

Illinois Poets

News of the Illinois State Poetry Society

January – February 2022

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Susan T. Moss
President

Thomas Chockley
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Judith Tullis
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Historian and
Wm Shakespeare

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Member

Alan Harris
At-Large Board
Member
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Carbondale - Southern
Kathy Cotton

Champaign - Central
Kathy Robinson

Darien – W. Suburban
Caroline Johnson

Haiku chapter (meets in
Northbrook)
Tom Chockley

Lisle – SW Suburban
Wilda Morris

Northbrook – N. Suburban
Mary Beth Bretzlauf

Pontiac - N. Central
Kathleen Murphy

President's Message



A Message From The President - January 2022

First, happy, healthy and creative new year to everyone. When I looked back at the newsletter I wrote last year at this time, I realize that much of what I said then holds true today with the ongoing issues related to Covid. Many people are tired of feeling masked in and restricted from various gatherings, both public and private. Fear and rumors still persist while we continue to seek joy and maintain hope. Of course, we are once again fortunate to have poetry as our guide and creative outlet. As more emotional fatigue fingers its way into our wellbeing, we can and do turn to writing and reading poetry to take us into familiar territory. While some of us write about these difficult times, others focus on winter scenes, fond memories and whatever comes to mind to express our deeper concerns and appreciation. It's often the small things in life that offer the greatest promise and continuity of inspiration.

We know all this, but like most insights, they need to be revisited. So much is worth considering to gain perspective and even to transcend the usual events and thoughts which come to us. A Carl Sandburg poem, "Think About Wheels," takes a seemingly simple look at wheels that can serve as a fresh approach to observing what is around us and might offer a reprieve from concerns and a creative dry spell.

Think about wheels any time you like.
Any little wheel you see is worth looking at.
The sun is wheel, the moon is a wheel.
Many a night star is a wheel.
And in your head, in many little places behind
your blinking wonderful eyes, you can find,
if you try, ten thousand wheels within wheels.

Congratulations to the ISPS contest winners and those who have had poems published in various outlets. As the year goes forward, watch for details on submitting to the next volume of our anthology, *Distilled Lives*. You can also send a poem to our website by following the guidelines provided by Alan Harris.

Happy writing, Susan T. Moss

ISPS 2021 Poetry Contest Results

For the ISPS 2021 Poetry Contest, 112 poets submitted 916 poems over 14 contest categories. Poets hailed from 17 states, Canada and the UK. Nearly \$1500 is being mailed out to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. Thanks to all the poets who participated and a special thank you to contest chair Jim Lambert and his wife Sandy for all their hard work. Thanks to Kathy Cotton and Mary Beth Bretzlauf for their assistance. Jim is stepping down as contest chair. Mary Beth Bretzlauf will be the new contest chair in 2022.

CATEGORY 1: The Hill We Climb Award - Russell Strauss, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Barbara Funke, "Upwardly Mobile"
2ND PLACE: Michael Escoubas, "Bed And Breakfast"
3RD PLACE: Cindy Madara, "The Found"
HM 1: Daniel Fitzgerald, "Jail Talk"
HM 2: Kathy Cotton, "The Peace Trajectory"
HM 3: Pat Underwood, "Thresholds"

CATEGORY 2: The ISPS Board Award - Barbara Blanks, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Patty Dickson Pieczka, "COVID: Year Two"
2ND PLACE: Terry Jude Miller, "The New Normal"
3RD PLACE: Kathy Cotton, "The Certainty Of Uncertainty"
HM 1: Catherine Moran, "All the New Norms"
HM 2: Nancy Cook, "Post Pandemic Mapping"
HM 3: Melissa Huff, "Housebound: Variations on a Theme"

CATEGORY 3: The Ida Kotyuk Award - Chris Boldt, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Ruth Siburt, "Matthew at Thirteen"
2ND PLACE: Donna Pucciani, "Discovery"
3RD PLACE: Kathy Cotton, "How We Touch"
HM 1: Barbara Blanks, "Father's Hands"
HM 2: John J Gordon, "Deliverance"
HM 3: Gail Denham, "Show of Love"

CATEGORY 4: The Southern Chapter Award - Amelia Martens, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Nancy Jesse, "At Stake"
2ND PLACE: Cara Shuster, "Daphne"
3RD PLACE: Cheryl Weber, "All Used Up"
HM 1: Bonnie Manion, "How Mellow, Blue Sky Turning To Palest Yellow"
HM 2: Caroline Johnson, "Tai Chi"
HM 3: Rita Aiken Moritz, "The Pelicans that Winter on our Lake"

CATEGORY 5: The Alan Harris Appreciation Award - Amy Wray Irish, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Barbara Blanks, "Which Way"
2ND PLACE: Benjamin Dugger, "My Myopia"
3RD PLACE: V. Kimball Barney, "Brief Encounter"
HM 1: John J. Gordon, "Wee Hour Warning"
HM 2: Janice Freytag, "To All the Shoes I Used To Wear By"
HM 3: Nancy Cook, "Meal Deferred"

CATEGORY 6: Free Verse Award - Julie Shavin, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Patty Dickson Pieczka, "The Language of Shells"
2ND PLACE: Becky Alexander, "Country Drive on a Heat-Strewn Day"
3RD PLACE: Kathy Cotton, "Elusive Inspiration"
HM 1: Shirley Kobar, "Where Does It Dwell?"
HM 2: Cara Schuster, "Heroine in a Sewing Room"
HM 3: Miranda Stewart, "Dusk"

CATEGORY 7: Formal Verse - Budd Mann, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Barbara Blanks, "Rondeau for Earthworms"
2ND PLACE: Catherine Moran, "A Tool for All Ages"
3RD PLACE: Benjamin Dugger, "A Late Farewell"
HM 1: V. Kimball Barney, "When I'm Gone"
HM 2: Rita Aiken Moritz, "The Human Race"
HM 3: Beth Staas, "Confession of a Luddite"

CATEGORY 8: Traditional Haiku - Jon Sebba, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Grace Diane Jessen, "On Limb High Above"
2ND PLACE: Nancy Jesse, "Chrysanthemum Blooms"
3RD PLACE: Jerri Hardesty, "Fat Caterpillar"
HM 1: Barbara Blanks, "Beaten by a Rough Wind"
HM 2: Janice Freytag, "Half a Yellow Moon"
HM 3: Lynda La Rocca, "Yellow Daffodils"

CATEGORY 9: Modern Haiku - Jon Sebba, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Del Tody Turner, "Cemetery Stars"
2ND PLACE: Paul Buchheit, "Inside The Steel Pot"
3RD PLACE: Dr. Emory D. Jones, "Squawks From Above"
HM 1: Mary Jo Balisteri, "Dog and I"
HM 2: Charlotte Digregorio, "Caregiving Ends..."
HM 3: S. Michael Kozubek, "In the Help"

CATEGORY 10: Shakespearean Sonnet - Bonnie Larson Staiger, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Benjamin Dugger, "Babi Yar"
2ND PLACE: John W. Choppock, "Death Speaks to Pavlova on Closing Night"
3RD PLACE: V. Kimball Barney, "Forever"
HM 1: Lynda La Rocca, "Setting Forth"
HM 2: Kathy Cotton, "Spring Rising"
HM 3: Barbara Funke, "To Know You"

CATEGORY 11: Highland Park Poetry Award, Zejel - Barbara Blanks, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Paul Buchheit, "Generation Gap"
2ND PLACE: Crystie Schomas Cook, "Pelican on Watch"
3RD PLACE: Janice Freytag, "The Pharisee's Lament"
HM 1: Kathy Cotton, "Wellbeing"
HM 2: Cynthia Gallaher, "Moon Phases Zejel"
HM 3: Tina Cole, "Another Murder"

CATEGORY 12: In the Manner of Ogden Nash Award - Amy Ray Irish, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Curt Vevang, "Andover Park"
2ND PLACE: Beverly Stanislawski, "A Fishy Story"
3RD PLACE: Kathy Cotton, "Reminders From Ogden's Cat"
HM 1: Crystie Schomas Cook, "No Advertising Needed"
HM 2: Kate Hutchinson, "Glitch"
HM 3: Delores Walker, "A Capitol Choice"

CATEGORY 13: Open Door & Opportunities Award - Elaine Person, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Gurupreet Khalsa, "The Winds Of Eternity"
2ND PLACE: Delores Walker, "Anticipation"
3RD PLACE: Nick Sweet, "Departing Daughter"
HM 1: Sara Gipson, "The American Quest To Move West"
HM 2: Idella Pearl Edwards, "Open the Door"
HM 3: Jerry Hardesty, "Tom's Tunes"

CATEGORY 14: Sibling Revelry: Loretta Diane Walker, Judge

- 1ST PLACE:** Michael Escoubas, "Reminiscence"
2ND PLACE: Patty Dickson Pieczka, "The Youngest"
3RD PLACE: Janice Freytag, "Gold"
HM 1: Kathy Cotton, "Family Facebook"
HM 2: Paul Buchheit, "At My Side"
HM 3: Nancy Cook, "Tumbling Shapes"

New ISPS Member

Janice Doppler (At Large Member) spent her writing energy on grant proposals and curriculum development during her career as a teacher and school educator. Retiring enabled her to develop her creative self – particularly with carving realistic birds from wood and writing poetry. Her haiku and haibun have been published in several journals. In 2021, she placed second in the Porad Haiku Award and published *Stardust*, her debut collection of haiku and haibun. Janice, who lives in Massachusetts, visited ISPS's haiku chapter via zoom during COVID and was drawn to become a member to form relationships with other haiku poets. For more information about Janice and read samples of her haiku and haibun, visit the at Drifting Sands Haibun.



A reminder to all members: You should periodically check your bio online at illinoispoets.org to be sure it is current and complete.

ISPS Member News

ISPS-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter

The ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter held its bimonthly Zoom chapter meeting, December 12, 2021. Those who attended were: **Susan Auld, Tom Chockley, Janice Doppler, Susan Farner, George Gerolimatos, Lee Gurga, Margie Gustafson, Michael Kozubek, Jeff Kressmann, John Mori, and Jennifer Thiermann.** We began the meeting looking at three innovative haiku recently published in *Kingfisher 4* haiku journal and in the most recent *Frogpond*. Then we moved on to the workshop conversation of draft haiku from participants, who wanted feedback regarding their poems. Each haiku was presented anonymously and discussed. We also asked the poet to tell us about the “haiku moment” that had been the impulse for the haiku. Then the haiku poet had the chance to give his or her feedback about the haiku. And we had time to talk about the continuing evolution of English-language haiku, particularly in regard to Lee Gurga’s and Robert Epstein’s essays in *Modern Haiku* 52.2 and 52.3. **Our next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting: Sunday, February 20, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CST.** The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, February 15. Contact Tom Chockley (tomzhaiku@outlook.com) to attend the Zoom meeting and to receive further information.

ISPS - North Chapter

The North Chapter meets virtually on the second Sunday of the month at 1 PM; however, there is no meeting in February. The next scheduled meeting is **Sunday, January 9, 2022 at 1PM**, followed by **Sunday, March 12**. Contact Mary Beth Bretzlauf (mbbretzlauf@comcast.net) to attend.

ISPS - Champaign Chapter

The Champaign chapter meets virtually via Zoom on the first Sunday of every month at 12:30 PM. The next scheduled meeting is **Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 12:30 PM**. Contact Mary Beth Bretzlauf (mbbretzlauf@comcast.net) to attend; she is temporarily facilitating for Kathy Robinson.

ISPS - Darien Chapter

The Darien Chapter holds in person meetings at **Indian Prairie Public Library** (2nd floor), 401 Plainfield Rd., <http://ippl.info>. The next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, January 8, 2022, 1 to 4 PM**. Contact Caroline Johnson, Facilitator, twinkscat@aol.com with questions. Masks are required. Please bring 7 to 8 copies of up to 2 poems to share with the group. Also bring a snack item to share, and a beverage for yourself.

ISPS Member News

The **P2 Collective** is composed of artists and poets: Alexa Frangos, Steve Geer, Suzanne Metzler, Maureen Tolman Flannery, Caroline Johnson, Wilda Morris, Susan T. Moss. They invite you to Zoom-in to their next reading “**From Photographs to Poems**” in which poems inspired by photographs will be read whilst the images are viewed. The reading will take place at **7 PM on Thursday 27th January**. This is a special reading featuring present and future poets that wrote poems in response to photographs exhibited at the Perspective Gallery in Evanston during October and November. You will need to register for the Zoom event beforehand to receive the meeting access. You can register by going to the Perspective Gallery Event page and clicking on the registration link for the Jan 27th event: [Events — Perspective Gallery](#)



M.E. Hope and **Mike Freveletti** will be featured at **Brewed Awakening** on **Sunday, January 30**. Hope has lived extensively in Oregon, in and around Navy bases around the US and in Europe. She currently lives in a smallish town on the Illinois side of the Mississippi, near Saint Louis. Her blog *Meanders* (<https://mehopemeanders.blogspot.com/>) discusses poetry, birds, family, the weather, tofu, the past. Freveletti lives in Wheaton and is developing his first poetry chapbook that he hopes to find a home for soon.



This event is offered both virtually and in-person. Hope appears via Zoom; Freveletti reads in-person at the coffeeshop. The event runs from 12:30 PM to 2 PM, and includes an open mic. Poets may sign up in the Zoom chat or at Brewed Awakening. Zoom tickets are \$5 at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/isps-january-2022-poetry-readings-tickets-235050370987>. Brewed Awakening is open as per COVID guidelines, so you may participate by going there (*19 W Quincy Street, Westmont, Illinois; just off Cass Avenue, across the street from the train station*). There is a \$12 cover charge, which entitles you to a beverage and snack.

Poets & Patrons of Chicago offers **Write! Ekphrastic - Saturday, January 22, at 2:30 PM** - an online free writing workshop where participants visit the Tokyo Art Museum and write ekphrastic poetry. Join us for virtual coffee and sharing afterwards! There's no fee. Send an e-mail to poetsandpatrons@gmail.com to RSVP.

Poets & Patrons of Chicago offers **Write! History - Saturday, February 12, at 2:30 PM** - join this free online celebration of Black History Month by visiting two outstanding museums--the DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago, and the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. We will visit both museum websites and write poems based on the exhibits. Program is free. Send an e-mail to poetsandpatrons@gmail.com to RSVP.

Poets & Patrons of Chicago hosts a **Virtual Open Mic for Poets and Patrons Members on Saturday, March 19, at 1 PM**. Help us celebrate **Women's History Month**. The theme of this virtual open mic is Women's History, in celebration of the 101st anniversary of women's right to vote. Poets are encouraged to read poems inspired by this theme, but as always, you may read any poem that moves you. Anyone interested in any of these events can RSVP to poetsandpatrons@gmail.com.

Poetry Open Mic (Virtual). Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District will sponsor a global Poetry Open Mic, **Sunday, February 6, from 2 to 4 PM**, hosted by **Charlotte Digregorio**. Beginning and experienced poets may participate. Digregorio will kick off the event by reading some poems from her new book, *Ripples of Air: Poems of Healing*. For more info and registration, click <https://winnetkalibrary.libcal.com/event/8233113>

ISPS Member News continued

Highland Park Poetry offers monthly in-person poetry readings and open-mics at Madame ZuZu's, 1876 First Street, Highland Park, IL. All events at Saturdays at 5PM. Poets may read up to 3 poems in the open-mic. There is no cover charge but attendees are expected to purchase an item from the café. The upcoming line up includes the following ISPS members as featured poets:

- **January 15** – **Marcia J. Pradzinski** is the author of *As One Day Slips Out of the Shoe of Another*
 - **February 12** – **Gail Goepfert** reads from *Self Portrait with Thorns*, inspired by Frida Kahlo
 - **March 12** – **Sibling Revelry** with sisters and poets, **Gay Guard Chamberlin & Anara Guard**
- Highland Park now requires proof of vaccination for all on-premises dining establishments. For all COVID protocols, please visit www.HighlandParkPoetry.org.



Highland Park Poetry is accepting submissions for its **2022 Poetry Challenge**. This year's challenge invites poets of all ages to write about 1) U.S. National Parks, 2) Underwater Life, or 3) try writing a Waltmarie, a new form invented by Candace Kubinec. Waltmarie poems may be on any subject. Previously published work accepted with acknowledgment. Deadline is **January 31, 2022**. Visit www.HighlandParkPoetry.org to download the submission guidelines, entry form and instructions on the Waltmarie form.

Mark Hammerschick reports that two of his poems were published in December in the *Young Raven's Literary Review*. Another poem was accepted for publication in *Sheila-Na-Gig Online* and another in *Griffel Magazine*. Congratulations, Mark!

Marilyn Peretti's new book is the aptly titled, *Behind the Mask in 2020 . . . 2021 . . .*, found at Blurb.com Bookstore. Also, two new poems, "Saying Goodbye to My Oak" and "Savior Rainforest," were published online in the Anawim Arts Journal.

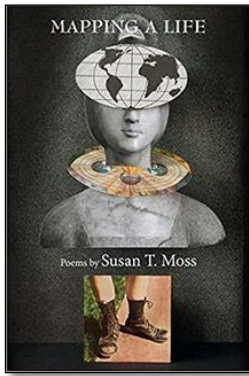
Tom Moran of ISPS Darien Chapter just had his chapbook, *Mile Markers*, published by Cyberwit Publications.

Marie Asner was a Second Place Winner in the Missouri State Poetry Society Summer/Fall 2021 Poetry Contest. Marie's poem, "Love in the Camps," concerning Auschwitz, will be published in the 2022 edition of the *Grist* anthology from the Missouri State Poetry Society.

New Procedure for Posting ISPS Member Poems on Website

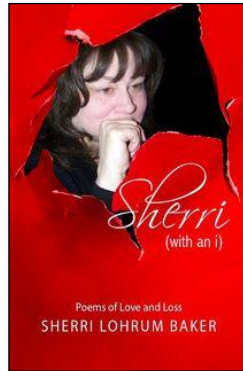
Alan Harris has announced a new procedure for posting poems/haiga written by ISPS members on the ISPS website. Instead of a bi-monthly posting of all poems submitted, he will do a posting every month for about 1/4 of the membership, based on the member's last initial. For January, 2022, poems/haiga submitted by members whose last name begins with E - H will be posted; for February, I - M; for March, N - Z; for April, A - D, etc. To discover the months your poem/haiga can be submitted, and to read our other submission guidelines, see illinoispoets.org/submitting.htm. The net effect of this change will be that a member may submit one poem and/or haiga every four months instead of every two months. The submission period has been reduced from 14 days to 7 days (the first 7 days of each month).

More Member News

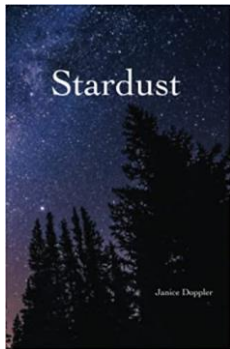


Susan T. Moss's third book, a full-length collection entitled *Mapping A Life*, has been published by Antrim House, Bloomfield, CT. Copies of this book can be ordered from all bookstores including Amazon and directly from the author, stm48@hotmail.com.

Sherri (with an i): Poems of Love and Loss by **Sherri Lohrum Baker** was published by Deep Well Books in November 2021. Baker is a member of Southern Chapter, Carbondale.



Janice Doppler, new member-at-large, recently published *Stardust*, a collection of five haibun and sixty haiku. *Stardust* is available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) where you can get a look inside.



Idella Pearl Edwards made 2021 a productive year indeed, independently publishing several devotionals, poetry and children's books: *Just Joking*, *Butterflies Are Free*, *Poems of Inspiration*, *Anna from Indiana*, and *Meow Catalog of Poetry*. All titles can be found on Amazon.

Thomas Chockley, ISPS Secretary and co-facilitator for the ISPS Haiku Chapter based in Northbrook, has published a collection: *Personal Myths: Numbers 2, 3, and 4: 156 Haiku*. The book is available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) in print and Kindle. A review was posted January 1st at www.highlandparkpoetry.org.



The works of Edward Hopper, specifically his painting *Nighthawks*, was the inspiration for many of the poems included in *Sand and Salt*, **Sheila Elliott's** new chapbook. Published in August, 2021, it is now available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Chapter Contacts

While Covid-19 gathering restrictions are in flux statewide, please contact the chapter facilitator for more info on possible meetings online and how to access them.

All ISPS members are welcome at any monthly meeting (space permitting) after first contacting the facilitator.

Southern Chapter (Carbondale)

Contact Kathy Cotton, facilitator
kacotton7@frontier.com

Central Chapter (Champaign)

Mary Beth Bretzlauf, facilitator
mbbretzlauf@comcast.net

West Suburban Chapter (Darien)

Contact Caroline Johnson, facilitator
twinkscat@aol.com

Haiku Chapter

Contact Tom Chockley, co-facilitator
tomzhaiku@outlook.com

Southwest Suburban Chapter (Lisle)

For the Zoom link, contact
Wilda Morris
wem@americitech.net

North Suburban Chapter (Northbrook)

Contact
Mary Beth Bretzlauf, facilitator
mbbretzlauf@comcast.net

North Central Chapter (Pontiac)

Contact
Kathleen Murphy, facilitator
kathleenzmurphy@mail.com

If you have bio updates to share, send to oasis@alharris.com, for possible member news send to ISPS newsletter editor Jennifer Dotson, Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org (be sure to include "ISPS News" in the subject line of your email. The ISPS website is at: Illinoispoets.org