

2017, ISSUE 5

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"In poetry I have hope, a voice, a community"

Have you read or heard a poet saying "poetry saved my life" or "writing keeps me sane"? In a note accompanying his poem, "My Beautiful Father the Fire Bird," (*Rattle*, August 2017), John Gosslee* offers insight on the mental-health benefits of his writing:

I've learned to take the sadness and anger and channel them into something meaningful for myself and others...My poems give me strength; their precision, the wisdom that I stumble into, makes even the hardest days or weeks of moods bearable, because I know I'll have something valuable when the smoke lifts. Through all of the realization and loss, poetry remains the one consistent thing in my life...In poetry I have hope, I have a voice, and I have a community. This is my home.

How does the process of writing poems personally benefit you? Send your answers for a column in the November/December issue. Email to kalcotton@gmail.com. ✍

*Gosslee is editor of *Pank Magazine*, publisher of *Fjords Review*, and publisher of C&R Press.



A Message from the ISPS President

This year's National Federation of State Poetry Societies convention in Fort Worth, Texas, has come and gone. As always, various presentations and workshops plus opportunities to meet new and returning NFSPS members offered a rich experience that feeds my appreciation for ISPS and our wonderful poets as well as those from across the country.

One of the program presenters discussed "poetic effects through sounds" and how various music-like patterns help take a poem beyond mere words and meter. Use of alliteration, assonance, consonance, onomatopoeia and rhyme were the tools. "Meaning and Metaphor" was another workshop, again focusing on how to make poetry more musical with its sonority and images, flow and turns. On the last evening, the takeaway from keynote speaker, Carmen Tafolla, was that "poetry is looking at something with new eyes; that is poetry's challenge." She stressed that we need to write "from who you are—the authenticity of self." Next year's convention will be in Denver from May 31—June 3. Consider attending and joining other ISPS members who have discovered the camaraderie and insights offered at these gatherings.

On the subject of ISPS members, the new ISPS board is now complete with the addition of two at-large members (see full listing to the left). Sheila Kirscher accepted to serve another term and Frank Hubeny (bio on page 2) begins as a new at-large board member. We are looking forward to continuing to offer more events and venues for our poetry in both spoken and written forms. If you have some thoughts about programs, please let one of us know. I often hear from our affiliates who suggest poetic opportunities that become realities.

It has been a privilege to share so many plans, discussions, ideas, and talent with those committed people who have been or are still on the board. I am also looking forward to working with our new members and our expert and accommodating webmaster, Alan Harris, as well as those poets who continue to help organize art gallery, library and bookstore events among other opportunities to bring our poetry into the world.

Happy writing, Susan T. Moss ✍

ISPS New Members / Members' News



FRANK HUBENY, the newest member of the ISPS board of directors, was born in northern Indiana and grew up on a farm. A trained mathematician graduating from the Universities of Maine and Illinois, Hubeny worked on various data-oriented projects until retirement a few years ago. He has been writing poetry and micro-short stories for the past 15 years. His poetry features metrical lyrics and some prose poems. Hubeny is married with two adult children and currently lives in Northbrook. See his work at frankhubeny.blog.

JOCELYN AJAMI is an award-winning painter, independent documentary filmmaker, writer, and founder of Gypsy Heart Productions, which specializes in projects related to cultural awareness

and social justice. Ajami has received numerous awards, including major grants from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, The Leadership Foundation, International Women's Forum and the Goethe Institute. She has published works in *Armco World Magazine*, *Cune Press* and the *Ekphrastic Review*. Most recently her short story, *Reaching the Border*, was a finalist in the 43rd New Millennium Fiction Competition. She is a new ISPS at-large member and also a member of Poets & Patrons. Born in Caracas, Venezuela, she works and lives in Chicago.

VON S. BORLAND, of Happy, Texas, is a new at-large member. She recently had an NFSPS winning poem published in *Encore* 2017.

CYNTHIA GALLAHER of Chicago is a new member of the Haiku Chapter. Most recently, she made a 10-city book tour with her nonfiction guide and memoir,

Frugal Poets' Guide to Life. Read more about Gallaher in the Poet's Spotlight, page 3.

NETH HAAS of Anna is a new member of the Southern Chapter.

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

MARGARET M. KEATING of Elgin is a new member of Northbrook Chapter.

EILEEN LANDAU of Woodridge is a new member of the Haiku Chapter. She tells us that she just started writing haiku and now needs to learn more about the ideas and constructs. She hopes that can happen from the haiku meetings.

DONNA O'SHAUGHNESSY, a new member of the Pontiac Chapter, resides in Saunemin with her husband and a "mad collection of farm critters" on a small, sustainable homestead. A retired hospice nurse, she is a recent graduate of the University of Illinois where she was awarded the school's Senior Quinn Award for Fiction. Winner of The Dermot Healy International Poetry Award in 2016 and highly commended in the Yeats Poetry Competition in 2015, her work has also appeared in *The Galway Review*, *Ropes*, and *After Hours*. She is currently working on her first poetry collection.



BILL MARR. To celebrate his 80th birthday, nuclear engineer, painter, sculptor, and poet Bill Marr and his family established at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, an annual scholarship of \$1,000 to be presented to a student in the creative writing program. Marr's poem for the

occasion, "Start from Here," was published in Chinese in the magazine, *WenHsun*, Taipei, Taiwan.

Start from Here

80 annual rings of poetry
80 roadhouses of life

each stop has its scenery
each stop has its characters
each stop has its love stories
each stop is a new starting point
with a new direction
now all are waving and calling
come! come!
start from here



HARRIS BEGINS 18TH YEAR CURATING ISPS POEMS

With the launch of the ISPS website in June of 2000, its designer, Alan Harris, became both webmaster and curator of the Member Poems bimonthly feature. The posting, which began with seven poems, has grown into a collection of more than 2,200, which Harris indexes by date, poet, and title for easy accessibility. From the 1st through 14th of each even-numbered month, he accepts member submissions at oasis@alharris.com.

A retired computer programmer/trainer and Web developer, Harris served a term as ISPS president beginning in 2001 and continued to maintain the website and Member Poems feature after moving to Tucson, Arizona. A prolific and generous poet and author, Harris now offers his entire literary collection at alharris.com, where 27 (yes, 27!) of his books are downloadable in PDF format, free of charge.

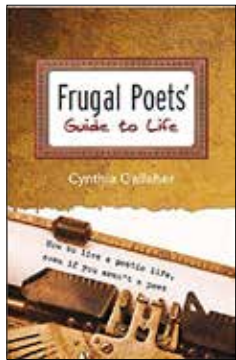
MARGARET (MARGE) SAMUEL, a member of the Lisle Chapter, passed away on June 11, at the age of 91. As well as being a poet, Marge was an avid knitter, quilter, seamstress and maker of blankets. She sewed many of her own clothes, but most of the items she created were given to Christmas Sharing (as gifts for low-income families), members of her church, and others who were ill, etc. She specialized in occasional poetry, gifting family members and others on birthdays and other special events. ✍



Spotlight on ISPS Poet Cynthia Gallaher

Cynthia Gallaher, a Chicago-based poet and playwright, began writing and publishing poetry 40 years ago, first joining in poetry events in Chicago's vibrant north side. Combining her social and writing lives in the poetry scene, she took part in open mics at such venues as the Yellow Press Readings at the Body Politic, the Apocalypse Poetry Series at Northeastern Illinois University, and Kingston Mines Theater.

Fast forward to today: Gallaher presents a series of personal stories about the Chicago poetry scene from the '70s to the present (and many other topics) in her latest book,



Frugal Poets' Guide to Life: How to Live a Poetic Life, Even If You Aren't a Poet (BookBaby, 2016). The non-fiction book is a winner of the National Indie Excellence Award. *Rain Taxi Review of Books* writes, "Whether you

are a starving poet or for some reason just want to live like one, *Frugal Poets' Guide to Life* will help you to see the beauty in the simpler things of life. The book offers an eclectic mix of poetry, memoir, cooking tips, and of course, advice for writers."

Gallaher is also the author of three full-length collections of poetry: *Night Ribbons* (Polar Bear Press, 1990), *Swimmer's Prayer* (Missing Spoke Press, 1999) and *Earth Elegance* (March Abrazo, 2000), and two poetry chapbooks, *Private on Purpose* (Mulberry Press, 1994) and *Omnivore Odes: Poems About Food, Herbs and Spices*. (Finishing Line Press, 2013). The Chicago Public Library lists her among its Top Ten Requested Chicago Poets.

From her store of advice to writers, Gallaher shares these tips:

- Read as many poets' work as you can. Don't worry about others "influencing" your writing. The concept of culture is influencing each other. We don't exist in a vacuum!
- Know you must often write for years to reach a point in which you are happy with

your writing. It's a life journey. Be willing to make mistakes. Don't give up!

- Go to open mics, readings, and workshops to meet other poets. Poets are often a "different breed," so we need the company and support of others who are like-minded.

For poets interested in self-publishing, she adds insights from the successful marketing of her award-winning 2016 self-published book.

- When you self-publish, your marketing needs to be backed with a little more clout, i.e., a blurb from a well-known author, an excellent magazine review, a high number of Amazon reader reviews, a possible award from a book contest.
- Become proficient as you can in social media: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Create a Facebook page for your book, separate from your personal Facebook page.
- Public readings are often the best opportunities to sell your book: your local library, bookstore group, farmers' market, art gallery, cable TV station, open mic venue.

A new member of the ISPS Haiku Chapter, Gallaher enjoys reading and writing haiku, which she considers a separate genre. She notes that she especially appreciates when haiku expert Lee Gurga is on hand to lend his presentations and critiques to the group.

Currently, Gallaher is working on a new poetry manuscript, a stage play, and a musical. Poetry is also familial in her life: she has been married to fellow poet Carlos Cumpián for more than 30 years.

Follow our featured poet at twitter.com/swimmerpoet and her *Frugal Poets' Guide to Life* page on facebook.com.

Poems by Gallaher

After Stuart Davis' "Ready to Wear" 1955

(An Ekphrastic Poem)

we're good at making
something from nothing,
laying ideas on tables,
working in primaries like children,
while somehow group efforts urge
pastiche of opposing bias.

stripes wave into jazzy
ribbons of syncopation,
stars dart toward black holes,
patterns are no longer uniform
and fragments of old glory
fit ever-changing models.

using scissors, thread,
presser foot and ingenuity,
we piece together
bodies of industry,
sew languid sleeves that drift
like weathered leaves
through water,
zip catches of years
of frenetic aggression,
let out waistbands
from overindulgence,

craft new American identities
from designer to knock-off,
immediate and ready to wear.

Haiku by Gallaher

morning unbuckles
Orion's belt

scrolls and tapestries—
the only public hangings
I attend

Frogpond, Fall 2014

Jethro Tull ticket stubs
stuck in the back drawer,
the scent of patchouli

naked mannequins
gazing across the street—
polling place

Focus on Our ISPS Chapters: Haiku and West Suburban



Haiku Chapter meeting: Tom Chockley, Jeff Kressman, Carma Lynn Park, Cynthia Gallaher, George Hook with his wife who was a guest, Michael Nickels-Wisdom, Lidia Rozmus, Jennifer Thiermann, and Cassandra McGovern.



One end of the table at a West Suburban Chapter meeting: Beth Staas, Bill Marr, Myron Stokes, and Ida Kotyuk.

HAIKU CHAPTER. In 2015 ISPS approved its seventh chapter and its first group to be focused on a specific form: the contemporary English-language haiku. From its first session in February 2015, the Haiku Chapter has continued to grow steadily. The group meets the third Sunday of even-numbered months from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Northbrook Library. Beginning with celebrations of publication and sharing of resources, meetings also include discussions of "haiku that mystify and those that delight" from recent haiku journals, short presentations on a haiku topic or writing exercise, critique of up to six original haiku brought by members, and occasional guest presenters. Susan Auld is the facilitator.

WEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER. With meeting attendance of five to a dozen, facilitator Caroline Johnson says, "We're a small group, but the Darien ISPS has a lot of personality! We promise a lively discussion and attention to craft." At meetings held at the Indian Prairie Library, which Johnson says is a wonderful venue, poets typically can share two poems for critique. The chapter looks toward sponsoring readings, open mics, or workshops in the future. They meet from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the first Saturday of odd-numbered months. ✍



Susan Auld



Caroline Johnson

Carbondale at the Crossroads of Great American Eclipse



Home of the ISPS Southern Chapter, Carbondale was NASA's chosen site for live streaming of the nationwide 2017 solar eclipse. The chapter created a PDF chapbook of their eclipse poems.

WHAT'S IN STORE by jacob erin-cilberto

spend your moons
it's a Woolworth patch
on a blazing, burning itch of skin

the cool white ointment within
covers perfectly in the south
beams of balm

soothing feeling priceless
just put it back on the shelf
when the bandage comes off.

GRATITUDE by Carol Dooley

I've been waiting, waiting,
for the world to turn dark as night
in the middle of the day.

Waiting since I was a child
and first saw the phenomena
on a "Little Rascals/Our Gang" comedy.
Spanky, Buckwheat, the tall skinny kid,
probably on their way to the cemetery.
Saw it elsewhere. Maybe on a
Robin Hood episode or a version
of "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court."
Learned that knowledge is more powerful
than superstition.

Omen? Maybe. Warning? Certainly,
whether your field is politics or ecology.
Or religion.

The Torah leans toward majesty, awe
and respect for God, the universe, nature.
And thankfulness.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN
AUGUST 21, 2017 by Jim Lambert

It was a blink in time.
A yawn of the cosmos.
Ecstasy, euphoria
and joy.

Clouds played dodge-ball
with our stars.
Crowds, massed and masked,
ooed and aaahed,
ironing the fabric of our lives.

It was a blink in time.

The Found Poem Challenge

"A pure found poem," poets.org tells us, "consists exclusively of outside texts: the words of the poem remain as they were found, with few additions or omissions." Answering last issue's challenge for a found poem is Gail Goepfert's "Ars Poetica," which appears in the current edition of *Found Poetry Review*. Goepfert is a member of the Northbrook Chapter.

Barred and beating,
the sharp fingers
cut the air
raise scattered quills
Conjuring trick. Reptile.
Fallen angel.
Griffon from the pages
of an illuminated bestiary.
like gold falling
through water.

A broken marionette of
light-splashed feathers.
Like a turkey
only turned right-way-up.
An aviary.
Then it was a box.
Now miles of sky
where the sun spreads on dust
water moving things—
white scraps of gulls.
Startling newly-stamped.

Source: "H Is for Hawk"
by Helen Macdonald


While found poems often come from prose news articles, speeches, letters, etc., Judith Tullis of Indian Head Park, created "Marmalade Lady" with single words and phrases found within one of her own longer poems.

People are not interchangeable
in my world. A cat is more
than a dead mouse.

A queen with her fingers
in marmalade
is a royal lady.

With the highness of trees
I shelter you, a sign of affection
for upright people in my world.

November 15th Deadline for ISPS 24th Annual Poetry Contest

The annual ISPS Poetry Contest features ten categories. New awards have been added for poems with themes of "rural America," "any small item we see or use daily," and "horror or dark humor," as well as the forms of surrealist poetry and short poems of eight or fewer lines. Also, the annual haiku category has been expanded to separate awards for traditional and modern haiku. For more information and contest guidelines, visit our website, illinoispoets.org. 



ISPS 24th ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST	
1. Free Verse	Open to all poets. No restrictions on length or form.
2. Haiku	Traditional and Modern. 17 syllables, 5-7-5 pattern.
3. Sestina	6 stanzas of 6 lines each, with a specific rhyme scheme.
4. Sonnet	14 lines, iambic pentameter, ABAB CDCD EFEF GG.
5. Ghaزل (Ghazal)	5-10 couplets, each with a rhyme and a refrain.
6. Villanelle	19 lines, 5 tercets and a quatrain, with two refrains.
7. Clerihew	4 lines, 10 syllables, ABAB rhyme scheme.
8. Limerick	5 lines, 10 syllables, ABAAB rhyme scheme.
9. Free Verse (with theme)	Open to all poets. No restrictions on length or form.
10. Free Verse (with theme)	Open to all poets. No restrictions on length or form.



ISPS Plans Legal Seminar for Writers October 8

Burr Ridge lawyer Barry Irwin, vice president of Lawyers for the Creative Arts and an adjunct professor at Notre Dame Law School, will lead an ISPS-sponsored legal seminar for writers. Topics will include the legal aspects of publishing a book, using quotes or partial wording from someone else, property rights after publication, and other related topics.

The event is set for Sunday, Oct. 8, 1:30–4:30 p.m. at Indian Prairie Public Library at 401 Plainfield Road, Darien, IL. Reservations are required, and there is a 60-person limit. Contact Judith Tullis at jtullis@ameritech.net to reserve a seat for the event. 

Brewed Awakening to Feature Carey and Burroway

On Sunday, Sept. 24, ISPS member Joseph Carey and Janet Burroway will be reading at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy in Westmont. The ISPS-sponsored event from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. includes an open mic. The \$10 cover charge entitles each person to coffee or other beverage and a snack.




JOSEPH KUHN CAREY

of Glencoe, IL, is the award-winning author of *Postcards from Poland*, a poetry collection published by Chicago Poetry Press in 2014 as a JOMP prize winner. His newest (as yet unpublished) collection of travel poems entitled, "Back to the Black Forest: A Poetic Journey Through Germany," was selected as the first-place winner in the travel category for the 2017 Paris Book Festival, 2016 Amsterdam Book Festival, and 2016 Northern California Book Festival. Carey has also published a poetry chapbook, *Bulk-Rate*, and a book on jazz. He holds masters degrees in creative

writing and mass communication.



JANET BURROWAY is the award-winning author of poetry, plays, children's books, and eight novels, including the 1970 Pulitzer-nominated *The Buzzards*; the

New York Times Notable Books *Raw Silk*, *Opening Nights*, and *Cutting Stone*; and the 2009 novel, *Bridge of Sand*. Her *Writing Fiction*, now in its ninth edition, is the most widely used creative writing text in America, and *Imaginative Writing* is in its fourth edition. Her children's book *The Giant Jam Sandwich* has been translated into 20 languages and scored for orchestra. Burroway is the author of a collection of essays, *Embalming Mom* (Iowa, 2009) and the memoir, *Losing Tim* (Think Piece Press, 2014). Winner of the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award in Writing from the Florida Humanities Council, she is Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor Emerita at the Florida State University. 



Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., **Saturday, Oct. 14**
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, Oct. 15**
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, Sept. 10**
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, Sept. 10**
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, Oct. 1**
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, Sept. 2**
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. ✍

Apply a Judge's Rating System to Your Poem

Russell H. Strauss of Memphis, Tennessee, is not only a frequent poetry contest judge, he is also a frequent poetry contest winner. That combination makes the judging methodology of this former NFSPS president a useful tool for all of us as we prepare submissions for the ISPS Poetry Contest.

Especially for contests like NFSPS, where he must choose between a large number of good poems, Strauss finds that his rating system makes judging "a little less subjective." He assigns a numerical rating from 1 to 10 for each of eight categories and totals the number, "like I might if I were judging a skating competition or gymnastic competition," Strauss explains.

Before you submit your next contest or publication poems, test their strength in his eight categories. Perhaps it will help you win, too. ✍

- Originality
- Cohesiveness
- Figurative language
- Appropriateness to form or topic
- Clarity
- Meaning and purpose. (The purpose does not have to be a serious one. Humor can be a purpose.)
- Correctness: grammar, punctuation, spelling, accurate word usage, accurate background information, etc.
- Beginnings and endings: title, first line, last line.

Deadlines & Events: Mark Your 2017 Poetry Calendar

SEPT. 1, submission deadline for Chicagoland Poets and Patrons Contest and for the Helen Schaible Sonnet Contest. For information, contact Barb Eaton at eatonb1016@aol.com.

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

SEPT. 24, 12:30 p.m., Brewed Awakening at Westmont.

OCT. 1-14, submission period for ISPS Member Poems website feature. Submit one poem to oasis@alharris.com.

OCT. 8, 1:30-4:30 p.m., ISPS-sponsored legal seminar for writers at Indian Prairie Public Library, Darien.

OCT. 29, 12:30 p.m., Brewed Awakening at Westmont.

NOV. 15, deadline for submissions to ISPS Poetry Contest.

Invite a Friend to Join You as an ISPS Member

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