

THE  
 HAIKU  
 SOCIETY  
 OF AMERICA

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 1 — WINTER 1998

**T**OWPATH HAIKU SOCIETY was the host for the final quarterly meeting of the Haiku Society of America for 1997. Once again we had the use of the wonderful space provided by the Japan Information and Cultural Center, a department of the Embassy of Japan, in downtown Washington, D.C. People attended from as far away as Florida, Arkansas, and Illinois as well as Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Attendees included Stephen Addiss, Ed Barth, Roberta Beary, Alexius Burgess, Maureen Collins, Ellen Compton, Kristen Deming, Fred Donovan, Dee Evetts, Yoriko Fujisaki, Lee Giesecke, Lee Gurga, Josh Hockensmith, Jim Kacian, Howard Lee Kilby, Joe Kirschner, Karen Klein, Kenneth C. Leibman, Andrea Missias, Pamela Miller Ness, Marian Olson, Tony Sweet, R. Paul Tucker, Anita Sadler Weiss, Richmond D. Williams, and Laquita Wood.

**T**HE BUSINESS MEETING was chaired by HSA President Lee Gurga. The other Officers present were Dee Evetts, Secretary, and Kenneth Leibman, *frogpond* Editor. Officers-elect present in a nonvoting capacity were Kristen Deming, 1998 HSA President, and Jim Kacian, 1998 *Frogpond* Editor. (The President later polled the Officers not present, for their votes on the motions proposed.) After further discussion of the proposals for an HSA logo and T-shirt, it was agreed: that the search for a logo design should not be continued; that the search for a graphical representation of the Society's name should be continued, and additional designs solicited; that Michael Dylan Welch

be asked to submit additional designs; and that any official HSA T-shirt should carry the Society's name and Web site address.

Dates and venues for the 1998 quarterly national meetings were considered, and Kristen Deming undertook to finalize the details during the coming weeks, in coordination with the Secretary.

It was agreed that incoming HSA Officers should routinely be invited to attend the last quarterly Executive Committee meeting of the year, in order to facilitate the transfer of responsibilities.

— Dee Evetts

## FOURTH 1997 HSA QUARTERLY MEETING

**F**OR THE GENERAL MEETING an Urban Christmas ginko was held in the morning, organized by Ellen Compton and including the White House seasonal decorations. The business meeting of the Executive Board of the HSA met during this time at the site. The general meeting was convened at 1:00 P.M. by outgoing Southeast Region Coordinator Jim Kacian, who introduced the outgoing President of the HSA, Lee Gurga. Lee welcomed the group, announced the results of the recent elections as well as the HSA Merit Book Award winners, and then spoke briefly on the topic "Can Haiku Matter?," raising several interesting points. He then introduced HSA President-elect Kristen Deming, who regaled the audience with an account of some of the highlights of her 13 years in Japan, especially among the major poets and other artists with whom she trafficked.

Andrea—better known as A.C.—Missias, one of the most accom-

plished and best-known haiku practitioners on the Internet, next spoke on access to haiku on the Internet, previewing the column she will have in upcoming issues of *frogpond*. Dee Evetts brought the meeting to its recess with a discussion of the gray area of certain poems that might be seen as either haiku or senryū.

towpath haiku society sponsored the intermission refreshments, and, following the recess, had an opportunity to exhibit some of their writing skills. Lee Giesecke, Treasurer of the towpath society, gave a brief and informative talk on the history of the society and then introduced several members of the society, including Fred Donovan, Ellen Compton, and Alexius Burgess, who read briefly from their own work. This gave us the opportunity to express out appreciation to all who had

helped to make the meeting possible, especially Fred Donovan, who chaired the Hospitality Committee, arrived early and stayed late, and made certain that everyone who came enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

The remainder of the meeting was given over to the enjoyable workshop provided by lame-duck *frogpond* editor Ken Leibman, who, with his usual panache, made the trip enjoyable for all. The meeting adjourned only a few minutes past the time we were to leave, and nearly all adjourned the the Kawasaki Restaurant to continue the celebration.

We are all looking forward to the next quarterly HSA meeting in the Southeast Region — the March 1999 meeting is tentatively scheduled for the University of Richmond.

— Jim Kacian

FIRST 1998 QUARTERLY

The Northwest Region will host this year's first national meeting of HSA on March 7, 1998 in Federal Way, Wash. A ginko (poetry walk) through the internationally acclaimed Pacific Rim Bonsai Collection or the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden on the Weyerhaeuser campus will begin at 10:30 A.M.

The program at the Federal Way Regional Library, 43200 1st Way South, 1:00-5:00 P.M., will include the HSA business meeting chaired by our new president, Kristen Deming, from Bethesda, Md., and Tokyo; an

address on the topic of "Haiku at Work" by featured speaker Ruth Yarrow, transplanted from Ithaca, N.Y., and now living in Seattle; a workshop led by Marc Thompson; refreshments; a haiku reading/performance; and a no-host dinner at a local restaurant. Bring haiku related to your (or others') employment, and haiku to share during introductions and afternoon reading.

The entrance fee to the Rhododendron Garden is \$3.50 (\$2.50 seniors/students). All other events are free, and the public is invited.

Friday, March 6, at 7:00 P.M., visiting

and local poets are invited to read their haiku at the University Village Barnes & Noble bookstore. Depending on the number of participants, we may need to limit the number of haiku read by each person.

To reach the Weyerhaeuser campus, take I-5 south to South 320th Street (Exit 143), cross the freeway and turn right onto Weyerhaeuser Way South, follow signs to Garden; from the south, take I-5 north to Exit 142A, get on Highway 18 and exit onto Weyerhaeuser Way South, follow

(continued next page)

**THE HAIKU SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**  
established 1968 by  
Harold G. Henderson and Leroy Kanterman  
c/o Japan Society, Inc.  
333 East 47th Street  
New York, NY 10017-2399

President Kristen Deming  
First Vice President Jerry Ball  
Second Vice President Alice Benedict  
Secretary Dee Evetts  
Treasurer Raffael de Gruttola

Questions about membership, dues, and all related matters as well as annual election of officers should be addressed to  
Dee Evetts  
Secretary, HSA  
P.O. Box 1179  
New York, NY 10013

All questions about subscriptions, submissions, editorial correspondence, exchange copies, and other matters concerning *Frogpond* should be addressed to  
Jim Kacian  
Editor, *Frogpond*  
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News and notices of events for publication in *The HSA Newsletter* can be submitted, preferably via E-mail or on a diskette, to  
Charles Trumbull  
Editor, *HSA Newsletter*  
1102 Dempster Street  
Evanston, IL 60202-1211  
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ELECTION RESULTS,

Of the 694 ballot papers mailed out, 216 were returned. Votes were cast as follows ("Others" indicates abstentions and write-in votes):

HSA OFFICERS

President	
Kristen Deming	211
Others	5
1st Vice President	
Jerry Ball	208
Others	8
2nd Vice President	
Alice Benedict	207
Others	9
Secretary	
Dee Evetts	214
Others	2
Treasurer	
Raffael de Gruttola	212
Others	4
<i>Frogpond</i> Editor	
Jim Kacian	198
Others	18
<i>Newsletter</i> Editor	
Charles Trumbull	211
Others	5

REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Northeast (56)	
Lawrence Rungren	16
NE Metro (151)	
Pamela Miller Ness	40
Southeast (97)	
Stephen Addiss	43
South (28)	
Howard Lee Kilby	7
Midwest (84)	
Sara Brant	21
California (91)	
Jocelyn Conway	26
Northwest (49)	
Connie Hutchison	22

The results of the Membership Opinion Survey (asking if members would wish the HSA membership dues to be raised by \$5 to enable mailings to be sent by First Class Mail) were as follows. Of the 211 responses, 152 voted in favor, and 59 voted against. This result will be taken into consideration by the Executive Committee.

– Dee Evetts

HSA MEMBERSHIP LIST UPDATE

Additions and changes to the HSA membership list 1997-98:

NEW MEMBERS:

- Bachini, Annie, Flat B, Dame Colet House, Ben Jonson Road, London E1 3NH, U.K.
- Bene, Cindy S., 889 Moonlight Road, Smithfield, VA 23430
- Bernhards, Bob, 106 Pepperidge Place, Sterling, VA 20164-2117
- Curtis, G., 572 Drummond Street, North Carlton, 3054 Vic, Australia
- Gimenez, Elaine, 3188 Groth Court, San Jose, CA 95111
- Gorgone, Judith Ann, 25 Star Road, West Newton, MA 02165
- Gross, David, RR1 Box 316, Pinckneyville, IL 62274
- Humphries, Mitch, 125 Lake Towee Drive S.E., Demorest, GA 30535
- Johnson, Joyce Sandeen, 6532 Spring Brook Road #212, Rockford, IL 61114-8136
- Hehman-Smith, Margaret, 11826 Utah Avenue, Hollydale, CA 90280
- Kaplan, Betty, 2851 N.E. 183rd Street, Apt. 1508, Adventure, FL 33160
- Logan, Jeff, 11156 Collett Avenue, Granada Hills, CA 91344-3808
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- Lynch, Diane, 68 Oakland Place, Summit, NY 07901
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- Red Hawk, 526 S. Main, Monticello, AR 71655
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- Terris, Susan, 11 Jordan Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118
- Ventresca, A. D., 1353 2nd Street, Lorain, OH 44052
- Ward, Linda, P.O. Box 231, Coinjock, NC 27923
- Wheatley, Kenneth III, 121 Parkridge Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71901
- Zukowski, Robert H., 1025 W. 19th Street, No. A-15, Panama City, FL 32405

HSA TREASURER'S REPORT

FOURTH QUARTER  
(October 1 to December 31)

Balance Forward	\$15,549.46
Income	11,607.79
Expenses	10,644.73
New Balance	\$16,512.52

– Raffael de Gruttola

NEWSLETTER ON THE HSA

WEB SITE

Many members were misled by the question on the 1998 Membership Renewal Form that asked about their ability to access the Internet. There is no intention of replacing the printed version of the Newsletter with the electronic copy, which is intended as an extra service to HSA members.

If you would like to visit the HSA Web site as it is under construction, point your browser at <<http://www.octet.com/~hsa/>>

ADDRESS CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS:

- Better, Cathy Drinkwater, 119 Caraway Road Apt. B-1, Reisterstown, MD 21136
- Black, F. M., 2214 Wallace Street, Columbia, SC 29201
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E-MAIL ADDITIONS, CHANGES, AND CORRECTIONS

For reasons of space, all e-mail addresses are stored on the HSA database without any capital letters. This will in no way affect the use of your address, since the E-mail system reads upper and lower case letters as identical.)

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## NORTHEAST REGION

### SEPTEMBER 19 QUARTERLY HSA MEETING, NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

The Western Massachusetts Haiku Poet's Society is happy to host the HSA fall meeting on Saturday, September 19, in Northampton, Mass. This will be a daylong event including participatory writing and discussion workshops, book table, and readings. The location, on the campus of Smith College, adjacent to their botanical gardens, should provide a lovely early fall experience.

Northampton is approximately equidistant from New York City, Boston, and Albany, and one hour north of Hartford. We invite all HSA members and friends of haiku in the region to save the date. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters or E-mail <winfred@crocker.com>.

### HAIKU POETS OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

The Haiku Poets of Western Massachusetts have met three times in recent months. The September meeting took place at the home of members Anna Pearce and Richard Treston in Amherst, Mass. We met for reading of poems and discussions, then went on a ginko in the beautiful public woods behind the Pearce/Treston home. The weather was perfect for the walk, clear and crisp following several days of rain. Afterward, the poets shared poems that they had drafted in the woods.

The October meeting was held at the home of member Carol Purington in rural Colrain, Mass. Even though the foliage was a week or so past peak and the weather was chilly and gray, the meeting was a delightful exchange of poems, discussion, and haiku news. Some poets shared poems from the ginko of the previous meeting, including this one:

damp autumn woods  
many fungi  
many colors  
— Barbara Farrington

Carol shared a mock-up of her forthcoming book of tanka, *The Trees Bleed Sweetness* to be published by Larry Kimmel's Winfred Press (see announcement, page 9), and John Sheirer shared a progress report on an anthology of haiku by poets living in the region, to be published by his Tiny Poems Press in spring 1998.

The group's December meeting was held on the beautiful campus of Mount Holyoke College (where John's wife works) in South Hadley, Massachusetts. This was one of the most well-attended meetings in the history of the group, with 15 people present. John shared a poem written while driving home from the last meeting at Carol's farm:

my old car rattles  
on the gravel road  
long stare from a grazing cow  
— John Sheirer

Many haiku gems were shared in the round reading, including these:

Evening star  
balanced on the traffic light  
both winking  
— Wanda D. Cook

from a withered branch  
a black shape takes wing  
strange fruit  
— a collaborative poem  
by Larry Kimmel  
and Kathleen Leahy

Larry brought completed copies of Carol's wonderful book and announced the upcoming bumper sticker haiku contest that his Winfred Press will sponsor. Patrick Frank graciously provided free copies of the most recent issue of *Point Judith Light* and announced that the next issue should be available in late January. Hayat Abuza led the group in a fasci-

nating activity exploring line breaks and punctuation in haiku.

Energized by the strong turnout at this meeting, the group scheduled several meetings for early 1998 and made tentative plans for a spring ginko.  
— John Sheirer

### THE BOSTON HAIKU SOCIETY

Society poets will be reading at The Morse Institute Library in Natick on March 17 as the first feature in their Spring Poetry Series at the Morse Institute.

Raffael de Gruttola was fortunate to secure a grant from the Natick Arts Council for the series which will run through the fall. Different poets will be featured each month from March to June and then again from September to December.  
— Raffael de Gruttola

## NORTHEAST METRO REGION

The final 1997 meeting of the Northeast Metropolitan Region was held from 2:00-5:00 P.M. on Saturday, December 6, 1977, in the East Asian Lounge, 403 Kent Hall, Columbia University, New York City (116th Street stop of the IRT 1/9 subway line).

The meeting began with the traditional sharing of introductions and a haiku by each member: Brenda Gannam Adam, Mykel Board, L.A. Davidson, Dee Evetts, Alan Gould, Doris Heitmeyer, Cor van den Heuvel, Kam Holifield, Leroy Kanterman, Renee Luria Leopold, Dorothy McLaughlin, Elsie Moncion, Pamela Miller Ness, Hiro Sato, Theresa Sheehan, John Stevenson, Geri Taper, and Arlene & Jaxon Teck. Mykel Board offered the following seasonal senryū:

## NORTHEAST METRO (CONT.)

Thanksgiving, next day  
the family together  
sharing heartburn

Our first reader was Doris Heitmeyer, a birdwatcher and painter in addition to haiku poet, who read "The X-Rated Haiku of a Birdwatcher," a sequence about the courting and mating patterns of birds:

cormorants  
she atop the water  
he atop she

She continued by reading selections from the winter and Christmas sections of a forthcoming chapbook of urban haiku entitled *Gritty City*.

Wolcott Wheeler, a guest speaker, then read a sequence of haiku written during recent travels in Japan, many of which poems incorporated historical and/or political references.

Hiroaki Sato, well-known scholar and translator of Japanese literature, delivered his traditional December lecture; his talk this year was a survey of the thematic development of Japanese love poetry from the earliest imperial anthologies to the present day. He noted that, unlike many translators, he prefers to translate tanka in one line, exemplified by the following poem by the 12th century Lady Horikawa:

Last long? I don't know his heart;  
my black hair in disorder this morning  
I can't help thinking

Following a break for conversation and refreshments, Dee Evetts read from his recently published book *endgrain* (Red Moon Press, 1997), a collection of haiku and senryū. Dee mentioned that over the years he has come to consider himself primarily a senryū poet:

last grandchild  
asks if she remembers  
the dinosaurs

The program ended with a workshop conducted by Mykel Board, during which participants critiqued haiku submitted anonymously. A haiku that generated a great deal of interest and conversation was written by Elsie Moncion:

watching the stars  
Belt of Orion  
over a prison

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14, 1998, from 2:00-5:00 P.M. at the location mentioned above. Bernard Lionel Einbond will discuss translating Bashō; Al Pizzarelli will give a reading; and Karen Sohne will conduct a workshop.

Subsequent 1998 regional meetings are scheduled for June 6 at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (rain date: June 20) and September 12. On December 5 we will host a joint national/regional meeting.

— Pamela Miller Ness,  
Northeast Metro Region Coordinator

## SOUTHEAST REGION

For this spring the Southeast Region is considering two meetings, one at the shores of Virginia Beach, and/or one in the boulder-strewn "Devil's Marbleyard" near Natural Bridge in the mountains west of Richmond. Both would offer evocative ginko opportunities. If interested, please inform Steve Addiss (E-mail: <saddiss@richmond.edu>), or at Art Department, University of Richmond, Richmond VA 23173.

The Richmond Haiku Workshop is currently exploring combinations of haiku and photography, working with nature photographer

Doug Satteson, who often captures the suggestion, mood, and feeling (rather than the precise definition) of natural scenes or objects. At a recent evening meeting, workshop members composed a renga based on images from his photos, and we are investigating other combinations of the two arts.

— Stephen Addiss,  
Southeast Region Coordinator

## SOUTH REGION

### INAUGURAL SOUTH REGION MEETING

The Arkansas Haiku Society hosted the first annual HSA South Region conference on November 6, 7, and 8 in Hot Springs, Ark. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Arkansas Arts Festival and their "Gathering of Poets." Thirty-seven haiku poets attended, including haijin from the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, and Illinois.

The Friday evening opening ceremony in the Poet's Loft included remarks by R. Paul Tucker, President of the Arkansas Haiku Society; Arkansas Poet Laureate Verna Lee Hinegardner, Pulitzer Prize-winning Beat poet Gary Snyder; and Lee Gurga, President of HSA. The opening session was followed by a lavish reception at Dr. Tucker's adjoining apartment.

Saturday morning's activities included presentations by Lee Gurga, Carlos Colón of Shreveport, La., and Arkansas haiku poet Pat Laster. Lunch at a Thai restaurant followed. Afternoon sessions included papers by Charles Trumbull, Joseph Kirschner, and Sara Brant (the last graciously read by Ellen Compton). Many participants in the poetry sections of the Arkansas Arts Festival participated in the afternoon session.

A poetry "slam" was held on Saturday evening, and many of the haiku poets attended to join the

hilarity. Others chose to avail themselves of walks and the hot baths and massages for which Hot Springs is famous.

Sunday morning brought a congenial haiku workshop led by Joseph Kirschner. Haiku using one of three assigned autumn *kigo* (season words) were written, shared, and critiqued. Many students and poets new to haiku participated.

Conference attendees left feeling bathed in the warmth of Hot Springs hospitality. The conference T-shirts, Japanese desk calendars, and official "Arkansas Traveler" certificates will be lasting mementos of a wonderful conference and will surely draw us all back to Hot Springs for the HSA quarterly meeting this summer.

— susan delaney mech

Howard Lee Kilby has sent a copy of a letter that was received in November in commemoration of the Hot Springs gathering.

### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

November 4, 1997

Warm greetings to everyone gathered in Little Rock for the Haiku Society of America's first meeting in the South Region.

The Haiku Society of America offers students and admirers of the ancient art of haiku a welcome opportunity to celebrate not only the unsurpassed body of literature produced by poets in the past, but also the vitality and diversity of voices reflected in the works of today's poets. I commend you for focusing on international understanding and unity through haiku. In an increasingly global community, it is often the voice of art that best conveys the common ground of human experience.

Best wishes for a productive meeting and for continued success.

## MIDWEST REGION

### LEE'S LAURELS

The Midwest Region was honored twice during the past months in a very deserved recognition of Lee Gurga's particular talents. Robert Spiess, Editor and Publisher of *Modern Haiku*, has appointed Lee associate editor of the journal.

In addition, Lee has been awarded a 1998 poetry fellowship by The Illinois Arts Council.

### CHI-KU

Chi-ku, the Chicago-area haiku group, conducted a program in November on Issa, considered by many of the members to be their favorite haiku master. Led by Mark Bird, the group explored several autobiographical passages written by Issa — namely those written shortly after the death of his father and about the period shortly prior to the death of his daughter. This was followed by a discussion of some of Issa's most intriguing verse. Chi-ku has now featured study sessions on three of the

"big four" Japanese masters. The session ended with an exercise designed to spur the creative impulse using the game Magnetic Poetry.

In December, Chi-ku gathered at a bistro in Evanston for a festive renku session. Plied with wine and good conversation, we produced a 20-verse *nijūin* renku titled "Lost and Found." Following an E-mail exchange of constructive criticism between Charlie Trumbull and Kris Kondō in Japan, the group undertook a revision of the renku in mid-January at the home of Sara Brant. The finished version was then sent to the International New Year Renku Exchange organized by the Milky Way Renku Group in Kanagawa, Japan.

Only four people attended the January Chi-ku meeting, but the discussion was nonetheless lively. The topic was punctuation and other nontext aspects in haiku and discussion was led by Charlie Trumbull. Copies of the three excellent articles on punctuation in haiku by Adrian Clarkson (believed to be from *Cicada*, 1977) were handed out,

as was a selection of haiku that Charlie had culled from various sources to explore the reasons why poets feel the need to punctuate, e.g., termination (or non-termination), linking/separating, tempo, clarification, and emphasis. We noted that the use of a "~", the swung dash (or tilde), to divide images in a haiku — as an em dash or a colon might once have done — is coming into fashion.

At the prompting of emcee Charlie Rossiter, Charlie Trumbull has agreed to lead a haiku writing exercise at the monthly open mic sponsored by River Oak Arts at Healey's Pub in Forest Park, Ill., on February 9. Lee Gurga, Joe Kirschner, and Charlie Trumbull have read haiku at these events on occasion in the past.

Special thanks to Bob Spiess, Randy Brooks, and Joe Kirschner who responded so quickly to the call for haiku for the proposed special regional pages in *Frogpond*.

— Sara Brant,  
Midwest Region Coordinator

## CALIFORNIA REGION

### HPNC

The fall meeting of the Haiku Poets of Northern California took place on October 26, 1997, at Fort Mason in San Francisco. Featured reader John Leonard, delighted the two dozen or so attendees with a fine selection of his work. Ebba Story led an interesting and informative workshop on the use (and misuse) of prepositions in haiku.

The discussion generated during the workshop helped to increase awareness, among the participants, of an issue which is not often considered when composing haiku. Rounds of reading and socializing added to a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

The annual HPNC holiday party was enjoyed by about 20 poets and friends on December 7 at the Sausalito Cruising Club. Delicious comestibles, wonderful poems, entertaining activities, and holiday cheer were shared by all. Sporadic cloudbursts failed to dampen the festive mood; the skies finally relented, sending a couple of spectacular rainbows to grace the event.

### YUKI TEIKEI HAIKU SOCIETY

The Yuki Teikei Haiku Society gathered together at Patricia Machmiller's home in San Jose for their holiday celebration on December 13, 1997. After partaking of the wide variety of tasty dishes provided, haiku gifts and poems were shared. The slide show presentation from *Cherry Blossoms Meet By The Wind Sailors* was also shown, to the delight of those of us who were unable to attend Asilomar this year. A warm and wonderful evening was had by all.

### HAIKU CITY READING SATURDAY, 28 MARCH 1998

The Haiku City reading series resumes on March 28 at Borders Books, 400 Post Street, at San Francisco's Union Square, hosted by Michael Dylan Welch. Join us at 7:00 P.M. for featured readings by Jocelyn Conway, Eugenie Waldteufel, and Emile Waldteufel, followed by an open reading of haiku and related poetry. Meet at the third floor amphitheater. Mark your calendar, and please do come if you can. Also, if you will be visiting the San Francisco area and would be interested in giv-

ing a reading, please contact Michael Welch by phone at (650) 571-9428, or E-mail at <welchm@aol.com>.

### AMERICAN HAIKU ARCHIVE

January 9, 1998, witnessed a meeting of haiku poets and State Library representatives at the American Haiku Archive in Sacramento. Some of the issues discussed included: the Honorary Curator position, financial needs, legal issues pertaining to access/use of the archive materials, and donation guidelines. After the meeting, attendees were treated to a tour of the Preservation Section of the library and enjoyed a visit with the California State Librarian.

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS

Southern California poets continue to meet on a monthly basis at Border's Books in Long Beach to study and share their haiku. All are welcome.

— Jocelyn Conway

## SOUTHWEST REGION

The membership of the Southwest Region has responded enthusiastically to Jim Kacian's plan for regional coordinators to select haiku to fill two pages of each issue of *Frogpond* for each region.

Bill Higginson is recovering from surgery for colon cancer, also having chemotherapy. He gave an outstanding reading of his poetry at Downtown Subscription in Santa Fe, N.M., on December 17, the last of five readings he had organized under the sponsorship of Recursos for 1997.

Site Santa Fe, a warehouse gallery, has continued to have poetry workshops and poetry readings. Most recently these included Charles Simic from the University of New Hampshire and Levi Romero, a northern New Mexico poet. A new series in 1998 will include other outstanding poets such as Czeslaw Milosz.

— Ralph Luce

## MISCELLANY

### MAINSTREAM HAIKU — I

Under the title "Haiku Populi" the *New York Times* of October 12, 1997 (and November 2) published some of the 600 or so haiku they received in response to a call for "submissions of the strange creative hybrid of an ancient Japanese verse form wed to the distinct New York worldview." A small sampling appears on page 9, opposite.

[thanks to Tom Clausen]

I live in New York

## JOURNALS & BOOKS

### SNAPSHOTS

Snapshot Press aims to increase the awareness of haiku and related short poetry through the publication of a quarterly magazine and booklets. We are dedicated to promoting new writing and hope to increase the recognition of new and established poets by giving encouraging quality outlets for their work. Any profits will be reinvested in subsequent publications.

*Snapshots* is a quarterly magazine featuring groups of haiku, senryu, and tanka by new and established individual writers. Issue One was to appear in January 1998. The Editor is John Barlow. Send original, unpublished submissions only with SAE and two IRCs to:

Snapshot Press  
P.O. Box 35  
Liverpool, L17 3EG  
England

Subscriptions: \$24.00 in U.S. bills, airmail. Single issue: \$7.00 in U.S. bills, airmail. Prices include postage and packaging.

See also the Contests section below for a description of the Snapshots Haiku Collection Competition.

## MISCELLANY

I can make it anywhere  
I can't make it here

Ameer Gittens

Pity the white man  
Dressed in suit, tie and briefcase  
The homeless hate him

Steven Schreibman

Tourists ask the way  
Directions are always free  
We're not that damn mean

Matthew Wills

### THE TREES BLEED SWEETNESS, A TANKA NARRATIVE

Winfred Press announces the publication of Carol Purington's new book. *The Trees Bleed Sweetness* is a tanka sequence that tells the story of a Native American woman who might have walked the same hills and valleys of western Massachusetts on which the author's family has held a farm for over 200 years and where Carol has lived all her life. This "story" is accomplished not so much in a narrative manner as in moments of awareness, from childhood fancy to realities of survival and the moments of friendship and love, as well as the violent emotions of loss.

These poems convey the physical and emotional texture of this Native American woman's life from childhood into old age through vivid natural imagery and the inner voice of this wonderfully imagined persona, as shown in the title poem:

The trees bleed sweetness  
in this bitterest season  
The men dance themselves  
to fury at an insult  
My child kicks within me

The book has been well researched and contains endnotes to explain certain words and customs of Native American life a millennium ago. Already called "a minor classic," this book will delight not only readers attuned to the tanka genre, but all lovers of fine poetry.

Perfect bound, 8H" x 5H", 60 pp., 41 tanka, 5 illustrations by Walter Cudnohovsky, \$9.00 ppd. Send orders to the author, 152 Wilson Hill Road, Colrain, MA 01340 or to Winfred Press, 364 Wilson Hill Road, Colrain, MA 01340 (Web site: <http://www.crocker.com/winfred>; E-mail <winfred@crocker.com>. Make checks payable to either Winfred Press or Carol Purington.

## CONTESTS

Note that contest announcements are arranged in order of deadlines.

### 1998 INTERNATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION

**Deadline:** February 21, 1998.

**Sponsor:** New Zealand Poetry Society Inc in association with Asia 2000.

**Regulations:** There are three sections — **Open, Haiku,** and **Junior Haiku.** Entrants may submit work in the Open section and either of the Haiku sections depending on age, with entries limited to 3 poems per person and maximum of 15 haiku. Work should be previously unpublished and preferably typed.

#### OPEN SECTION

**Regulations:** Entries are invited of single poems of not more than 32 lines.

**Entry fee:** NZ\$3.00 per poem. Overseas entrants may pay in IRCs.

**Awards:** Three prizes — NZ\$350, NZ\$250, NZ\$100.

**Adjudication:** Jenny Bornholdt (Wellington, NZ).

#### HAIKU SECTION

**Regulations:** Entries are invited of single haiku; there is no section for haiku sheets.

**Entry fee:** NZ\$3.00 per set of 5 haiku. Overseas entrants may pay in IRCs.

**Awards:** Three prizes — NZ\$250, NZ\$100, NZ\$50.

**Adjudication:** Janice Bostok (New South Wales, Australia).

#### JUNIOR HAIKU SECTION

**Regulations:** Open to New Zealand students under 19 years of age as at February 21, 1998. Entries are invited of single haiku; there is no section for haiku sheets. Schools are strongly advised to submit entries by the end of Term 4, 1997.

**Entry fee:** None.

## CONTESTS & COMPETITIONS

**Awards:** Three prizes — NZ\$200, NZ\$75, NZ\$50.

**Adjudication:** Ernest Berry (Picton, NZ).

**Entry Procedure:** Entries must be accompanied by an official entry slip (photocopies acceptable) including name & address, titles (or first lines) of poems or haiku, sections entered, and value of enclosed cheque/money order. Names are *not* to appear on poems or haiku.

**Submit entries to (and obtain entry forms from):** 1998 International Poetry Competition, NZ Poetry Society Inc, P.O. Box 48-002, Silverstream, Upper Hutt, New Zealand.

**Notification:** Enclose an SASE for results (a long envelope is best). Overseas entrants should send an International Reply Coupon instead of stamps. Submitted work is non-returnable, so keep a copy.

**Rights:** A condition of entry is that all poems and haiku be available for publication. A book containing prize-winning and selected entries will be published later in the year. At that time, those whose work is selected will be notified individually.

### ~~THE 9TH ITOEN~~

### "OH-I, OCHA!" (TEA, PLEASE) NEW HAIKU CONTEST

**Note:** Your humble HSA Newsletter Editor has attempted to extract the information about this contest from two different non-native speakers of English; some garbles are possible!

**Deadline:** Postmarked February 28, 1998.

**Sponsor:** Itoen Tea Company.

**Regulations:** Division 8, Haiku in English — Limit of six original and previously unpublished haiku per entrant. Do not submit haiku currently entered in other contests. All entries must be accompanied by your name, address, age, sex, occupation, and affiliation.

**Entry procedure:** Submit entries by postcard, fax (B5 or half-page size), or the Itoen Web page — *see below*.

**Entry fee:** None.

**Submission:** Submit poems in groups of three and indicate on each sheet the division they are intended for [probably Division 8, Haiku in English, for most entrants]. Also include the following information: name, address, postal code, telephone number, age, sex, profession or name of school you are attending, and he name of any haiku group or circle to which you belong. Submit ...

**By postcard:** Itoen "Oh-I, Ocha," New Haiku Contest, 4-5-116 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102, Japan;

**By fax** to the following number: 03-3263-5668 (Japan); or

**Via the Itoen Web page:** <<http://www.itoen.com>> (note, however, that this Web page is available only in Japanese!).

**Adjudication:** Judges will be Takeshita Ryusai, Mark Petersen.

**Awards:** One winner from all Divisions receives ¥200,000; 6 awards of ¥60,000 for "Excellent," etc. [*many awards, very complicated*].

**Notification:** Winners will be selected in July 1998 (please allow and extra month for overseas notifications). Winners of an "Excellent" award and higher will be personally notified. Runners-up and "Courage" awards will be notified with the receipt of the prizes.

Winners and their verses will be featured on the design of "Oh-I, Ocha!" canned green tea (or other tea products), which will be distributed throughout Japan beginning in July 1998 ("Excellent" award winners will be distributed from November). Names of winners will also be posted in a newspaper advertisement scheduled for July 7, 1998. Winning verses will be published in the contest volume.

**Rights:** Copyright of the winning verses becomes the property of Itoen Ltd.

### ~~NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN 1998 INTERNATIONAL POETRY CONTEST~~

**Deadline:** March 12, 1998.

**Sponsor:** The Palomar Branch of the National League of American Pen Women.

**Regulations:** Open to the public. Poems must be original and unpublished. Free verse — 30-line limit; rhymed verse — 30-line limit; haiku — any style.

**Entry procedure:** Mail two copies, typed on one side of 8H x 11 paper, with name, address, and phone number on *one* copy only; category must be typed on each. Entries will not be returned.

**Entry fee:** Poems \$5.00 each; haiku 3 for \$5.00; checks/money orders (U.S. funds only) payable to NLAPW.

**Submit entries to:** Helen J. Sherry, 11929 Caminito Corriente, San Diego, CA 92128.

**Adjudication:** Poetry — Amy Jo Zook; haiku — Margaret Chula.

**Awards:** \$50.00, \$25.00, \$10.00, and Honorable Mentions in each category. Winning poems will be published in a chapbook.

**Notification:** Send an SASE or SAE with one IRC for list of winners.

**Rights:** All rights revert to the author upon publication.

**Notes:** Proceeds from this contest provide a scholarship for a deserving young woman entering college in the field of art, letters, or music.

### ~~MAINICHI HAIKU CONTEST~~

**Deadline:** March 20, 1998.

**Sponsor:** Mainichi Newspapers.

**Definitions:** The Mainichi Newspapers is soliciting entries for its second haiku contest held to promote haiku poetry worldwide.

Entries will be divided into three categories: general, children's (under junior high school age), and international (English).

**Entry procedure:** Each entry must consist of two previously unpublished poems. There is no limit to the number of entries that may be submitted.

Entries for the international category should be written in English and should include the applicant's name, address, telephone number, and age.

Entries may also be made by E-mail at <<http://www.mainichi-shuppan.com>>.

**Entry fee:** A fee of ¥2,000 will be charged for each entry to help cover the costs of producing a book that will contain at least one haiku from each entrant.

The application fee should be paid in 16 International Reply Coupons (IRC).

Entries from children and people with visual disabilities who apply in Braille are free.

**Submit entries to:**

Mainichi Haiku Contest  
Mainichi Shimbun  
1-1-1, Hitotsubashi, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo, 100-51  
Japan

**Adjudication:** One of the judges is Kazuo Sato, an expert in English-language, who will be responsible for submissions for the international category.

**Awards:** The Grand Prize of ¥500,000 will go to the best haiku in the three categories.

A special prize of ¥100,000 will be awarded to five entries considered to be of a high standard. Twenty noteworthy entries will receive a prize of ¥10,000.

The winner in the international category will receive ¥100,000. In addition, five entries will be awarded a prize of ¥10,000 each.

**Notification:** Winners will be announced on June 9, 1998.

**Rights:** Not stated.

**Communication:** Not stated.

## CONTESTS & COMPETITIONS

### ~~INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE'S HAIKU CONTEST~~

**Deadline:** March 15, 1998.

**Sponsor:** *People's Poetry Letter*.

**Rule #1:** All haiku must include references to people, human nature or the human condition.

**Rule #2:** There are no other rules. Traditional or experimental haiku welcome.

**Entry procedure:** Not stated.

**Entry fee:** \$5 [presumably Canadian—*ed.*] for each haiku entry. Enter as often as you wish. Entrants who send a minimum of three haiku receive free annual subscription to *People's Poetry Letter*.

**Submit entries to:** Send entries and fees to: People's Poetry, Box 31, 2060 Queen St. E., Toronto, Ontario Canada M4E 3V7, or send SASE for entry form.

### ~~THE NICHOLAS A. VIRGILIO MEMORIAL HAIKU COMPETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS~~

**Deadline:** Postmarked March 25, 1998; later entries will not be considered.

**Sponsor:** Founded by the Sacred Heart Church in Camden, N.J., and sponsored by the Nick Virgilio Haiku Association in memory of Nicholas A. Virgilio, a charter member of the Haiku Society of America, who died in 1989.

**Regulations:** Any student in grades 7 through 12 enrolled in school as of September 1997 may enter. Submit up to three haiku per student. All haiku must be previously unpublished, *original* work and not entered in any other contest or submitted elsewhere for publication. *Please follow the guidelines carefully.*

**Entry procedure:** Each haiku must be typed in triplicate on 3" x 5" cards. The haiku must appear on the

front of each card; your name, address, age, grade level, and school (*please include the school address*) must appear on the back of (only) one of the cards for each haiku. Please do not use staples for any purpose.

**Entry fee:** None.

**Submit entries to:** Tony Virgilio, Nick Virgilio Haiku Association, 1092 Niagara Road, Camden, NJ 08104.

**Adjudication:** Not stated.

**Awards:** Six haiku will be selected and each awarded \$50. The winning haiku and list of winners will be published in *frogpond* in 1997. The high school of each student winner will receive a one-year subscription to *frogpond*.

**Notification:** The list of winners will be published in *frogpond*.

**Rights:** All rights will remain with the authors except that winning haiku will be published in *frogpond*.

**Correspondence:** Please keep a copy of your haiku; entries cannot be returned. Please do not send SASEs.

### ~~BURNISHED PEBBLES~~

### COMPETITION INTERNATIONAL HAIKU AND SMALL POEMS CALENDAR

**Deadline:** Entries must be postmarked no later than March 31 each year.

**Sponsor:** White Mountain Publications.

**Regulations:** Number of entries unlimited, but each must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration elsewhere until winners are notified by mail, sometime in June or early July. Submit poems 8 lines or less, such as couplets, tercets, haiku, senryû, tanka, sijo, cinquains, or limericks.

**Entry procedure:** Type each poem on two 3" x 5" index cards — one with the poem *only*, the other with the

## CONTESTS & COMPETITIONS

poem *and* your full name and address.

Entries must be accompanied by a 50-100 word biography typed on a regular sheet of bond paper so that we may profile the winners in the back of the calendar.

Include an SASE, #10 business size, please. We will use this to send a winners list and any pre-publication offers.

Entry fee: Three poems for \$10.00 or \$4.00/poem (Canadian or U.S. funds). Six or more poems entered will receive a complimentary copy of *Burnished Pebbles*.

Make cheques or money orders out to White Mountain Publications. Foreign entries either add \$1.00 to entry fee or two International Reply Coupons.

**Adjudication:** Not stated.

**Submit entries to:** When you have assembled the poems, entry fee, biography and SASE, send your entry to:

White Mountain Publications  
Box 5180,  
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0  
Canada

**Awards:** Variable, but includes five copies of the calendar and a \$10.00 money order for each poem selected. As the contest grows, and starts really paying for itself, we will increase the amount.

**Notes:** This contest is self-financing; entry fees are necessary for the continued existence of the calendar and the running of the competition.

It does not cover all costs, but prevents the closing of the project due to financial concerns.

To order this year's copy of *Burnished Pebbles* send Can\$7.50 or US\$5.75 (G.S.T. included) plus \$2.00 shipping and handling to White Mountain Publications.

Purchase is not required for contest entry.

### THE HOBO HAIKU COMPETITION

**Deadline:** April 15, 1998.

**Sponsor:** Inkstream.

**Regulations:** All haiku must be your own compositions, must not have been published before, and must not be offered for publication elsewhere.

**Entry procedure:** A standard entry from or a photocopy of it must be used. Entries are to be identified by a pseudonym; your name must not appear on the entry. Choose a pseudonym and record it on the entry form and on each page of your entry. Record your real name on the entry form only. Entries must be accompanied by a sufficiently large SAE plus sufficient postage in stamps or IRCs for the return of manuscripts and notification of results.

**Entry fee:** Aus\$1.00 per haiku, no limit. In Australia, cheques or money orders made payable to Inkstream, or bank notes; overseas please submit U.S. bank notes; foreign cheques and money orders not accepted (because of prohibitive bank fees).

**Adjudication:** Judges will be Janice Bostok, Lyn Reeves, and Dane Thwaites.

**Submit entries to:** HOBO Haiku Competition, P.O. Box 166, Hazelbrook NSW 2779.

**Awards:** First Prize – Aus\$350; Second Prize – Aus\$90; Third Prize – Aus\$60. Up to six certificates of High Commendation will also be awarded.

**Notification:** Winners will be announced in *HOBO* 17, June 1, 1998.

**Rights:** Inkstream is to be offered first option to publish any haiku submitted, in *HOBO* magazine. Publication may be in any of the three issues following the competition.

**Correspondence:** The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

### 1998 TINY POEMS PRESS HAIKU/SENRYU/TANKA CHAPBOOK CONTEST

**Deadline:** May 15, 1998 (in-hand).

**Sponsor:** Tiny Poems Press.

**Regulations:** Any poet submitting haiku, senryu, tanka, or renga in English (no translations or haibun) is eligible.

**Entry procedure:** Entries are invited for chapbook manuscripts consisting of 15-40 haiku, senryu, tanka, or renga in a sequence or grouping. One entry per person. Manuscripts should include name, address, and phone number or E-mail address. Submit all poems on only a few sheets to save paper. Please acknowledge any periodicals where the poems were previously published when submitting your manuscript.

**Entry fee:** \$10 (U.S. funds); make checks/money orders payable to John Sheirer.

**Submit entries to:**

John Sheirer  
Asnuntuck Community-Technical  
College  
170 Elm Street  
Enfield, CT 06082 U.S.A.

**Adjudication:** [not stated]

**Awards:** Four winners will be selected for publication in 5H" by 4G", staplebound, paperback chapbooks. Each winner will receive 50 copies of the first printing, as well as half of any subsequent printings. First printing – planned for summer 1998 – will be 100 copies.

**Rights:** Not stated.

**Notification:** Notification date will be June 15, 1998. Please include a business-sized self-addressed, stamped envelope for notification. No manuscripts will be returned.

**Correspondence:** Do you have any questions? Write to the address above or send an E-mail to <jsheirer@javanet.com>.

### SNAPSHOTS HAIKU COLLECTION COMPETITION 1998

**Deadline:** In hand by August 1, 1998 (but please send as early as possible).

**Sponsor:** Snapshot Press.

**Regulations:** Entry in the competition is deemed acceptance of the rules presented here.

**Entry procedure:** Collections should comprise between 20 and 60 haiku, senryu, and/or tanka. Any number of manuscripts may be entered provided each is accompanied by a separate entry fee.

Manuscripts will not be returned; please keep copies! Poems may have been previously published in magazines, journals, or anthologies but must not have been previously published in a collection.

Manuscripts should be typed or written legibly on one side of A4 or 8H" x 11" sheets of paper and fastened securely. A pseudonym and title must be chosen, and these must appear on every page of the manuscript. A sealed envelope must be included, marked with your pseudonym(s) and collection title(s) and enclosing an A4 / 8H" x 11" sheet with your real name and address and acknowledgements (if any) for the poems. Please identify previously published poems by their first lines and state where they first appeared.

No entry form is required.

**Entry fee:** \$20.00 in U.S. bills. Any profits will be reinvested in subsequent Snapshot Press publications.

**Submit entries to:** Snapshot Press, P.O. Box 35, Liverpool, L17 3EG, England.

**Adjudication:** David Cobb (President of The British Haiku Society) and John Barlow (Editor of *Snapshots*).

**Awards:** First Prize – \$120 and publication of winning collection by Snapshot Press; 5 copies of collection; 10% royalty on sales of collec-

tion.

Runners-up (4) – Publication of several poems in *Snapshots Magazine*; 5 copies of this magazine.

Highly Commended (5) – Publication in *Snapshots Magazine*; copy of this magazine.

All entrants will receive a copy of the winning collection; for extra copies of the winning collection, please enclose an extra \$6.00 in U.S. bills per copy (pre-publication price) and state the number of copies ordered on the sealed envelope.

**Rights:** Copyright remains with the authors.

**Notification:** For individual notification, send an IRC and an SAE marked "Results." The winner, runners-up, highly commended, and commended entrants will be announced in *Snapshots*, October 1998. If you wish a copy of this issue of the magazine, enclose an extra \$7.00 in U.S. bills (airmail) per copy and state number of copies ordered on the sealed envelope.

**Correspondence:** The judges' decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

**Notes:** The winning collection will be published as a full-colour booklet in December 1998 and made available for \$7.00 in U.S. bills, which includes packaging and airmail postage.

### THE HAIKU AWARD COMPETITION

**Deadline:** August 15, 1998 and February 15, 1999.

**Sponsor:** *still*, a journal of short verse.

**Regulations:** Free-form and conventional [5-7-5] previously unpublished haiku sought. All haiku must be original work and must not be under consideration elsewhere not entered for any competition from the time of dispatch until

a response from *still*. The author's real name must be supplied.

All submitted work implies your permission for one or several of your poems to be posted on our web site on the Internet; should any be selected for publication in the journal.

**Entry procedure and address:** Use an official entry form. Send an SAE with two IRCs internationally for entry form and details, and to receive competition results to:

*still*  
49 Englands Lane  
London NW3 4YD  
England

or see our home page at: <<http://www.into.demon.co.uk>> (with archive, audio, and printable competition entry form).

**Entry fee:** £2 per haiku or £10 for a set of 6. All amounts in pounds sterling. The first six entries are free to subscribers.

Cheques/P.O./International Postal Money Orders payable to *still*. U.S. dollar bills acceptable at current exchange rate. For U.S. cheques add £2 bank handling charges.

**Adjudication:** Each competition will be judged by the Editor of *still* and the prize money will be divided at the Editor's discretion among the three winners.

**Awards:** The prize money has been increased from £500 to £1,000. When converted at the exchange rate of January 14, 1998, the prize money would be:

U.S. \$1,592  
Can \$2,260  
Aus \$2,420  
¥ 210,700

Prize money for overseas winners will be less bank charges.

**Rights:** Copyright reverts to authors upon publication.

**Notification:** Publication of the winners and runners-up in *still*.

## THE WINNERS

### THE HSA MERIT BOOK AWARDS, 1997

Winners of the 1997 HSA Merit Book Awards were announced at the Washington, D.C., national meeting:

- First Place:** vincent tripi, ... *the path of the bird; a collection of haiku on American wild birds* (Richland Center, Wis.: Hummingbird Press, 1996). Selected & arranged by Phyllis Walsh; illustrated by David Kopitzake.
- Second Place:** David Cobb, *Jumping from Kiyomizu; a haiku sequence*. (North Shields, Northumberland; Iron Press, 1996).
- Third Place:** William Hart, *Paris; haiku by William Hart* (Fulton, Mo.:

Timberline Press, 1996). Illustrations by Jayasri Majumdar.

**Honorable Mention:** Jim Kacian, *Presents of Mind; haiku by Jim Kacian* (Lake Oswego, Ore.: Katsura Press, 1996).

**Special Award for Haibun:** John Sheirer, *Students Breathing* (Elbow Lake, Minn.: Elbow Editions, 1966).

**Special Award for International Haiku** to Ion Codrescu for work represented by two 1996 volumes from Editura Leda, Constanfa, Romania, entered in the contest: H.F. Noyes, *Between Two Waves / ?ntre dou2 valuri*; foreword by Elizabeth St Jacques; introduction by Ebba Story; translated by Mihaela & Ion Codrescu; illustrations by Ion Codrescu; and Vasile Spinei, *Surqsul c2lug2rului / The Monk's Smile*; sumi-e illustrations

by Ion Codrescu.

Judges of the competition were Hayat Abuza and Charles Trumbull. Their comments will be published in *Frogpond*.

### 1997 HSA RENKU CONTEST

The winner of this annual contest for best unpublished renku in 12-, 20-, or 36-link forms is "The Turkey's Wattle," a *nijūin* renku by Laura Young and Neca Stoller. The Grand Prize is \$150. Judges were Jean Jorgensen and Christopher Herold. The text of the winning renku and the judges' comments will be published in *Frogpond*.

## IN MEMORIAM

Virgil Hutton died at 3:00 P.M. on Saturday, November 1, 1997, at BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Normal, Ill. He had not been ill until suffering a massive stroke on October 30, 1997.

Virgil was born on May 11, 1931, in Darjeeling, India, the son of missionary parents, the Rev. William R. and Elsie Cloe Sprecher Hutton. He married Lenore Ligler on June 6, 1963, in Bloomington, Ill. She survives as does his brother, William H. Hutton, of Colorado Springs, Colo. Virgil was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters.

Virgil attended Mount Hermon School in Darjeeling, India, where he excelled in cricket, tennis, hockey, and track. At an early age he took up the piano and went on to concentrate on music, philosophy, and English at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kan., where he earned his bachelor of arts degree, graduating with honors and the distinction of being a Moundbuilder *summa cum laude*.

### Virgil R. Hutton 1931-1997

After a tour of duty with the Army in Korea (including two R & Rs in Japan), where in the artillery division he received military honors, he enrolled on the G.I. Bill in the Graduate School at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He received

Tears  
in the jogger's eyes;  
the autumn wind

Each morning  
a new yellow leaf to catch  
the rising sun

Virgil Hutton

both his Master of Arts degree and his Ph.D. in English with emphasis on 18th century literature.

He joined the faculty of the English

Department at Illinois State University, Normal, Ill., in 1960, and was promoted over the years to associate professor, teaching classes in literature and writing until his retirement in 1996 at age 65.

He published articles on Shakespeare, Keats, Joyce, Swift, and Hemingway in addition to film critiques. He was a haiku poet with his work published regularly since 1977. His best-known Kansas haiku collection was published in book form under the title *The Hawk's Vision*.

He presented papers at scholarly conferences and read his haiku at meetings of The Haiku Society of America and The Poetry Fellowship of Colorado Springs, Colo. He was a member of both organizations as well as The Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies.

Virgil enjoyed traveling, photography, and sports. He was an avid jogger, golfer, and swimmer. He will be remembered for his wit and dry

## IN MEMORIAM

sense of humor.

Virgil was cremated and his ashes scattered in the Colorado Rockies. An academic memorial service was held on November 22, 1997, sponsored by the English Department at Illinois State University for Virgil. It was attended by his former colleagues, students, and relatives. His long-time friends spoke of their memories of Virgil, and Ralph Bellas read several of Virgil's haiku. It was a moving and touching tribute for

Virgil, with one of his grad school friends driving in from Ann Arbor, Mich., to attend and his brother traveling from Colorado Springs to be there. A second memorial service was held for Virgil on December 2, 1997, at The Poetry Fellowship in Colorado Springs. One of Virgil's articles, written and published in 1970, will be reprinted (again and again) in reference volumes published by Gale Research and Publishing in Detroit, Mich. The

article is entitled "Hamlet's Fear of Death," and it will be reprinted in their latest reference volume on literary criticism in the section on Fear in Literature sometime this spring. I believe Virgil would have been pleased that 27 years after it was first published in a scholarly journal, editors find it interesting and stimulating enough to reprint in a literary criticism reference book!

— Lenore Hutton

### Nasira Alma Svayambhu Nancy Henderson 1943-1997

Eight fellow HSA poets attended the memorial service in Portland, Ore., on November 29, 1997 for our special friend, Nasira Alma, who died on November 16, 1997. The ecumenical service of traditions she embraced (Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Gnostic, Feminist Spirituality, Sufi and others) included a Muslim Call to Worship, Hindu devotional, communion service from the Gnostic liturgy, Gregorian chant, chant with drummers, and sacred dance. A sharing time to remember Nasira's wisdom and philosophy of beauty, joy, love, and fun included a song accompanied by fiddle, recorder, and guitar; haiku, renga, and poems read by Maggie Chula, Ce Rosenow, and Cherie Hunter Day; poems, thoughts, and memories offered by caregivers and friends. Anne St. Clare, present at her death, has dedicated five acres of her farm for a memorial garden and bird sanctuary where Nasira's ashes will be buried. A complete obituary from her hometown newspaper in Clinton, Ohio, was read, and selected poems and a

#### TWO POEMS AND THREE HAIKU OF NASIRA ALMA

FROM GOD'S SIDE  
from *The Wafer Cage*, 1995

A steep climb to God  
but the trip  
is no easier  
in the other direction:

Incessant Enormity  
cramming Itself  
into something  
the size of you!

stone at rest  
a sand nest  
hollowed round

breath barely visible  
under the dawn moon  
white mushrooms

snake skin  
at the roadside  
I shed the day

#### CRUSH ME

all this separation  
every soul to its own tabernacle  
each tabernacle to its own house  
You in Your high heaven

a walled-in heart; that's hell  
I can't stand it anymore  
let the Insupportable Love  
crush me, let the dust of me

rush indiscriminately up nostrils  
where I'll find You: Everyone;  
float through a gap in the ozone  
where I'll find You: No one;

and all of Your love  
will be gently borne  
within the smallest quark  
of this dispersed heart

letter from her family were printed on the memorial program. The service closed with prayers, spoken and sung, in the Sufi tradition.

Nasira was born on September 19,

1943. She spent five years in a Roman Catholic convent, after which she pursued a degree and was married twice. She wrote three novels and several books of poetry and with her first husband established the Pushcart Poetry Prize. She was ordained to the independent Catholic priesthood in 1996 and considered her ministry one of reaching others through the written word.

Five pages of remembrances and poems to Nasira have been included in the final issue of Northwest Literary Forum; contact Ce Rosenow. For a more detailed description of the service, send an SASE to Myra Perla, 2229 S.E. Market St., Portland, OR, 97214, <MyraPerla@aol.com>. Contributions for the memorial garden (stones, bird-houses, cash, design assistance, labor) may be made by

contacting: Anne St. Clare, 403 N.E. 319th Avenue, Washougal, WA, 98671, (360) 835-1555.

— Connie Hutchison



## MISCELLANY

### ~~BASHÔ IS ALIVE AND WELL~~ AND WALKING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

We received the following note from HSA past-President Bruce Ross:

I thought the HSA Newsletter readership might be interested in a sentence included in the short introduction to the recently published *The Appalachian Trail Reader*, edited by David Emblidge (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996); paperback, \$15.95.

The Appalachian Trail is the longest marked footpath in the world, crossing 14 states from Georgia to Maine. At each lean-to or shelter and at other locations along the way are "AT Trail Registers," journals in which the thru-hikers and others can

leave their comments. A portion of the material in *The Appalachian Trail Reader* is taken from these journals.

Emblidge notes (pp. xv-xvi), "In these rough notebooks hikers write a few comments about the section they've just walked, about the weather they've suffered through or enjoyed, about God, politics, the economy, their new trail friends, or about boots, blisters, and endless meals of beans. Anything goes. Occasionally a stunning haiku appears."

If your address label below bears a "97" code, this means that we have not yet received your membership dues for 1998, at the time of going to press. This is the last mailing you

### ~~MAINSTREAM HAIKU — II~~

Nine haiku by Albert Cook appear on page 12 in the January/February 1998 issue of *The American Poetry Review*. A sample:

Ah, how often cows  
amble their gloss-rippling hides  
down the now green hills!

[thanks to Joe Kirschner]

will receive unless you renew your membership by March 31. (If you have recently sent your dues, please ignore this notice.)

— Dee Evetts

#### THE HAIKU SOCIETY OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER

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sumi-e by Kris Kondô

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