

# LIBERTY CHASTIZED

by Jacqueline Jackson

ILLINOIS TIMES POEMS FOR 2008





by Jacqueline Jackson

This booklet, along with its three predecessors, is for Roland Klose, who four years ago asked me to write a poem a week for Illinois Times. Roland, you gave me the liberty to write whatever I wished, and never turned anything down. Through you I found a new dimension, as well as friend. I'm glad I said yes.

With respect and affection,

Jackie

Other thanks are in order: to the Thursday night group which gives commentary and critiques, and keeps us laughing and producing; to those of you quoted in the poems, or appearing sometimes as a reluctant subject. To my dad and grandpa for bits from their letters, also my U. of Michigan writing professor, Roy Cowden, and cullings from my kids' writings and remarks over the years. (I may be a packrat, but sometimes something of value gets pulled out of the messy nest.) A very special thanks to my technowizard Mitch Hopper for creating the cover and producing the book this year, as well as for all the other things he's produced for me. And especially for when he's embarking on some happy adventure, he calls and says, "Wanna come along?"

#### ecopoem #5

they are dancers a whole ballet corps when you come on them above mendota driving north acres of their spare beauty grouped here and there but separated each her own space her tall slim body chaste white gown feet lost in snow their maestro is the wind they move in perfect synchronicity each slowly turning her three-armed blades in unison with her sisters as far as the eye can see it takes your breath away

#### ecopoem #6

driving north dense fog I first time ever pull into the wisconsin welcome rest area phone my delay sit still boots on concrete atop the triangle of land once ours till I-90 sliced through the farm I know the earth under this pavement it's field 12 I walked corn rows for years detasseling know my dad and uncle raced the fence line in opposite directions last one back to the big oak is a rotten egg dad would pause spit under a stone to ease the stitch in his side I can't see the barn a quarter mile off its lacy roof still there till the indians build their casino I recall the note grandpa left on my father's desk blotter ronald I had a glorious good time today the sky and clouds have been grand the team responded to every touch & were so strong & willing the machines were good if old that wonderful number 12 field is such a satisfaction we have been preparing for that for the past ten years signed dad I mull the annual loss of arable land to condos malls asphalt ours carrington loam over gravel was best in the world same as in the caucasus I close the car head on into the blinding fog

## daughterpoem #4

(1973: found taped to the bathroom mirror when I returned from a late class. Author: Megan, 17)

DO NOT FLUSH ZE POT OR YOU MAY VIND YOURSELV VITH MOP IN HAND AND ANKLE WRAPPED IN VET TOILET PAPER VITH SHIT BETVEEN TOEZ VADING IN SVIRLING WATER . . .

#### farmerpoem #2

(from a letter written to Jackie by her father, 1948)

somebody caught a hoot owl yesterday and brought it into the office I tried to break its neck by walking completely around it but couldn't quite twist it off

#### grandchildpoem #5

surprise grandma don't look! wyatt--five--leaps forward a red blue black spiderman girdled with a heavy leather lineman's belt its pockets crammed the ax is for chopping down trees and cutting people apart the dagger's to throw when people are going downstairs the sword's to fight with--my batman mask? its eyes are lasers and the points kill people when I'm dropping down from the sky my skeleton glove comes off it's to hold people's throats to strangle them oh the suit it's just for throwing webs his grossly padded front blinks red from a secret switch those are some chest muscles I observe those aren't muscles they're boobs not mine just pretend! --we both dissolve in laughter the costume is complete with pastel green diaphanous wings feathered edges aglitter they're what I fly with says wyatt I need all my gear to hunt to eat people do you know that some people eat people grandma

#### northfifthstreet poem #4

he wasn't walking at midnight it was daylight though lowering for a sudden downpour caused him to step inside the foyer of the house dr jayne was building for his daughter kitty-corner from the governors manse where abe's brother-in-law lived he chatted with the workmen looked around the sort of thing he'd do then departed the men remembered when he went on to the white house this story has come down through the few owners nannie fain lived here from 1917 told me in 1970 too bad he didn't carve his name on the newel post I'd be in no danger from school or medical districts sometimes I stand in my hallway say hello abe ask his thoughts on family on the state of the union share mine with him

#### lovepoem #10

in 1903 when my mother was eight she and her chums formed a music club they eschewed mozart beethoven bach in naming chose the buster brown and tige club after their favorite comic strip their motto was semper fidelis furnished by an older sibling studying latin they felt the need of a solemn pledge wrote one out all signed C McAulliffe Pres H Duck F McAullife V A Wardner M McAuliffe N McAllister Elizabeth Roemer they placed their hands on the bible spoke the oath in unison "I promise for one year to refrain from intoxicating drinks" you doubt this my mother Vera was secretary and I have the original if you wish proof maybe I should laminate it frame it one could do worse with pledges

#### ufopoem #2

(news note: An unidentified flying object recently sighted in Texas was described by one viewer as big as a Walmart. The following is with apologies to Jerome Kern and Otto Harbach.)

they asked me how I knew what I saw was true--oo--oo--I replied with sighs I believe my eyes walmart in the skies

they said some day you'll find that your eyes are bli--ii--ind-humbly I replied something here inside cannot be denied

so I chaffed and so I gaily laughed it was not toys--r--us were it costco circuit city barnes & noble more's the pity would I make-this-fuss?

no, here in texas we stand by what we see--ee-ee 'twas football field in size ringed with ruby eyes walmart in the skies

#### farmerpoem #3

(this is from a 1956 letter from my retired U of Michigan writing professor and small farm owner, who taught me much of what I know about writing and living)

I shall never go through another lambing season without living on the place I drove back and forth twice a day this year and lost several lambs while away lambs start coming first of march I am going to be there I want to have one spring at least when I can get up in the morning and watch winter go and spring come in

## kinquotepoem #9

my father's blueprint newspaper published in sixth grade was banished when he printed this syllogism we go to school to improve our faculties our teachers are our faculties ergo we go to school to improve our teachers

#### aroundthecosmos poem #6

total eclipse the moon a dull copper penny unblinking visible now only in earthlight its attendant winking star soon to be light-drowned the cold the cold is biting how cold the moon how still

behind me on the street multiple lurid stoplights turn red green red green red traffic sweeps its yellow headlights ruby eyes trail while I ponder stonehenge mayan calendars and the eons this dark earth was lit by moon and stars alone until hearth fires began winking on in little clusters

## birthday poem #1

I stood nearby at {cressid's birth {rachel's a new wee girl upon the earth I marveled as her mother bore her I had birthed that child before her I a child my mother bore me she her mother her before me

I have come to realize feelings seldom synchronize moments of the deepest kind craving a companion mind are often hardest ones to share it's not that those I love don't care but they are all at different places different worries different faces and most times when I have tried words don't come my tongue is tied or if they come they can't convey all behind the words need say

but at a birth the moments touch (and at a death) I know that much

## inmemorium poem #1

(Terri Jackson was an SSU graduate, then on the UIS staff till her recent death of cancer. She was universally beloved.)

be there heaven be there gold then terri's there within the fold

## kinquote #10

my first cousin age ninety on an impulse phoned his grammar school chum bob dagley they both attended j b murphy public school in chicago from the directory he knew bob lived in houston he said bob this is paul bob said now what do you want

#### dogletterpoem #1

dear pooky I am visiting my cousin couer d'or that means heart of gold which she hasn't for she keeps her rawhide bone from me but I snatch it and go under the piano I have not peed on the rug yet I am taking heartworm pills couer and I go outside forty times a day there is a gopher who lives on the lawn grampa dropped a radish down the kitchen drain as soon as the pipe filled with water the radish would float up and close off the pipe so that no more water would go down he finally had to take the plumbing apart he didn't look too hot when he was finished neither did the radish he says it would have been an entirely different story if he'd only dropped a strawberry write back love muffie

## northfifthstreet poem #5

in my backyard sits maybe sits a rabbit maybe alive maybe dead surely dead if that cat came back I kept my distance yesterday so as not to scare but soon knew it was beyond scaring I approached slowly stroked its neck saw the hand-sized space of bared flesh on its back pink blue wide as my hand its flank too--now what get the shovel? one swift blow quick pain rather than slow agony? I went inside did nothing rationalized little animals are daily killed in fields woods even here on fifth street it was an unsettled evening now over coffee I write a check for polar bears one for darfur

#### insectpoem #3

it's come and gone national punc tuation day at the start of this ass ignment I decided to dispense with all that bother also to avoid caps except for I nobody wants to read small i insect appreciation day has gone by too that's ok i've always app reciated insects except when i had to pick potato bugs as a kid a couple years ago i noticed strange movement on a brick on my porch here was a gray pod with teensy praying mantises stream ing out tiny delicate green exact repli cas of adult mantises excited i propelled some passersby from the sidewalk look look they looked went on no comment no wonder no awe now what celebra tion comes next that i can bug folk with

#### evilsofdancepoem #1

the letters to my dad at college exhorted study frugality morality on this subject grama sent clippings a madison pastor saying no sin among those that overwhelmed ancient civilizations is not rampant now this she underlined and a chicago proprietor of the midwest's largest public dance hall said he would urge all dancehall operators to ban the shimmy woddle toddle drag-waltz shuffle-step tango and cheekto-cheek dancing must become sane again my friend rosie roach when three she and her twin sister who now lives in decatur used to tap dance on bars didn't tell mom they were quite a hit daddy owned a dance studio I bet they knew the woddle the toddle the cheek-to-cheek

## farmer'sdiary poem #1

may 11 1949 this morning I stumbled on a meadow lark nest with six eggs and two cowbird eggs therein

may 14 1949 checked my meadow lark nest a cow has stepped on it sic transit gloria mundi

#### ecopoem #7

coming in august to uis our newest residence hall announcement with pictures "founders hall" in honor of our founders it will go green have a leafy roof as one of those founders yes a few of us are still around I will donate a pair of goats to live on the roof keep it trimmed what pleasure for us below and oh how small will be their carbon hoofprints

#### poemonpoems #1

in some papers of my grandma from the twenties or thirties I found where she'd apparently been trying to enter a limerick contest extolling the virtues of a product maybe still around but has dropped the old from its name since nobody likes any thing labeled old except maybe cheese the lines I found are "All your cleanup is easy as pie When Old Dutch is the cleanser you try. It's new and it's quicker and safer and thicker--" there's where the verse halted I seriously doubt my grandma knew the limerick about the vicar but maybe she sensed she was circling a drain where more than old dutch would be needed for cleanup

## ecopoem #8

we have so many ways to kill if wars don't get us weather will

#### ypoolpoem #4

there's a lot of good to be said for swimming every dawn at the y the bad part is the insufferable music and the inane talk show two people without a brain between them but once in a while joe the lifeguard a doughty scotsman plays the sound track to braveheart then we all swim to bagpipes

## parishaikus set #1

eighty years ago my parents met here married paris palimpsest

metro buskers a thirteen piece string orchestra vivaldi's seasons

louvre d'orsay cluny but the asterix theme park is closed until march

eiffel replicas brass, nougat, sardine-tins, glass-even a dildo

# springfieldpoem #7

the linden trees are in blossom you won't notice the blooms they're green so blend with leaves but you will turn your head look around say where is that delicate perfume coming from

#### backthenpoem #3

my grandpa wrote my dad and uncle when they were away from the farm at phantom lake y camp he said my dear boys I am missing you greatly not alone because of your help with the work but it is lonesome without you do you know that story of the lad who had been away from home a few days and felt it was years and remarked well I see you still have the same old cat things will be much the same when you return we will have the same old cat

## farmerletter poem #3

(to Jackie from her father, 1948)

july 4 we finally got rain about ten days ago good enough to start some of the corn that hadn't sprouted some fields are good many only about two thirds of a stand nothing a complete failure although it makes me sick to think how much we stand to lose just because we couldn't have had a little thunder shower about june 1

## springfieldpoem #8

a mother aims her camera at four laughing children clustered by lincoln's statue the one across from the museum where he's in a strong breeze his coat flapping three of the kids are on the ground a fourth has clambered up beside him one child reaches up holds his hand

#### lovepoem #11

damaris supple lithe half century in age up since three to fly here from afar she charges back and forth the porch's length stamping striding flinging wide her arms I ease out perch on a bed watch her move watch her sway from side to side her body now a soft parenthesis now all sharp angles a sudden twist a twirl she stretches spirals flexes fingers parades prances pivots spins swoops flicks me a smile says I'd do this even if you weren't watching my body craves it she frenzies into wild gyrations slows to glissando backbends strokes the air glides gentle as the dark lake beyond her forth and back forth and back she is ripples on the moonlit rocks later she comes to my bedside smoothes and smoothes my hair from my forehead says you used to do this to us when you tucked us in

## grandchildpoem #6

Jay, soon thirteen, wants a padded asbestos fireproof room and a fireproof suit and a flame thrower and firelighters and firecrackers the cherry bomb kind and a blowtorch and things that blow up lighter fluid gasoline and stuff like that an oxygen mask of course and tank but if he can't have any of those he'll settle for cds video games a new baseball mitt an ipod and a fat sci fi book number seven in the series grandma will get it

## poemonpoems #2

I am reading david lehman's daily mirror he writes a poem a day or says he does the book is kept in the outhouse I read his daily output while I tend my daily output it will take threehundred-sixty-five days to finish the book unless I get the trots but then there's always the chance of constipation to balance the ledger

## August 7

## lakepoems 2008

suddenly it's white-the forest hillside awake with indian pipes

towels from successive swims this rainy summer drape the cabin like bunting

that monstrous spider is back between the dock boards where did she winter?

#### August 14

#### milkybusiness poem

I grew up drinking raw milk it was our dairy's premium brand grade A guernsey raw all the doctors recommended it but when pasteurization became mandatory we had to drop it now nutritionists say raw milk is healthier farmers are again providing it though against the law amish agriculturalists hauled off to jail factory farms and monster dairies train elephant guns at family cows--lawmakers too; pending in ny: "every person engaged in the production of raw untreated milk for human consumption shall hold a permit issued by the commission" daughter #3 who keeps food thugs under surveillance writes me what she and her blog buds are debating "what about nursing mothers are they going to need permits as well I mean a woman is a person and if she is nursing she is engaged in the production of raw milk for human consumption are we wrong?"

### August 21

#### sangamonpoem #1

we picnicked by a roaring mountain brook icy water seething around gargantuan rocks to let the kids see some wild vermont swim in the backwater pools campers were picnicking nearby I asked a young counselor where's your camp? he gestured behind him up in the green mountains what's it called? sangamon I did a double take spell that? he did sangamon I laughed said I live in sangamon county on the sangamon river but it's in illinois well he said they didn't want to call it camp lincoln I recalled only then this brook runs through lincoln notch below lincoln peak townships are towns in new england and the town of lincoln contains lincoln and west lincoln and south lincoln the founders eighty-five years ago must have thought camp lincoln would be overkill you're not from vermont I say knowing his answer will be england london he says I'm here on vacation paying my way by working at camp sangamon you'll find home all over I tell my kids

## August 28

## lakepoem #9

wyatt excellent swimmer adept oarsman just six managed going fast to row quite far out into our little lake sans lifejacket before he was spotted and hauled protesting back his punishment is no rowing today he's staged a tantrum of deafening proportions until now gone berrying with everyone his mother says she thinks the kubler-ross stages could apply to kids' punishments first denial then anger bargaining depression futility resignation finally acceptance blame has to come in somewhere he's totting up his sister's crimes to make them worse than his own I tell my daughter write it as an article and send it to a parenting mag they'll pay more than poems do

## lakepoem #10

it seems sort of futile to be cleaning off one's roof with a spoon like the maiden in the fairy tales who had to empty the pond with a teacup a spatula works too the broom comes later after all the needles leaf litter green puffs of entrenched moss are loosened they feed on the shingles hold the damp allow even little trees to catch hold if we didn't do this every year we'd have leaks and a green roof maybe support a goat or two I say we because I never do this alone fall off a roof and who's to notice it's rather a pleasant job on a cool sunny day creeping about on top of one's domain checking whether the roof will last another year and the companionship is pleasant too we talk of things we don't talk of under the roof

# lake end poem #1

as each cottager leaves the contents of the refrigerator are passed along to those staying longer think of that final fridge with five or six half used ketchups and mustards pickle relish the odd strawberry or apricot jam with sticky lids the souring milk the unused zucchini I have no idea how to end this and I can't imagine that last person at the lake does either I don't plan to ask

### underwearpoem #1

some people hold things against their parents all their lives mine probably will too my godkids blame their mother that she made them wear their underpants a second day inside out well I remember my grandma doing a huge washing at the big house every monday took all day tubs and scrub boards all the overalls for the help all the white aprons for the barn and milk house to say nothing of their personal clothing and my mother every monday in the cellar of the little house toiling over the maytag running clothes through the wringer using starch and bluing a big wash for our family of six on rainy days clothes were strung all over the downstairs slapped you in the face if you weren't careful we all felt clammy I don't recall whether I had to wear my underpants twice or not but it was the depression we were lucky to have underpants at all

# clothingpoem #2

I came in haste not prepared for cold so today we visited a vast warehouse dollar-a-pound clothing in bins hundreds of folks mostly poor stuffing shopping carts I pull on a jacket glossy black quilted lining zippers galore pockets pouches on the back a great round garish snarling seminole gold red green black a smaller logo on the front I take it off ask a man near the table what team is seminole english is not his language he points to the jacket pushes up his sleeve to reveal a quiet tattoo of an indian in full headdress raises shy eyebrows to me points do I want it my daughter states it's not you mom yes it is but I hand it across the bin leave in a sedate green 75c windbreaker

### springfieldpoem #7

ah spfld spfld for several weeks now I've been in minneapolis and while bike-auto ratio isn't even there are still more bikes than you can shake a spoke at but I want to talk about the buildings great and small their sides backs fronts so many are painted primitive art traditional art sophisticated art folk psychodelic symbolic kids trompe l'oeil you name it one designating the tuscan cafe within another advocating life some with neat perspective some madness amok one a whole page of mozart score but color color color all over there's a mosaic folk go out of their way to see and a man's front yard jammed with artistic junkheap coils and storecases with things in them armless rubber dolls and daily changing signs deploring racism the number of iraqi dead the mounting trillions of dollars people drive there too color life caring it makes your heart sing your heart weep ah springfield why are we so drab we destroy a mural and the vachel lindsay one on the square downtown is so pale so hidden that I seldom notice even when I ride by on my bike

## roundbarnpoem #3

I trespassed yesterday found a way into the derelict barn on the farm I grew up on my dad grew up there too I took some plaster of paris cleaned out the handprints where when he was nine and his brother seven they had made them in the wet cement I used to wonder if the cow who always chose that spot for milking knew she had immortal handprints by her left rear hoof now they're saved just in reverse now it's ok for the tornado or wrecking ball to come

#### technopoem #5

(note from my techno buddy)

here's what you need to get your computer going 1) your keyboard plug it into one of the usb connectors on the laptop 2) mouse instructions same as above plug it into a jack on the right so the cord doesn't wrap around the laptop you are right handed aren't you? 3) ac cord plugs into the small black box this is your power supply and plugs into the only jack of its kind on the rear of the laptop 4) power strip you know what to do with that 5) gravametric equalizer rotate it to a north-south position and reintegrate it with the matching synchrogyro neucleonic stabilizer--wait a second . . . that's supposed to be in the box I'm sending to the cia military weapons lab division forget I mentioned that it's best you don't know

#### nevadabutte poem #1

(jointly written with Carol Manley)

yearly his job sends him to vegas after the last high-tech presentation while colleagues scramble to the slots he climbs a mountain where a rock awaits curved and grooved to his exact proportions seated there the vast nevada plain lies beneath his tranguil gaze zeus of the universe lately medical demands have him trimming his thighs his gluteus is less maximus and one sad cinderella rock holds open auditions in the desert for a new set of princely buttocks to match her own less movable less mutable mold

# reallyscary poem #2

windows are closing some by now slammed shut if we again elect goblins this time this time this time will we have even a ghost of a chance

# friendquote poem #11

we got married on my noon hour yesterday seems to be working out so far

## loveletterpoem #12

dearest demi I realize my soul has been hungry for making music if you'd bring your fiddle and the handel sonatas I'd practice all week and bring my cello and the scarlotti you gave me in 1977 maybe we could find a pianist--go to milton and kidnap martha to play with us? love, mom dec 12 2004

### englandthanksgiving poem #1

I can predict when they'll be back I told the greenham common campers all of us poised for the cruise missiles to return from war games on salisbury plain thursday is our thanksgiving the americans will want wednesday to get where they're going for the holiday so they'll need the morning to deploy therefore they'll return tuesday night I was right midnight some fifty police lorries four abreast on the narrow road led the parade headlights blinding then the dark missiles huge terrible long as tall buildings laid on their sides grim bobbies standing shoulder to shoulder to keep us women from throwing paint we threw anyway though not me if you're jailed you'll lose your passport they said but I got paint on my green down jacket and rips from the gorse bush that a bobby pitched me into my kids say get rid of that old rag but I wear it every winter it is my battle stripes

# kidquote thanksgiving poem #1

(scrap found written by daughter #4, age ten years, counting her blessings)

- 1. I am alive
- 2. I am here
- 3. I have friends
- 4. I am not an orphan
- 5. I have sisters
- 6. I am skilled
- 7. I am clothed
- 8. I have a kitten
- 9. I have camp
- 10. I am not retarded
- 11. I have shelter
- 12. I have love
- 13. I have all my senses
- 14. I go to a good school
- 15. I have many friends
- 16. I have pierced ears
- 17. I have an allowance
- 18. I have my own room
- 19. I have all my stuffed toys
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.

# friendquote poem #12

my birthday lake emiquon too choppy so dropped my kayak into spoon river it's always held a certain mystique what with the spoon river anthology though today the river is not very poetic seems little more than a mud walled ditch scribbled into a cornfield still a nice fall day for paddling I went maybe a mile till stopped by a log jam I wasn't inclined to go to any effort to go around so headed to the river's mouth and out into the illinois to watch the barges for a while before paddling back to my car

# gillianquote poems #1

(daughter #3 at seventeen)

I have to write a canterbury tale tonight. . . . how long did it take chaucer?

here's its stem potatoes always seem so self sufficient you don't think of them as having stems

I have a right to say UGH if I find a task distasteful

elspeth's new kitten will have a hard time developing his personality second cats always do

#### adventspiral poem #1

almost too heartbreakingly beautiful for words the room transformed to a dark pine forest a candle in the midst the children one by one entering the space each alone walking the spiral carrying a candle lighting it rewalking the path kneeling placing it along the spiral's edge one by one slowly each solemn young face lit by the soft light a harp's gentle strums defining each child until all have walked lit knelt placed departed an hour has passed now the spiral is left in the forest silent its way traced by candlelight all hearts full heartbreakingly beautiful heartbreakingly holy perhaps perhaps perhaps a spiral toward the healing of bruise-ed hearts

## christmas lullaby

(My mother wrote this lullaby for my oldest sister, on her first Christmas, 1925. I'm repeating it again this year. I'll send the lovely music on request.)

Sleep, little baby, the daylight is fading; Dim yellow stars the dark heavens adorn; Once, long ago, in a Bethlehem manger The little Lord Jesus was born. Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, little baby, sleep.

Sleep, little baby, my arms are about thee, A circle of love which enfolds thee secure; So Mary cradled the wee baby Jesus, The little Lord Jesus, so pure. Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, little baby, sleep.

Sleep, little baby, thine eyelids are drooping, Thy warm, tender body relaxing to rest; Jesus thus slept in the arms of sweet Mary, His dear little head on her breast. Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, little baby, sleep. Lullaby, lullaby, sleep, little baby, sleep.

# Books by Jacqueline Jackson

These, out of print, are available on the Internet:

- Julie's Secret Sloth Little, Brown
- The Paleface Redskins Little, Brown
- The Taste of Spruce Gum Little, Brown
- Missing Melinda Little, Brown
- The Ghost Boat Little, Brown
- Chicken Ten Thousand Little, Brown
- Turn Not Pale, Beloved Snail Little, Brown
- Spring Song Kent State U Press
- The Orchestra Mice Regnery
- The Endless Pavement Seabury

These two, in print, are available from Northwestern U. Press, Amazon, etc.:

- Stories from the Round Barn
- More Stories from the Round Barn

Musicals, performed; scripts and music unpublished:

- From Here to Epiphany
- The Endless Pavement
- The Orchestra Mice

Brought out for family and friends:

- Lovingly, Ron letters of Ronald Dougan
- Your Loving Father letters, papers of W. J. Dougan
- Twenty-five years of The Empty Nest News letter
- Granny Lives at Greenham

Illinois Times poem booklets:

- Taking Liberties (2005)
- Liberty on the Ramparts (2006)
- Liberty Takes a Break (2007)
- Liberty Chastized (2008)

Hey, readers of these little Liberty booklets – we have all sorts of writing talent all over our central Illinois area, some of you published, some unpublished. Some of you still too timid to try. This is to urge you to get your ideas down in any form: for yourselves, your family, friends, possibly the wider public. And these days, publishing is fairly easy and fairly inexpensive, both in booklets like this, or online. The bookmark below was drawn by my daughter Elspeth when she was ten.

READ, READ, READ! is excellent advice. Let's add its corollary: WRITE, WRITE, WRITE!

Jacqueline Jackson

