



**2014, ISSUE 6
EDITOR, KATHY COTTON**

Also available
on our website
[www.illinoispoets.org/
news-links.htm](http://www.illinoispoets.org/news-links.htm)

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WANTED: PHOTOS, NEWS

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

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

Fibonacci, Hay(na)ku, Nonet. . .

Recently, I wrote a Fibonacci sequence and one poet/friend appropriately wondered if the form distracted from the meaning of the words, and another wondered, why bother with the form. My only answer is that it was fun and challenging to write the fib. Poetry today offers so many opportunities to experiment with form. From a list by Robert Lee Brewer of 50 such possibilities (www.writersdigest.com), I've chosen a few new-year challenges for our Prompted to Write column. Send me your best fib poem, hay(na)ku or nonet for consideration in our next newsletter.

Also in this issue of *Illinois Poets*, we wrap up 2014 with listings of our members who were winners in the ISPS poetry contest, winners of the ISPS/Brewed Awakening's first holiday contests, and last year's seven featured poets. I hope you enjoy both the forward challenge and the glance back. —Kathy Cotton, Editor ✍



A Message from the President

Looking back on 2014, ISPS accomplished so much in what seems like a very short time. Some of the highlights were publishing a second members' anthology, many and varied reading opportunities, poetry contests on the local and national level, creating poetry in response to art, attending the NFSPS convention in Utah, starting new online critique groups and participating in ongoing chapter meetings. In addition we welcomed many new members.

We also recognize the loss of several admired poets including Maya Angelou, Galway Kinnell, Robert Peters and Mark Strand. We salute new United States Poet Laureate Charles Wright, who stated, "I'd rather be memory, touching the undersides/Of all I ever touched once in the natural world."

What of recollection? Several of our members are also memoirists, who like many of us, want to "write down memories before they can't be recovered," as Ted Kooser proposes. Through the succinct venue poetry can offer, we have the opportunity to capture the stories, observations and history that contribute to our individual lifetimes. Poetry formats what lingers in our thoughts and which we as well as others can reflect on long after the actual events or feelings. Galway Kinnell believed "A poem expresses one's most private feelings and these turn out to be feelings of everyone else as well."

When we write poems that can positively contribute to the world's human collective, we are part of the continuity that redeems us from oblivion. The everyday of our lives is not forgotten. Raindrops and bird calls endure on a page spoken in harmony with the hope that we have helped hold what is precious. This reminds us, as Colum McCann wrote, "We seldom know what echo our actions will find, but our stories will most certainly outlast us."

May this past year breathe softly in our memory and the coming year bring moments worthy of recording.

Happy writing, Susan T. Moss ✍

ISPS Chapter Meetings

CENTRAL CHAPTER, PONTIAC

1:00 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 14
Pontiac Public Library, 815-844-7229
211 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL

NO. SUBURBAN CHAPTER, NORTHBROOK

1:00 to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 11
Northbrook Public Library (second floor, interactive classroom), 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, Jan. 11
Carbondale Public Library
630-986-1976
405 West Main, Carbondale, IL
Bring 10 copies of poems for critique and a snack to share.

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER, LISLE

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

WEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER, DARIEN

1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 3
Indian Prairie Public Library
(630) 887-8760
401 Plainfield Road, Darien.
Bring your own beverage, 12 copies of poems for critique, and a snack to share. ✍

National Poetry Month

ISPS is working to secure National Poetry Month exhibit space at libraries in Hinsdale, Westmont, Indian Prairie, Pontiac, Lisle, Lemont, Northbrook, Glenview, Winnetka, Wilmette, Aurora, Downers Grove, Highland Park, and Carbondale.

The ISPS 2015 poetry theme for the April exhibits is transportation. Poets may make submissions to Sheila Kirscher at jkirscher@comcast.net. Watch ISPS email announcements for additional instructions. ✍

Mark your Poetry Calendar for 2015

- **JANUARY 1 to FEBRUARY 1**, "The Light That Shatters Darkness," an exhibit at SIU Morris Library, Carbondale, featuring poetry by David Bond of Carbondale.
- **JANUARY 1 to FEBRUARY 14**, NFSPS College/University Contest manuscript submission. Great prizes! See www.nfspd.com.
- **JANUARY 10**, deadline to sign up for the ISPS/Lemont Center for the Arts Spark 2 ekphrastic poem project. Exhibit is planned for March/ April.
- **JANUARY 25**, 12:30 p.m., Brewed Awakening featuring Michael Escoubas and Deborah Rohde.
- **FEBRUARY 22**, 12:30 p.m., Brewed Awakening featuring James Reiss and Beverly Offen.
- **MARCH 1**, deadline for NFSPS Manningham contests (grades 6-8 and 9-12).
- **MARCH 7**, ISPS board meeting, hosted by David Alexander, Pontiac.
- **MARCH 15**, submission deadline for NFSPS 2015 contests.
- **MARCH 15**, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., "Spark 2" poetry and art exhibit at the Lemont Center for the Arts, 1243 State St #101, Lemont.
- **APRIL 1 to MAY 15**, "Ekphrastic," an art/poetry exhibit at Carbondale Public Library with poetry contest winners and artwork/poems by So. Chapter members.

Guest Poets at ISPS/Brewed Awakening Poetry Events

ISPS and Brewed Awakening will sponsor readings by featured poets, followed by poetry open mic, at 12:30 p.m. on Sundays, Jan. 25 and Feb. 22, at 19 West Quincy, Westmont. Cover charge of \$7.00 includes coffee and a snack. Bill Johnson will provide music from noon until 12:30. Check www.illinoispoets.com for details.

JANUARY 25



MICHAEL ESCOUBAS of Bloomington is a self-taught poet, who has been studying the work of great poets for about 30 years. Since his retirement from a career in the printing industry, Michael has focused more of his energies on writing. He was a first-place free-verse winner in the 2014 ISPS contest.



DEBORAH ROHDE of Northbrook, retired from a 30-year career in hospital construction management, to pursue her first love of teaching. She began writing poetry in 2012 and is published in *Distilled Lives, Volume 2*, *Your Daily Poem*, and *Highland Park Poetry* and has earned awards in local,

state and national contests. She is a board member of Poets and Patrons.

FEBRUARY 22



JAMES REISS of Wilmette is the author of six poetry books. The latest collection, *The Novel*, was released this month. His work has appeared in numerous publications including *The American Poetry Review*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, and *The New Yorker*, and has received grants from National Endowment for the Arts, Ohio Arts Council, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. Check his website, www.james-reiss.com, for more information.



BEVERLY OFFEN of Glenview completed a certificate program in Creative Writing at the University of Chicago, Graham School Writer's Studio. She has been published in *Still Crazy*, *Front Porch Review*, *Nostalgia Digest*, *Hippocampus*, and other small magazines. She was a reference librarian at the Chicago Public Library and at a community college. Her recent poetry appears in *Legends*, *Waymark*, and *Persimmon Tree*. ✍

Spotlight on ISPS Poet Joseph Kuhn Carey



Multi-talented Joseph Kuhn Carey is a poet, author, song writer, musician, and owner of a multi-state property management business. With master degrees in creative writing (University of Iowa Writers' Workshop) and mass communication (Boston University), Carey takes his writing skills wherever he goes; in the summer of 2011 it was to Poland. The poetry collection from that family trip became *JOMP's* 2013 Book Award winner, *Postcards from Poland* (Chicago Poetry Press). He also published a chapbook, *Bulk-Rate*, and a book on jazz, *Big Noise From Notre Dame:*

A History of The Collegiate Jazz Festival, and released two Loose Caboose Band CDs of original children's songs. Carey is the recipient of an ASCAP/Deems Taylor Award for music-related writing and a Grammy-voting member of The Recording Academy. He lives in Glencoe with his wife and two sons.

Joe, you have broad writing experience. Tell us about your development as a poet.

I wrote a haiku poem in fourth grade about a car in need of repairs; it left the class doubled-over in laughter. I came back to poetry in college; poetic bits kept popping up in my writing at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, even though I was there for fiction-writing. I should have known something was up when I spent as much time auditing an undergraduate typesetting course and hand-printing sixteen copies of a small book of original poetry as I did on my graduate-degree thesis stories!

I've always written songs and love listening to the amazing rhythms and poetic sounds of jazz. I did years of interviewing and writing about well-known jazz and blues artists, so the jazz and music world definitely seeped deeply into my consciousness and poems.

I began to dabble in poetry again about five or six years ago when my sons were small, and I wanted to entertain them with songs, stories and rhyming poems at bedtime. With some much-appreciated shouts of encouragement from my family, I began to enter poems in contests about three years ago, and I'm still completely surprised and delighted when they're selected from time to time. [See his 2014 ISPS poem on page 4.]

What other influences inform your poetry?

First, my Dad, who was a national individual debate champion in college, and remains the most eloquent, well-read person I've ever met. He was always quoting from famous poets, writers and historians. Besides my Dad, there is a long list of writers, artists, musicians....

In addition to your books, where can our readers find your published poetry?

Chicago Poetry Press, *Writer's Digest*, *Highland Park Poetry*, *Journal of Modern Poetry*, *East on Central*. [For books, check "Joseph Kuhn Carey" on www.amazon.com.]

You have been published in numerous venues; any advice about how to get published?

Don't be shy—send your work out to contests and publishers! Don't keep it hidden deep in desk drawers or on your laptop—give it a chance to be seen; no one will notice your work if you don't nudge it into the light!

Do you belong to any writing groups other than ISPS?

Highland Park Poetry, The Chicago Writers Association, Poets and Patrons, the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, The Recording Academy.

How often do you write?

I try to write a poem every day or two (on any scrap of paper I can find!). Poetry is a great escape, like flying a multicolored kite high and fast and true in a shimmering soft summer sky.

What writing projects are you working on now?

I'm polishing up collections of travel poetry about memorable trips to Germany and Alaska, as well as another collection of humorous poetry and songs for children. ✍

Poems by Joseph Carey

THE LAMPS

The wrought-iron lamps
of Krakow hang
curved, quiet, still,
full of history and
burnished knowledge
about all those who
pass below on the
worn cobblestones,
hurrying to destinations
in all directions as
if the world might end
at any second, caught
up in clocks and time
while the lamps watch
all and know no master,
just the constant wearing
of the wind and rain and
the echoed sounds
of footsteps and perhaps
a soft stolen midnight kiss or two
under the sweet dim lamplight.

A CART FULL OF MATCHES

A wooden cart full of matches
in cardboard boxes of all
shapes, sorts and sizes
sits quietly on a side street,
as if waiting for time to turn back
a century or more
to the days of horse-drawn carriages
and muddy streets and
men in tall black boots smoking
hand-rolled cigarettes,
a woman stands next to the cart,
dressed in an old-time peasant
dress, a colorful scarf wrapped
around her head,
the matches are wooden and thick,
ready for striking,
like little torpedoes packed away
in forgotten gray sheds,
the peeling paint on the cart
appears ancient, faint,
indecipherable,
a beautiful mystery
to behold beside
the woman's soft Mona Lisa smile.

Published in *Postcards from Poland*,
Chicago Poetry Press, 2014 ✍

Society Members Take Wins in 2014 ISPS Poetry Contest

The 2014 ISPS Poetry Contest received 453 entries—160 Free Verse, 106 Formal Verse, 69 Haiku, and 118 for journey-themed poems. Of 79 poets from 10 states and Canada, 29 were ISPS members. They garnered six wins and seven honorable mentions.

Category #1 Free Verse

1st Michael Escoubas, Bloomington, IL
HM Deborah Rohde, Northbrook, IL

Category #2 Formal Poetry

2nd Candace Armstrong, Murphysboro, IL
HM Gail Denham, Sun River, OR

Category #3 Haiku

1st Susan Auld, Arlington Heights, IL
HM Pam Larson, Arlington Heights, IL
HM Charlotte Digregorio, Winnetka, IL
HM Judith Tullis, Indian Head Park, IL

Category #4 Journey

1st Gail Denham, Sun River, OR
2nd Caroline Johnson, Willow Springs, IL
3rd Joseph Kuhn Carey, Glencoe, IL
HM Mary Jo Balistreri, Genesee Depot, WI
HM Eve Lomoro, Aurora, IL

1st, Haiku by Susan Auld

in the squeak
of new school shoes
a cricket's last song

3rd, "Thinking of Germany" by Joseph Carey

Thinking of Germany,
of Black Forest relatives unseen
for thirty years,
of the house (still there)
that Grandma Kuhn and her
brother (my godfather) Reinhold grew up in,
way down south in tiny Seitingen/Oberflacht,
where farming was a way of life,
and steady muscles were required
for milking the cows and feeding the chickens,
unloading train cars full of wood and
using a heavy scythe to cut the tall fields of
grass, or working in the *ziegel-hutte*,
the clay tile-making barn in the winter,
digging deep for the clay and putting it in molds
for kilning into solid forms for roofing use,
hard, hard work for little return while all of
the other brothers and sisters left for America
and the depression between the wars hit,

requiring a wheelbarrow full of worthless
paper money
to buy a loaf of bread, until there was nothing
to do but start over
in a country new in every way, where they
didn't know the language
or the customs, but had relatives waiting
with open arms,
and jobs no one wanted to do for them to
grab,
packing up and leaving it all behind, every-
thing they knew
for the complete unknown, while other
relatives stayed
behind to take over the house and farm and
keep the distant
home fires burning, waiting for a return at
some future
as yet undetermined time,
the scythe hangs heavy on the shed wall,
searching for the same hands that held and
worked it so well,
swishing the fields and felling the grass
as if surging rivers were coursing through
a man and woman's veins while droplets of
sweat
slipped to the parched ground and gave
slivers of hope to
ants and seeds below.

1st, "Towel and Basin" by Michael Escoubas

*Instead of going to heaven at last,
I'm going all along. —Emily Dickinson*

This morning I plodded in pajamas
and bare toes toting my full water pitcher,
prepared as an offering for my
hanging blue Fan plant. The tall
grass washed my feet as Jesus might.

I was met by a congregation
of glad-handed Hostas greeting
and touching me, choirs of Clematis
robed in purple, jovial Jonquils clad in yellow,
sun-facing Spiderworts, and sweet green
Mint mingled with spicy Oregano, breathing
their fragrances, glistening and glowing
in sunlight and dew.

They danced when they saw me;
asked no questions, made no judgments,
anointed me with dew, towed my dusty
feet with warm sun, then sent me on
to do for another what they had done for me.

2nd, "Shadow of the Crow" by Candace Armstrong

Save me from planting in the shadow of the crow.
His strident caw echoes the grating of chipped spade striking
stony earth, the spur to chase him to the fencerow,
remove him from casting spells of my disliking.

His shade is not welcome. It reminds of omens,
dread loneliness of passing. I see him at the horizon,
where the chalky sky has flecks like a dirty lens
and the soil has an urgency pushing me on.

Flocks descend. Large and glossy clouds of perversion
cover seeds and seedlings aiming their black deathblow.
But earth will prevail, her recovery hard-won.
Eternity is now. Surviving seeds will grow. ✍

Sign Up for Spark 2 Ekphrastic Poem Exhibit

ISPS members are invited to write an ekphrastic poem for the ISPS and Lemont Center for the Arts joint Spark 2 art/poetry exhibit, scheduled for March and April. To sign up for the project, no later than January 10 send an email to wildamorris@ameritech.net with SPARK 2 in the subject line.

Participating poets will receive digital photos via email in mid-January and have two or three weeks to write poems in response to the artwork.

A reception is set for March 15, 2015, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., at the Center where the poets are invited to read their ekphrastic poems and meet some of the artists. ✍

Southern Chapter Plans Contest and Exhibit

Winners of the Renee Mavigliano Ekphrastic Poetry Contest along with original art/poetry by ISPS Southern Chapter members will be featured at the Carbondale Public Library gallery April 1 through May 15.

Mavigliano, a Carterville, IL, artist, will select poetry winners for four of her contemporary paintings. Also in the exhibit will be artwork/poetry by Southern Chapter members David Bond, Kathy Cotton, Carol Dooley, David Rush and Marie Samuel.

Prompted to Write

This issue's prompt encourages you to try one of these poetry forms:

HAY(NA)KU is new form created Eileen Tabios. It is a simple three-line poem with one word in the first line, two in the second, and three in the third. It can be reversed to three, two, one, or be used in a sequence to create longer poems.

NONET a nine-line count-down poem that begins with nine syllables in the first line, eight syllables in the second line, and continues to count down to one syllable in the last line. The term *nonet* means nine things or people—especially nine musicians.

FIBONACCI (fib for short) is a form created in 2006 by Gregory K. Pincus. It follows the Fibonacci mathematical spiral sequence, familiar in the Golden Ratio. The typical fib is a six-line, twenty-syllable poem with a syllable count by line of 1/1/2/3/5/8. Each line has the number of syllables of the previous two lines added together, so fibs can also be made longer and can also be reversed.

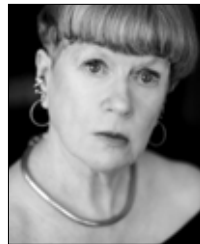
Send your hay(na)ku, nonet, or fib poem to kacotton7@frontier.com for consideration in the March/April issue.

FROM OUR LAST PROMPT

Thanks goes to Michael Escoubas for this poem in response to the November/December prompt from Jim Reiss, using ten words in ten lines. Michael chose the ethere form, centered.

Fish
sailboats
New Zealand
and art hold one
thing in common: Wind.
Days dismal or dazzling
find joy in a green hedge or
the in-between mauve colorings
of heaven's breath moving flute-like clouds
as Margaret sips coffee at sunrise.

Seven ISPS Poets Featured in 2014



ISPS poets Joan Colby, David Gross, Tom Moran, Patty Pieczka, Jim Reiss, Jenene Ravesloot, and Tom Roby were featured in 2014 issues of Illinois Poets Newsletter.

Since 2007, forty-two ISPS members have been featured in our Poet Spotlight. We look forward to a half dozen more this year, beginning with Joe Carey, [page 4].

ISPS New Members / Members' News

DAVID BOND of Carbondale has a poetry exhibit with William Horrell photography at SIUC Morris Library through February 1.



SALLY HANSON CALHOUN of Glenview passed away November 6, 2014. A former ISPS member, Calhoun won numerous awards for her creative writing which included poems, short stories, and scholarly articles.

JOSEPH CAREY of Glencoe was a winner in the Highland Park Poetry "Poetry That Moves" contest.

IDA KOTUK of Villa Park is a new member of Hinsdale Chapter.

JOHN LI of Moline is a new At Large benefactor member. Li is a Chinese American from China and has been a professional gymnastics coach in

China, Canada, and United States. Currently, he is an owner and program director of the Summit Gymnastics Academy in Moline, IL. He has published a collection of poetry in Hong Kong and is a vice president of the council of the Chinese World Poets Association, and also the council of the Chinese Poetry Association.



JIM REISS of Wilmette announces publication of his sixth full-length poetry book, *The Novel* (CW Books), available online from Amazon. Reiss' *Riff on*

Six: New and Selected Poems, is also available on Amazon.

SHARON SIMMONS of Cadiz, Kentucky, is a new Patron member of the Central Chapter, Pontiac.

ISPS EMAIL CRITIQUE GROUPS or open To join or request a full copy of the guidelines, email Wilda Morris at wil-damorris@ameritech.net. Put "ISPS Email Critique Group" in subject line. and be sure to include your name.

ISPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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First-place Winter Poetry Contest winners are (row 1) Georgiann Foley, John Mahoney and Larry Hays (row 2) Caroline Johnson and Brewed Awakening Manager Craig Pro.

ISPS Online Submissions

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

✂ **GIVE A COPY TO A FRIEND!**

ISPS Membership Form PLEASE PRINT

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

MEMBERSHIP:

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 At-Large

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (home or cell) _____

Email _____

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