A Message from the ISPS President

First, happy and healthy 2018. This new year seems to be going fast, and the board has been planning some exciting future events. April’s Poetry Month will once again be celebrated with displays in several libraries which will be updated closer to the time poems are mounted. As of this writing, they include: Aurora, Bloomington (May), Carbondale, Evanston North Branch, Glencoe, Highland Park, Hinsdale, Indian Prairie, Lake Forest, Northbrook, Wilmette, Pontiac, and more to come. The theme is “garden(s),” and the deadline is March 4. (See page 4 for details.)

Further events include a reading by members at the Evanston North Branch Library on April 16 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. If interested, you must contact Susan Moss at stm48@hotmail.com to be placed on the reader list. There will also be an event at the Lemont Art Center on April 6 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Poets will share their poems with artists at this reception. The annual Poetry Fest will be at the Harold Washington Library on April 28. ISPS will share a table with Poets and Patrons, and members’ books can be sold at the table. Other possible occasions will be announced as April gets closer.

This year also includes the fourth volume of Distilled Lives, our anthology of members’ poetry. Submissions and order forms should be sent to Judith Tullis. Two to four poems may be sent, and one or two will be selected for the book. There are separate directions for haiku-related poems. See page 2 for details. A book launch and gala is potentially going to be held in the fall.

We receive fragments of insights, glimmers of hope and despair, also surges of compelling ideas. When we have these calls to possible creativity, it’s our duty to ourselves to answer and not put off the words and inspiration that will pass us by if not engaged. With another beginning on the calendar, perhaps our poetry would benefit from some new topics we haven’t explored yet.

So many choices to consider include the topic of aging, a wish not yet realized, a nightmare, the stunning beauty of a full moon beaming light across a lake, reflections in a rearview mirror or a time when you realized that your memories are as creative as the way you choose to reformat them on the page. Let’s gather the many precious gifts we can give ourselves and then share them with each other.                          Happy writing, Susan T. Moss
ISPS Anthology, Distilled Lives, Volume 4, Open for April Submissions

Submissions for the fourth volume of the ISPS Distilled Lives anthology open April 1, with an April 30 deadline. The volume will feature a new section for haiku and related forms (see page 4).

The editorial team for this anthology is Judy Tullis, Kathy Robinson, Frank Hubeny, Susan Auld and Susan Moss. Kathy Cotton will do cover design.

Poets with current (2017-2018) ISPS membership whose submissions meet all guidelines will have poems on one or two pages of the collection.

- Submission fee is $6 which includes one copy of the anthology.
- Submit up to four pages of your best original poems, one poem or up to five haiku per page. For poems which have been previously published, include name of publication.
- Text should be in 12 pt. Times New Roman or other standard font and not exceed 40 lines, including title, stanza breaks, epigraph, etc.
- Submissions will be proof-edited for spelling, consistent punctuation, etc.

Poets will be contacted for further edits.

- Submissions must be within the confines of good taste and exclude questionable language.
- Email your submissions to isps.submissions@gmail.com, or mail them with your order form to ISPS c/o Judith Tullis, 211 Wildflower Lane, Willow Springs, IL 60525.
- Order forms for the book and additional copies will be emailed and are also available at illinoispoets.org.

ISPS New Members / Members' News

Valentine’s poems by Mary Jo Balistreri, Gail Denham, Mardelle Fortier, Judy Galati, Michael Galati, Mark Hudson, Bonnie J. Manion, William Marr, Wilda Morris, and Judith Tullis were displayed by SW Suburban Chapter at the Lisle Library in January.

CHARLOTTE DIGREGORIO of Winnetka has published six books and about 500 poems. She is a new member of the North Suburban Chapter. Read more about Digregorio in the Poet Spotlight feature on page 4 and Poetry Calendar.

ANN HART of Mahomet is a poet and graduate student in creative writing at Eastern Illinois University. She loves to travel to poetry events and be involved in poetry workshops. Hart is a member of the Champaign-Urbana Poetry group and an editor for the Champaign News Gazette’s CU Haiku. She was a featured reader at the 2017 Nancy Hennings Memorial Poetry Reading. Her work can be found at Rattle—Poets Respond, fewerthan500.com, C-U Haiku, Silver Birch Press and the anthology Tomato Slices. She was also the 2016 winner of CUMTD Poets on the Bus competition. Hart is a new member of the ISPS Central Chapter.

REV. STEPHEN KNAPP of Forest Park is a new member of the Haiku Chapter.

JOE LARKIN of Rantoul is a new member of the Champaign Chapter.

MIKKI MENDELSON of Naperville is a new member of the Lisle Chapter.

CHUCK SALMONS, a native Columbus resident, is currently president of the Ohio Poetry Association. His poems have appeared in several journals and anthologies, including Pudding Magazine, Evening Street Review, Olentangy Review, Common Threads, The Fib Review, Red Thread Gold Thread, Everything Stops and Listens, and Appleseeds. He won the 2011 William Redding Memorial Poetry Contest, sponsored by The Poetry Forum of Columbus, and regularly gives readings throughout Ohio. His first chapbook, Stargazer Suite (2016) is available from 11th Hour Press. Another chapbook, Patch Job, was released by NightBallet Press in July 2017. Salmons loves science, which often influences his poems, and is thrilled about the discoveries of water on Mars and gravitational waves. He works as editor for the Ohio Geological Survey.

M. E. HOPE became a new Illinois resident in December 2017, having just moved to the state after almost five years in Belgium. A recipient of a Fishtrap Fellowship, Playa Residency and Individual Artist Fellowship from the Oregon Arts Commission, she was a member of the Oregon Poetry Association for many years and served as contest chair for the biannual contests. Her poetry has been published at Poetry Daily, the Iowa Review, Rattle, the High Desert Journal and a number of anthologies. The Past is Clean, a chapbook, was released from Uttered Chaos Press in Eugene, Oregon. She lives in Berwyn with her husband of 31 years and two geriatric cats.

RUTH SIBURT of Decatur is a freelance writer/editor who regularly contributes book reviews to the Champaign News Gazette and articles for Decatur Magazine. Her poems have appeared in print in Unity, Cicada, Images, The Alchemist Review and National Inquirer. Siburt, a Champaign-Urbana Poets member and a new member of the ISPS Champaign Chapter, says she looks forward to exploring the online literary poetry world.

KARL WEINGARTNER of Urbana is a new member of the Champaign Chapter.
Charlotte Digregorio of Winnetka is the author of six award-winning books, including *Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All* and a haiku collection. She translates poetry books from Italian/French into English, and four of her reference books have been adopted as supplemental texts. Digregorio has published about 500 poems, won 46 poetry competitions, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her poems are translated into eight languages.

An ardent supporter of the craft of poetry, she has served as a workshop presenter at national writers' conferences, a writer-in-residence at universities, haiku teacher in the public schools, national writing contest judge, and frequent speaker at libraries, chain bookstores, and other venues. She hosted a radio poetry program on public broadcasting and was an executive officer of the Haiku Society of America. Also a haiga artist, Digregorio exhibits at libraries, hospitals, corporate centers, and other venues. See more at her blog, charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com.

Your bio shows us a life rich in poetry. How did that begin and what inspires it now?

I taught foreign literatures/languages and the writing craft at university level. For 25 years, I’ve been seriously writing poems. I now publish in 11 forms and focus on writing imagery by closely observing nature. I spend time outdoors stimulating my senses. Being a native Oregonian, I appreciate pervasive natural beauty. Living in Illinois for 12 years, I often write about Illinois and Oregon nature scenes. Another inspiration is listening to silence. Late at night, I enjoy silence, read/write poems, mindful of what happened during my day or about childhood memories.

Do you find that writing poetry provides personal benefits?

For me, poetry is an outlet to avoid focusing on bothersome things. I lose myself in it, thoughtfully focusing on revision, often going in an opposite direction with a different theme than what I started with. Improving poems—even by just changing words—requires attention, and I forget daily concerns.

From your broad writing experience, what advice can you offer about improving poetry skills?

Experiment with regularly reading/writing different poetic forms, even if you are partial to one. Doing so, usually improves your preferred form. Read literary prose that enriches your poetic diction and imagery, such as Ted Kooser’s notable book, *The Wheeling Year: A Poet’s Field Book*. And, find a critique group with talented poets. Further, listen to poems read aloud by Robert Frost or others who write beautiful images and with rhythm. You’ll also benefit from reading poetry from the 1800s onward, including foreign poets in translation. Nineteenth century poetry is particularly eloquent.

Recommend some of your favorite poets and some poetry books you currently are reading.

One’s style/ideas are influenced by one’s favorite poets. Giuseppe Ungaretti, Ada Negri, Paul Valéry, Issa, Richard Wilbur, and Donald Hall inspire with stunning imagery. Other favorites are Edgar Allan Poe, William Carlos Williams, Dorothy Parker, and Ted Kooser for their precise diction, clear imagery, and language fluidity. I’m re-reading *Between the Lines: A History of Poetry in Letters, 1962-2002*, by Poetry Magazine’s former editor Joseph Parisi and Stephen Young; Dorothy Parker’s *Complete Poems*, with her wit, satire, and subtlety; Donald Hall’s *White Apples and the Taste of Stone*; Richard Wilbur’s *New and Collected Poems*; and *The Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*.

You have published hundreds of poems. Share some advice about getting published.

Do your homework and read publications carefully before submitting, observing their poetic styles and editors’ tastes. Poets should always try new publications besides continuing to submit to editors who’ve published them. You learn from getting rejections, forcing you to be more critical. I always revise rejections and re-submit them. Many readers comment on my work, making me a better poet. The latter is a good reason to publish. Lastly, have the courage to write about themes not commonly written about, being true to your distinctive voice. Your poetry will then stand out when submitted.

What are you working on now?

I’m writing a book featuring my 500 published poems, and am revising some.
A Brief Introduction to Haiku, Senryu, Haibun, Haiga

A growing Haiku Chapter, the new haiga gallery on the ISPS website, and haiku categories in our annual contests have sparked increased interest in haiku and related forms from Japanese literature.

Thanks goes to Haiku Chapter facilitator Susan Auld for these brief introductions adapted from the Haiku Society of America at www.hsa-haiku.org/archives/HSA_Definitions_2004.html.

ENGLISH HAIKU
- Uses imagistic language to convey the essence of an experience of nature or the season, intuitively linked to the human condition.
- Typically consists of three unrhymed lines of 17 or fewer syllables, with the middle line longest. Today’s poets use a variety of line lengths and arrangements.
- Is formatted in 1 to 4 lines, with 3 being most typical.
- Has no titles and avoid the use of metaphor and simile.
- Is written in the present tense in simple language.
- May include a "kigo," the traditional Japanese haiku season word.
- May include a traditional Japanese cutting word called a "kireji," which is like punctuation that indicates a pause or gives one part of the poem emphasis. English punctuation, space, or line break may substitute for a kireji.

Don't Let Spelling and Grammar Errors Disqualify Your Poem

A recent ISPS contest judge offered this note about a large stack of submissions:

"Most of the forms were executed correctly, but a few contained spelling and punctuation errors that disqualified them. Another few had problems with verb tense and pronoun usage."

HAIBUN
- Is a terse, relatively short prose poem in the Japanese haikai style, usually including both lightly humorous and more serious elements and ending with a haiku.
- Ranges from well under 100 words to 200 or 300 words. Some longer haibun may contain a few haiku interspersed between sections of prose.
- Has connections between the prose and the haiku which may not be immediately obvious, or the haiku may deepen the tone, or take the work in a new direction, recasting the meaning of the foregoing prose, much as a stanza in a linked-verse poem revives the meaning of the previous verse.

HAIGA
- Is a fusion of haiku and graphic pictorial imagery in the haikai tradition.
- Includes paintings, photographs or collages with a poem, hand written or computer generated.
- The poem does not directly relate to the image.

FOR SAMPLES OF THESE FOUR FORMS:
www.theheronsnest.com
www.hsa-haiku.org/frogpond
www.modernhaiku.org
www.contemporaryhaibunonline.com
www.haibuntoday.com
www.dailyhaiga.org
www.haigaonline.org

"Gardens" Theme for Annual ISPS Poetry Month Displays

Throughout April, National Poetry Month, poems by ISPS members will be exhibited in selected Illinois libraries. To have your work included in displays, submit one or two "family friendly" poems with the 2018 poetry theme, "gardens."

1. Deadline for poetry submissions is Sunday, March 4.
2. Each poem must fit on a single page.
3. Use only 14 point font in simple, legible style. No script.
4. Center the poem on the page and space down two lines before starting the poem.
5. Center the title above the centered poem. NO italics, underlining, quotation marks, or bold style for the title.
6. Identify your poem with your name beneath and to the right of the poem.
7. Submit in a .doc format. Do not send the poetry as PDF.
8. Email entries to jkirscher@comcast.net or mail hard copies to:
   Ms. Sheila Kirscher
   705 Gregory
   Wilmette, Illinois 60091

A recent ISPS contest judge offered this note about a large stack of submissions:

PUNCTUATION
"Eats, shoots, and leaves" or "eats shoots and leaves"? (Yes, commas matter.) Learn the difference between a hyphen and an em dash. And be consistent with any punctuation style you choose.

SPELLING
Ten Ideas for the World's Largest Literary Celebration

The Academy of American Poets initiated National Poetry Month in April 1996 to highlight the achievement of our poets and to encourage the reading of and support for poets and poetry. Here are a few ideas to celebrate, some courtesy of poetry.org. See their website for more.

1. By March 4, submit a poem for the ISPS April library exhibits (See page 2) and check out displays at Aurora, Bloomington (May), Carbondale, Evanston North Branch, Glencoe, Highland Park, Hinsdale, Indian Prairie, Lake Forest, Northbrook, Wilmette, and Pontiac.

2. Order or download and print the 2018 Poetry Month poster at poets.org/national-poetry-month. Hang it on your favorite home or public bulletin board.

3. Chalk poems on public sidewalks. Our Pontiac Chapter has done this successfully.


5. Sign up for the Borzoi Reader's email Poem A Day broadsides, available for the month of April, knopfdoubleday.com.

6. Sign up for Poem-a-Day, a poem each morning, from poets.org/poem-day.

7. Submit a poem, April 1-14, for publication on our website, illinoispoets.org.

8. On Poem in Your Pocket Day, April 26, select a poem, carry it with you, and share it with others throughout the day.

9. Buy a book of poetry by a member of ISPS (see listing on illinoispoets.org).

10. Attend a poetry reading at a local university, bookstore, cafe, or library. Some events, including Brewed Awakening, are in "Mark Your Poetry Calendar."

ISPS and Brewed Awakening Sponsor Featured Poets January 28 and February 25

Last Sunday readings by featured poets Michael and Judy Galati, Faisal Mohyuddin and Naoko Fujimoto, are set for 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy in Westmont. Cover charge of $10.00 includes beverage and snack. Open mic readings will follow the featured poets.

SUNDAY, MARCH 25
Michael and Judy Galati, both long-time ISPS members, married about ten years ago. Michael taught English and headed the English department at Lemont High School, and edited the local newspaper. After retirement, he taught in several colleges in the Western Suburbs of Chicago. Judy grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. She was a nontraditional student at Black Hawk Community College, the University of Iowa, and Northern Illinois University (from which she graduated magna cum laude in 2010). The Galatis divide their time between Illinois and Wisconsin.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

SUNDAY, APRIL 29
Naoko Fujimoto came to the United States from her native Japan as an exchange student. She is a graduate of Indiana University. After Fujimoto publishes a poem, she often illustrates it, turning it into graphic poetry. Her first chapbook, Home, No Home, won the annual Oro Fino Chapbook Competition by Educe Press.

NFPS Contests and Early Annual Convention

CONTESTS. The annual 50 poetry contests sponsored by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies are open for submissions through March 15. All ISPS members are also NFPS members and receive special submission rates. See nfps.com for complete information.

The Founders Award, which provides the top prize of $1,000, has available both mail and online submissions (submittable.com). The Student Award also has electronic submission.

BlackBerryPeach Prizes for Poetry Spoken and Heard accepts four audio files in .mp3 or .WAV format; each file (poem) limited to three minutes duration. Voice only, please; no musical or percussion accompaniment. Submit online at submittable.com.

CONVENTION. The Columbine Poets of Colorado will host the 2018 NFPS convention in Denver, May 31 through June 3. The event, featuring speakers, workshops, readings and contest winners, is set at the Denver Renaissance Hotel at Stapleton. For reservation information, see columbinepoetsofcolorado.com.
Deadlines & Events: Mark Your Poetry Calendar

**MARCH 1-31.** Charlotte Digregorio haiga exhibit at Northfield Public Library, 1785 Orchard Lane, Northfield.

**MARCH 2 – APRIL 29.** Spark 3 display at the Lemont Center for the Arts, 1243 State Street, Unit 101, Lemont.

**MARCH 4.** Deadline for submissions to ISPS Poetry Month Library Displays.

**MARCH 13, 10:00-11:30 a.m.** Charlotte Digregorio presents a haiku workshop at Women's Exchange, 630 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka.

**MARCH 15.** Deadline for submissions to the 2018 NFSPS poetry contests. Details at nfspss.com.

**MARCH 15, 6:00 p.m., Poetry Forms and Features Workshop, Albany Park Library, 3401 W. Foster Ave., Chicago.

**MARCH 24, 8:00 p.m., Toni Asante Lightfoot reading and open mic, Madame ZuZu's, 582 Roger Williams Ave., Highland Park.

**APRIL 1-14, submission period for members' poems and haiga to the ISPS website, illinoispoets.org.

**APRIL 6, 7:00 p.m., Spark 3 reception, Lemont Center for the Arts, 1243 State Street, Unit 101, Lemont.

**APRIL 16, 7:00-8:30 p.m., ISPS poetry readings at Evanston North Branch Public Library, 2026 Central Street, Evanston. Sign up with Susan T. Moss, stm48@hotmail.com.


**APRIL 28.** Poetry Fest, Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State Street, Chicago. ISPS and Poets & Patrons will share a table.

**APRIL 28, 8:00 p.m.** Nina Corwin Reading and open mic, Madame ZuZu’s, 582 Roger Williams Ave., Highland Park.

**APRIL 29, 12:30 p.m., poetry reading and open mic at Brewed Awakening, 19 West Quincy in Westmont.

**APRIL 29, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.,** Charlotte Digregorio haiku workshop at Northfield Public Library, 1785 Orchard Lane, Northfield.

**SEPTEMBER 1,** deadlines for Helen Schaible International Sonnet Contest and the Poets & Patrons Annual Chicagoland Poetry Contest. Send submissions to Barbara Eaton, P.O. Box 936, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

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**ISPS Membership Application**

**MEMBERSHIP THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018**

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

**VOTING CHAPTER (check one)**

- Central, Champaign
- North 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, 211 Wildflower Lane, Willow Springs, IL 60525**