frankly, those editing decisions are all made by intuition. Likewise, I only write when the Muse moves me! Poems usually appear in my brain almost wholly formed, on a sudden inspiration. I have to jot them down (with ink and paper) right away, or I forget the inspiration/poem.

What favorite poets or poetry books would you recommend to our readers?

One of my conference poetry instructors (and a favorite poet) is Barbara Crooker. I recommend her very readable, original poetry (see her website, barbaracrooker.com). I also like Kay Ryan's poetry. Reading any of the poet laureates is a good place to start. I also read the poems on the ISPS website every other month. I prefer poetry that is not obscure, that is very understandable. I think most of the reading public does too.

What inspires you to write?

Life itself is my inspiration and subject. I write for myself alone; publishing is completely extra. I'm inspired by nature, happenings in my large extended family, spiritual insights, and incidents I hear about. I travel a lot, so, for example, experiencing the power and magnitude of Niagara Falls led me to share my mental/emotional image of it.

Are you active in poetry groups or in other ways of supporting poets and the craft of poetry?

I'm a member of ISPS, the Rockford Writers Guild, the Chicago Poets and Patrons Society, the Poetry Society of America, The Academy of American Poets, and the Poetry Foundation. I've also been associated with St. David's Christian Writers Assn., Catholic Writers Assn., and The Society of American Poets. I wish I was in a writers group, but I live in a small farming community in downstate Illinois without one. Over the years, I've attended a dozen writers conferences. I've also taught a few.

Poems by Manion

Niagara Falls

Tower of thunder,
a thundering flood,
a mountain of water
all crashing down
falling in squalls,
a huge watery wall
of torrential halls,
cataracts that astound
crashing all around,
thunder raining down,
turbulent roar drowning
all other sounds.

Published on *Poetry Atlas*

Falling Leaves, Falling Lives

Many leaves
drop
straight
down,
pile up
brown,
obscured,
unobserved,
crumbled
underfoot.

Some leaves
ride updrafts,
veined kites
caught
in brief flight,
then dashed
wedged,
torn,
alone.

A few lives
soar
above,
flicker light,
flash color,
hover
alight.

First published in
The Pegasus Review

ISPS Members Take Wins at National Convention in Fort Worth

James F. Ahearn, Rochester, MI
6th HM, The NFSPS Board Award

William T. Carey, Glencoe, IL
7th HM, Massachusetts Poetry Society Award

Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL
1st Place, Winners' Circle Award
2nd Place, Peace Award
4th HM, Al Laster Memorial Award
4th HM, Jessica Saunders Memorial Award

Gail Denham, Sunriver, OR
4th HM, Poetry Society of Michigan Award

Melissa Huff, Champaign, IL
2nd HM, Peace Award

Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL
2nd Place, The NFSPS Board Award
5th HM, Poetry Society of Tennessee Award
7th HM, Donald Stodghill Memorial Award

Jenny Kalahar, Elwood, IN
3rd, NFSPS Founders' Award
5th HM, Winners' Circle Award

Kolette Montague, Centerville, UT
2nd, Alabama State Poetry Society Award
3rd, Claire Van Breeman Downes Memorial
1st HM, Ohio Award
2nd HM, League of Minnesota Poets Award
5th HM, Poets Northwest Award
7th HM, Barbara Stevens Memorial Award

Wilda Morris, Bolingbrook, IL
1st HM, The Georgia Poetry Society Award
3rd HM, Wypoets Award
3rd HM, The New York Poetry Forum Award

Donna Pucciani, Wheaton, IL
3rd Place, Alabama Poetry Society Award,
1st HM, Winners' Circle Award

Doris Stengel, Brainerd, MN
2nd HM, Ohio Award
7th HM, League of Minnesota Poets Award

Myron L. Stokes, Oak Park, IL
3rd HM, The NFSPS Board Award

Russell H. Strauss, Memphis, TN
2nd Place, Nevada Poetry Society Award
2nd Place, Minute Award
3rd Place, The NFSPS Board Award
3rd Place, Jessica Saunders Memorial Award
4th HM, Ohio Award
4th HM, Alice Makenzie Swaim Mem. Award
4th HM, Gingerbread Poets Award
Citation, Donald Stodghill Memorial Award



The National Federation of State Poetry Societies announced 35 contest awards to 13 ISPS members at the 2017 convention. The event was held in Fort Worth, Texas, June 29 through July 2.

Winning poems by our members who took first-, second- and third-place monetary awards will be included in the 2017 *Encore Prize Poems* anthology. Also, look for the names of the 20 wins by our members in the volume's Honorable Mention listing. *Encore* will be available on Amazon.com in August.



ISPS members at the convention's four days of "Art and Soul of Poetry" included (front) ISPS officers—vice president, Jim Lambert; president, Susan Moss; retiring secretary, Wilda Morris; and treasurer, Judith Tullis—and (back) Jim Barton, president of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

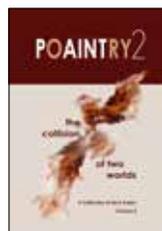
Two June Ekphrastic Events Inspire ISPS Poets



At Downers Grove: Marilyn Huntman Giese, William Marr, and Wilda Morris. At Anna, Candace Armstrong and Jan Presley.

ISPS poets and Illinois artists combined their work for two ekphrastic exhibits at distant areas of the state: the Brigantine Gallery in Chicago-area Downers Grove and the Shawnee Hills Arts Council/Anna Arts Center in southern Union County.

For the Downers Grove event, two dozen ISPS poets responded with 26 poems to 24 pieces of art. The reception was held June 19. The co-sponsored SHAC and



Southern Chapter members: Hugh Muldoon, Jan Presley, Idella Edwards, Kathy Cotton, and Candace Armstrong.

ISPS Southern Chapter event is in its second year and is anthologized in the art and poetry books, *Poaintry* and *Poaintry2*, available on Amazon.com. The closing reception on June 17 featured 32 pieces of artwork which were accompanied by 44 displayed poems. Both events were well attended.



Melissa Huff Is New ISPS Secretary

Melissa Huff of Champaign, IL, joins our president, Susan Moss of Evanston; vice president, Jim Lambert of Carbondale; and treasurer, Susan Tullis of Indian Head Park for the 2017-2019 term of ISPS officers. Our new secretary is an award-winning poet and is nationally known as a metal and enamel artist for her unique jewelry. Visit her website at melissahuff.com.

Happy Summer! Poems of the Season to Inspire You

We thank our friends at Poet.org for this themed list of poems for summer enjoyment and inspiration.

“To Summer” by William Blake

“Deep Lane [June 23rd, evening of the first fire-flies]” by Mark Doty

“Summer in the South” by Paul Laurence Dunbar

“Knoxville, Tennessee” by Nikki Giovanni

“In the Mountains on a Summer Day” by Li Po

“Accidental Pastoral” by Maggie Smith

“Strawberrying” by May Swenson

“Solstice” by Tess Taylor

“June Light” by Richard Wilbur

. . .and Poetry Books to Savor

From the book store or library, these poetry collections are recommended from various “Best of 2016” lists.

Garden Time by Pulitzer Prize-winning former U.S. Poet Laureate W. S. Merwin. While in the process of losing his eyesight, Merwin dictated to his wife the remaining poems of this collection.

Collected Poems by Adrienne Rich includes great work from the 1970s, '80s, and '90s.

Collected Poems by Rita Dove spans three decades of poetry by the Pulitzer Prize-winner and former U.S. poet laureate.

Upcoming ISPS Poetry Contest: Sponsor a Category

The 24th Annual ISPS Poetry Contest opens for submissions July 20, as contest chairman Jim Lambert closes our opportunity to sponsor new categories.

Until the July 15 sponsorship deadline, individuals, groups, or chapters may still add to the list below by donating a prize package of \$55 to \$190. Categories may be in honor or memory of persons, if desired. Contact chairman Jim Lambert, jim@jimlambert.net, for the sponsorship form. The contest currently has seven categories:

The form is titled "ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY 2017 Poetry Contest Sponsorship". It includes instructions for sponsors, a section for "PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION" (Name, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Fax, E-mail), and a table for "PRIZE PACKAGE" with columns for Name, Amount, and a checkbox for "In Honor of". The table lists categories like "Free Verse Award" and "Formal Verse Award" with prize amounts of \$50, \$30, and \$15. A total amount of \$190 is shown at the bottom.

1. **FREE VERSE AWARD**, any subject, free verse, prizes \$50, \$30, \$15
2. **FORMAL VERSE AWARD**, any subject, any set form, prizes \$50, \$30, \$15
3. **TRADITIONAL HAIKU AWARD (5/7/5)**, any subject, prizes \$50, \$30, \$15
4. **MODERN HAIKU AWARD**, any subject, prizes \$50, \$30, \$15
5. **ISPS BOARD AWARD**, sponsored by the board of directors, subject "Community," any form, prizes \$40, \$30, and \$15
6. **PHILLIP EGELSTON MEMORIAL AWARD**, sponsored by David Gross, subject "Rural America," free verse, prizes \$25, \$20, \$10.
7. **THE IDA KOTYUK AWARD**, sponsored by Ida Kotyuk, subject "Any small item we see or use daily," any form, prizes \$60, \$40 and \$20.

Tips from Judges for Contest Submissions

Whether submitting to the upcoming ISPS contest or the many other competitions sponsored by NFSPS state societies this summer and fall, these tips from comments by contest judges may give your poems a better chance to end up in the winners' pile.

- Pay attention to the poem's title, the first of your words a judge will see. It can set the scene, grab attention, be memorable.
- Write "fresh," utilizing interesting ideas or experiences or offering a new insight or slant on traditional themes.
- Make every word count. Use strong verbs and nouns, edit modifiers, eliminate unnecessary conjunctions or tangents.
- Leave the judge with strong closing lines.
- Never mangle natural word order to achieve end-line rhymes.
- Read your poem aloud or record and play it back. If you hesitate or stumble, the judge may, too. Listen for rhythm, musicality, and poetic devices such as assonance and alliteration.
- Check your spelling. Check your spell-checked spelling.
- Review your entry one last time to be certain it complies with ALL the rules. Judges do not like to disqualify the best poems.



Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., **Saturday, August 12**
Pontiac Public Library, 815-844-7229
211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

HAIKU CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., **Sunday, Aug. 20**
Northbrook Public Library, Civic Room
847-272-6224
1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL
Bring 10 copies of up to 6 haiku for critique and a haiku that mystifies or delights from a recent journal for discussion

NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., **Sunday, July 9**
Northbrook Public Library, 847-272-6224
1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, IL
Bring 8-10 copies of poems for critique. No food/ beverages allowed in this room.

SOUTHERN CHAPTER, CARBONDALE

2:00 to 4:00 p.m., **Sunday, July 9**
Carbondale Public Library, 618-457-0354
405 West Main, Carbondale, IL
Bring 10-12 copies of poems for critique.

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER, LISLE

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., **Sunday, August 6**
Lisle Public Library, 630-971-1675
777 Front St., Lisle, IL (enter lot off Kingston)
Bring your beverage, 20 copies of poems for critique, and a snack to share.

WEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER, DARIEN

1:00 to 4:00 p.m., **Saturday, July 1**
Indian Prairie Public Library, 630-887-8760
401 Plainfield Road, Darien, IL
Bring your beverage, snack to share, and 20 copies of poems for critique.

ONLINE CRITIQUE GROUPS

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

Events & Deadlines: Mark Your 2017 Poetry Calendar

JULY 6, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Peter Booth presentation of the poetry of Hafez, City Lit Bookstore, 2523 N. Kedzie Blvd., Chicago.

JULY 15 deadline, Florida S.P.A. Poetry Contests. Details at floridastatepoet-sassociation.org

AUGUST 1, deadline for Highland Park Public Art Poetry Contest. See highlandparkpoetry.org.

AUGUST 1-15, member submission period to our website, illinoispoets.org.

AUGUST 18, deadline for 30-category Mid-South Poetry Festival contest, sponsored by Poetry Society of Tennessee. Festival is October 7 in

Memphis. See tnpoetry.org.

SEPT. 1, submission deadline for Chicagoland Poets and Patrons Contest with 14 categories and cash prizes. For rules, contact Barb Eaton at eatonb1016@aol.com.

SEPTEMBER 1, deadline for submission to Poetry Society of Indiana annual poetry contests.

SEPT. 1, submission deadline for the annual Helen Schaible Sonnet Contest. Information available from Barb Eaton at eatonb1016@aol.com.

SEPT. 30, Connecticut River Review Contest. Information available at ct-poetry.net/contests

New Membership Year Has Begun—Have You Renewed?

The ISPS membership year expired June 30. Renew your membership now to continue support of poets and poetry and to receive all these benefits through June 2018 for the small investment of \$20:

- Triple membership:** the Illinois State Poetry Society PLUS the National Federation of State Poetry Societies PLUS any of the seven ISPS chapters.
- ISPS bimonthly newsletter** plus email notices of poetry events throughout the state.
- Strophes**, the NFSPS quarterly publication.
- 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 availability of on-line critique groups.
- Bimonthly publication** of a poem submitted to our website, illinoispoets.org.

MEMBERSHIP THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018

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

VOTING CHAPTER (select one):

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home or cell) _____

Email _____

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