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1968

HSA

2018

Fifty Years of Haiku

HSA
news

Haiku Society of America News

The HSA appreciates your continued support and your participation in society activities. As primary supplement to the HSA website, this monthly report strives to bring you news from the Executive Committee and the Regional Chapters.

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photo: Deborah Kolodji
Shoseian Tea House
Glendale, CA



From the
President



Fay Aoyagi
HSA President
fay.hsa.president@gmail.com

Dear Members,

Entries for this year's HSA renku contest closed on February 28. Thank you to all who submitted.

When Japanese poets compose a renku, a leader called 'sabaki' (arranger) is selected. This person collects verses from participants and accepts or discards them based on his/her discretion. Occasionally, a leader changes verses beyond recognition to fit the flow he/she looks for. I am not sure this is always the case here. Often, we select each other's verse by consensus. Do we perhaps prefer a 'diplomatic' process rather than giving absolute power to one person?

人ごゑに人躰いてゆく春の闇 廣瀬直人
hitogoe ni hito tuiteyuku haru no yami

a human following
another human's voice
spring darkness

Naoto Hirose

from "*Haiku Dai-Saijiki*" ("Comprehensive Haiku Saijiki"), Kadokawa Shoten, Tokyo, 2006

There is a Japanese TV program called '*Prebato*.' I believe it is an abbreviated version of 'Premium Battle.' It is a weekly prime time program, and the subjects of the battles are haiku, flower arrangement, calligraphy, etc. We have talent shows such as *The Voice* and *Food Fighters*, but their contestants are novices who seek 'fame.' In *Prebato*, the participants are actors, comedians, singers, newscasters well-known in their fields. In a haiku battle, participants compose haiku based on a photograph. A haiku poet named Itsuki Natsui grades, edits, and comments on them on the spot. She has a sharp tongue and the exchanges between her and the authors are entertaining, as well as educational. There are ranks such as '*sainou nashi*' (no talent), '*bonjin*' (ordinary), '*sainou ari*' (talented), '*tokutaisei*' (honor student) and '*meijin*' (expert). Natsui is a '*sensei*' (teacher). No one challenges her judgement.

十六歳は時限爆弾花ぐもり 大高 翔
jyuuokusai wa jigenbakudan hanagumori

a sixteen-year-old

is a time bomb
cherry blossom cloudiness
Sho Ohtaka

from “*Haiku Dai-Saijiki*” (“Comprehensive Haiku Saijiki”), Kadokawa Shoten, Tokyo, 2006

This week I worked with a group of students from Japan. They are from prestigious universities and some have started their own businesses while attending school. They visited start-up companies in Silicon Valley and asked many questions regarding its culture. As you may know, ‘agility’ is a key word in the software business. In a way, ‘tradition’ is a thing to be destroyed for these ambitious entrepreneurs.

かたまれる蝌蚪に行末ひとつまついひろこ
katamareru kato ni yukusue hitotsu zutsu

huddled in a group
one future
per tadpole

Hiroko Matsui

from “*Haiku Dai-Saijiki*” (“Comprehensive Haiku Saijiki”), Kadokawa Shoten, Tokyo, 2006

With a spirit of linking and shifting as in renku-writing, we try to make a community with diverse faces. Sometimes we look for a teacher or a leader to guide us. Other times we listen to each other and learn from our peers. We may break a rule along the way. At the same time, we may try to build a new tradition, responsive to our current needs and sensibilities.x

birds returning north
pieces of their stories
float in the lake

Regional News

California



Deborah P Kolodji

American Haiku Archives at the Sacramento Library

Through April: There is an “Art of Haiku” Exhibit at the Sacramento State Library, which can be seen on weekdays from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, through April. The exhibit consists of haiku poem cards, known as shikishi. These cards have calligraphy on handmade paper and were created by prominent Japanese 20th Century poets. The shikishi were a gift from the Museum of Haiku Literature in Japan to the Haiku Society of

America, whose archives are housed at the Sacramento State Library. The exhibit is in the gallery on the 3rd floor of the library, 914 Capitol Mall, Sacramento.

HPNC

Upcoming Quarterly Meeting

HPNC will hold our spring quarterly meeting on April 15 at Fort Mason in San Francisco. Chuck Brickley will be our featured reader and Fay Aoyagi will lead a fast-paced haiku writing workshop. As always, our meetings are free and open to the public, so if you find yourself in the Bay Area when we are holding an event, please join us! Our schedule is posted on our website at www.hpnc.org. The website was recently redesigned. Come have a look!

submitted by Susan Antolin

Haiku San Diego

Members of Haiku San Diego (HSD) met on Sunday, February 11, 2018, at the North University Community Branch Library (in the north University City area of San Diego). Those attending: Carol Judkins, Deborah P Kolodji, Seretta Martin, Robert Mehryar, and Naia (moderator).

The topic of our once monthly meeting was "Haiku with Multiple Interpretations: The Poet's Invitation to the Reader".

Members discussed various comments posted to ai li's "in a room" haiku, selected by Danny Blackwell for The Haiku Foundation's *Re: Virals* #125. It appeared to HSD members that some who commented are uncomfortable with the space left by a poet, and we agreed that leaving space (which we view as an invitation to the reader) is a delicate balance. Without space in which to explore, HSD members observed that an over-prescribed haiku can fall flat and risk becoming little more than a page-turner haiku. However, we agreed that a haiku suffering from being too vague is just as difficult to absorb. Members thoroughly enjoyed exploring more deeply ai li's haiku and felt it contained that perfect balance for which we strive.

We ended our HSD meeting with the customary Anonymous Haiku Workshop, during which we applied some of our workshop revelations to members' own haiku.

Report by Naia

Southern California Haiku Study Group

February 17th Workshop

Eleven haiku poets met at the Hill Avenue Library on Saturday, February 17th. The following books and journals were brought to share:

Time and Tide, SCHSG 2006 Anthology

Beyond the Reach of My Chopsticks by Fay Aoyagi

between waves by Alexis Rotella

earthshine by Chuck Brickley

Haiku Canada Review Vol 12 No 1, February 2018

100 Haiku for 100 Years, A Celebration of Raymond Roseliep edited by Randy & Shirley

Brooks



Flip Flop, Haiku by Miriam Sagan & Michael G. Smith
bottle rockets #37, August 2017

After a read-around of haiku where each person either read from one of these books or their own haiku, Deborah P Kolodji presented a workshop called "Time Travel: The Passage of Time in Haiku," where a worksheet of examples was presented where the time of the haiku moment, even though written in present tense, was referencing the past or the future. This resulted in a lively discussion. Afterwards, we held an anonymous haiku workshop to close out the meeting. Present were Lynn Allgood, Keiko Amano, Kimberly Esser, Debbie Kolodji, Greg Longenecker, Janis Lukstein, Sheri, Wakako Rollinger, Kathabela Wilson, James Won, and Sharon Yee.

The next workshop will be held on March 17th at the Hill Avenue Branch Library, 55 S. Hill Ave, Pasadena, CA. All are welcome.

photo by Kathabela Wilson

Back row: Wakako Rollinger, Sharon Yee, Gregory Longenecker, Sheri, Kimberly Esser

Front row: James Won, Janis Lukstein, Deborah P Kolodji, Keiko Amano

Not shown: Lynn Allgood, Kathabela Wilson

February 18th Haiku Event at the Shoseian Tea House

Susan Rogers organized our second event at the Shoseian Tea House in Brand Park in Glendale. The Shoseian Tea House, built in 1974 through combined efforts of the Sister Cities of Glendale and Higashi-Osaka, Japan is one of the few traditional Japanese Teahouses open to the public in the United States. Several SCHSG members participated in the event (Susan Rogers, Debbie Kolodji, Kathabela and Rick Wilson, Don and Maria Baird), which was sponsored by the Japanese Consulate and largely attended by members of the public. Attendees were led through the garden and around the koi pond, and asked to write brief phrases and notes regarding their observations (without attempting to write haiku). Rick played shinobue by the koi pond as poets explored the garden. Then, everyone gathered back in the tea house where Debbie put some of these observations on the white board. After reading a selection of translations of classical haiku, a pair of these observations was matched up and juxtaposed to create a sample haiku. When asked about the requirement for 5-7-5 syllables, this example was expanded to meet a 17 syllable count, illustrating how this detracted instead of enhanced this particular poem.

Then, everyone spent some time writing and Debbie was available to help some of the participants with their first haiku. Then, participants were invited to write one of their haiku on the white board and Debbie critiqued it with some help from other participating SCHSG members. Then, Rick played shakuhachi for a haiku reading of work that was written in the workshop as well as some of the SCHSG poets' published work.

come outside!
we can almost touch
the spring moon
--Nakamura Teijo



Rick Wilson plays shinobue on the tea house porch. Photo by Deborah P Kolodji



February 25th Haiku Reading at Bolton Hall Museum

Maja Trochimczyk organized a reading at the historic Bolton Hall Museum in Tujunga to celebrate the 2017 SCHSG anthology, *eclipse moon*. Editor, William Scott Galasso, and group moderator, Deborah P Kolodji each read a short selection of their haiku before



the main event, a sequenced selection of haiku from the *eclipse moon* anthology. These poems were read by Scott, Debbie, Kim Esser, and Greg Longenecker, accompanied by Kathabela and Rick Wilson on tamboura, various percussion instruments from around the world, and shakuhachi. Several members of the audience (non-haiku poaiku workshop).

photo by Mary Torregrossa. Camellia bouquets came from Maja Trochimczyk's garden
top row: Rick Wilson, Maja Trochimczyk, Kathabela Wilson
front row: William Scott Galasso, Deborah P Kolodji, Kimberly Esser, Gregory Longenecker

Upcoming: A Garden of Verses on April 7th.

Once more, there will be a haiku station at a Garden of Verses, which has become an annual event at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711. The event will take place between 10 am and 3 pm and we will be in the Cultivar Garden at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave, Claremont, CA 91711. There will be various poetry stations throughout the garden, with featured readers at each station, including some locally well-known poets. If you would like to be a reader or volunteer at the haiku station, contact Debbie Kolodji at 626-201-2151 or ordkolodji@aol.com. Otherwise, just come and enjoy the garden and the readings.

YTHS

YTHS Meeting of February 10, 2018

THIS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2010

Joan Zimmerman presented “Gender in Haiku.” She gave us the words used for self and gender with extensive statistics on how it shows up in contests and publications. She stressed the importance of considering which person is speaking in the haiku (i.e., first person, second person, male or female) as it has a big impact on the effect of the poem. We got a handout to work with.

Those attending were Patrick Gallagher, Carolyn Fitz, Patricia Machmiller, Eleanor Carolan, Marilyn Gehent (new friend), Kat and Beverly Momoi, Mimi Ahern, Alison Woolpert, Dyana Basist, Carol Steele, Linda Papanicolaou, Karina M. Young, Johnnie Johnson Hafernik, Dennis Noren, Betty Arnold, Phillip Kennedy, and Amy Ostensokennedy.

A lively conversation was had about women in haiku. Phillip pointed out that Takahama Kyoshi, in 1916 Japan, named “kitchen haiku” and from then on women’s presence in haiku grew, exploding after WWII. We dispersed to write haiku, using pronouns from Joan’s suggestions. Dennis invited all to the events of the 40th year celebration of Poetry Center San Jose. Our day ended with the kigo of “spring fever again,” from Karina.

Written by Eleanor Carolan

Upcoming Visit to the American Haiku Archives

Yuki Teikei poets are planning a visit on **Wednesday, March 14** to the California State Library exhibit of shikishi created by famous Haiku poets of Japan and presented to the Haiku Society of America on their 10th Anniversary. We will also tour the Haiku Archives at the library and take the opportunity to see some of the materials that reside in the archive. We will assemble in Sacramento at the library at 11:30 AM. If you are interested in participating, please contact Patricia Machmiller at patriciajmachmiller@msn.com for further information.



Shelley Baker-Gard

February in Oregon

February became a cold month for the Oregon HSA members when a sudden snow storm stopped our unfolding spring and the singing frogs too! Here is a recap of our other February happenings:

On February 1st, Maggie Chula was invited by Dr. Larry Kominz to teach a haiku and linked verse class at Portland State University. According to Maggie, “The students were relieved when asked to write a rengay rather than a *kasen* or *nijuin* renga. Not surprisingly, several rengay dealt with the political mood of the country.”

We held our joint HSA and Portland Haiku Group meeting on February 9th – we welcomed 2 new members, Jaye Stone and Michael J. Freiling who learned of our group through the “Meet Up” blog posting by Linda Sawaya. This posting has turned out to be a good way for us to generate interest and increase attendance – we had a total of 10 at the meeting. Jim Rodriguez hosted the meeting and provided a how-to lecture on the haiga form. He provided many examples including some of his own published haiga. As a

result, we made plans to bring our own attempts to a future meeting. The kukai first place went to Kevin Nusser, Second place to Clayton Beach, and a six way tie for third place between Ellen Ankenbrock, Shelley Baker-Gard, Clayton Beach, Jone Rush MacCulloch, Thomas Martin, and Kevin Nusser.

On February 10th, many of us attended the memorial for Johnny Baranski at the Trappist Abbey in Carlton, OR. There we heard his stories from his family and friends and viewed the pond that may have inspired many of his dragonfly haiku. We will continue to miss him for a long time. Here is Maggie Chula's haiku honoring Johnny:

winter morning
a white dove ascends
into the clouds

Upcoming Meetings and Events

March 9, The HSA and Portland Haiku group will meet at 7 PM at the Friendly House, 1737 NW 26th, Portland. The meeting will be hosted by Ellen Akenbrock.

HSA members visiting the Eugene/Springfield area are welcome to attend the meetings of the Willamette Group of Haiku Poets. They have been meeting once a month on the 3rd Friday of the month from 2 to 4 pm in the meeting room of Springfield Public Library. Contact Barbara Snow for more information: flakey31@yahoo.com

On April 7th from 3:00-4:00 pm, Maggie will read in the Scholar's Room at the Lan Su Chinese Garden from her new collection of poetry *Daffodils at Twilight*.

Other News

David H. Rosen has been prolific recently – here are a few of his new publications: He is finalizing a new collection of haiku entitled *Torii Haiku*, which includes forty years of writing and will be published in 2018. He released last year, *The Alchemy of Cooking : Recipes with a Jungian Twist*. In addition, *In Search of the Hidden Pond*, was published in 2017, as was *White Rose, Red Rose* with coauthor Johnny Baranski. Congratulations David!



Julie Warther

HSA Spring Meeting Comes to Ohio

Plan to join us at **Lakeland Community College** (7700 Clocktower Drive, Kirtland, Ohio 44094) for the HSA Spring meeting **May 4-6, 2018**. We are thrilled to have Barry George (Community College of Philadelphia) as our keynote speaker, a haiga presentation by Michele Root-Bernstein, an ikebana demonstration by the Cleveland Chapter of Ikebana International and an editor's panel featuring Fay Aoyagi (*The Heron's Nest*), Steve Hodge (Prune Juice), Michael Rehling (Failed Haiku) and Michele Root-Bernstein (formerly of Frogpond). The haiku path at Holden Arboretum will be ready to open that weekend as well! Questions may be directed to Julie Warther wartherjulie@gmail.com.

If you are on Facebook, visit our **event page** for more up-to-date information, including links to nearby hotels and airports. <https://www.facebook.com/events/943510805806935/?ti=cl>

Cradle of American Haiku

SAVE THE DATE: Plan to gather with other haiku enthusiasts in the birthplace of American Haiku - Mineral Point, Wisconsin for workshops and fun. The Cradle of American Haiku Festival will be held **August 10-12, 2018**. More information will be forthcoming.

Online Haiga Gallery

The Haiku Chapter of the Illinois State Poetry Society has created a haiga gallery on their website. ISPS Members may contribute haiga every two months to be displayed in this special feature. Take a look here: <http://www.illinoispoets.org/haiga.htm>

Midwest Members in the News

Dr. Ronald Craig is interested in starting a haiku group in the Cincinnati, Ohio area if there is enough interest. If you would like to know more, please contact Ron at haikuclermont@gmail.com. The "Cincinnati Haiku Group" will include the greater Cincinnati area, northern Kentucky as well as Clermont (*and beyond!*).

Charlotte Digregorio was invited to read her haiku and senryu during February at The Art Center in Highland Park, IL. Further, she was appointed as an Associate of The Haiku Foundation and is serving as Publicity Director.

Susan B. Auld will be giving a presentation on haiku to the Northwest Cultural Council Second Saturday Poetry Workshop on March 10, 2018 from 9-12 at the Palatine Library, 700 N. Court, Palatine, Illinois. Contact <https://northwestculturalcouncil.org/second-saturday-poetry-workshop>

Midwest Study Groups

Evergreen Haiku Study Group

Evergreen Haiku will meet on Saturday, March 17th 2018, from 1 to 3pm in Room C301 Snyder Hall (362 Bogue Street) on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. **Whether old hats or all thumbs, newcomers are welcome!**

Meetings always include craft discussion and exercise, as well as plenty of opportunity to share haiku. Speaking of which, winners of our February kukai include Mike Rehling, Jennifer Burd and Laz Slomovits. Congratulations!

For more information, about the program or parking, contact [rootbernsteinmichele \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:rootbernsteinmichele@gmail.com)

Haiku Waukesha

We met Wednesday, Feb. 7th and enjoyed a full discussion from pages 49-62 of the book *The Haiku Life* by Michele Root-Bernstein and Francine Banwarth. Our group spent most of its time with the section on conceptual space in haiku. After a time of reflection on the book, we distributed high tech coffee stir sticks and held a kukai with members voting for the favorite poem of two options presented in a series of poems with good use of conceptual space. Then we had to suggest why the poem moved us, and what about the writing of it contributed to conceptual space. We enjoyed an hour of work-shopping poems as well as looking ahead to upcoming events in the midwest region of the HSA. We meet again on the second Wednesday, March 14th, 5-7pm at First UMC Waukesha, 121 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186. If you have questions about the group, contact Dan Schwerin at dan.schwerin@fumcwaukesha.org. All are welcome.

Indianapolis Haiku Group

Indianapolis Haiku Group continues to meet monthly. For details (because we change location each time) you can email Kyle D. Craig at kcra4ig@gmail.com

Ohaio-ku Study Group

The Ohaio-ku study group met Saturday, February 10 at the Cuyahoga Falls Library. The following members were in attendance: Joe McKeon, Barb Sabol, Tia Haynes, Joshua Gage, Phyllis Lee, Sharon Ohnmeiss, Susan Malernee and Julie Warther. A kukai was held with the theme of "light". Susan Malernee and Joe McKeon won book awards. We shared troiku we each wrote from the same three starter poems. Most found this to be a worthwhile exercise in focus and getting started. Ideas for the May HSA meeting were discussed as well as ideas for future monthly meetings. Julie Warther shared her experience of serving on the editorial board for Red Moon Anthology. And we ended by workshopping some of our poems.

The next meeting will be held Saturday, March 10 from 10am-noon at the Cuyahoga Falls Library, 2015 3rd Street, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. The kukai theme is "overthrown". The word itself need not be in the poem. Bring along haiku to workshop and some of your favorites from recent journals to share in a reading. All are welcome! For more information, contact: Julie Warther wartherjulie@gmail.com



Rita Gray

Haiku Poets of the Garden State

In February, nine members of the **Haiku Poets of the Garden State** all got together for our monthly meeting at the Madison, New Jersey public library

together for our monthly meeting at the Madison, New Jersey public library.

We did an opening read-around that turned into a free-form discussion, then launched into something different for us:

Using back issues of *Acorn*, *bottlerockets*, *Modern Haiku*, *Frogpond*, *The Heron's Nest*, and *Upstate Dim Sum*, we did a "journal kukai." In this exercise, participants quietly read, selected and circulated haiku from those journals that resonated, then compared and discussed top favorites at the end.

We ended with our usual critiquing session of each others' work-in-progress.

At our January meeting we immensely enjoyed Arlene Teck's presentation on Kobayashi Issa using David Lanoue's book, *Write Like Issa*, as a source.

Haiku Poets of the Garden State meets monthly (excluding July and August) in Madison, New Jersey.

Please contact us through our website, <https://hpgs.weebly.com/> for more information.

submitted by Bill Deegan
HSA Treasurer



Michael Henry Lee

Roberta Beary Visits

Roberta Beary was in the Sunshine State for part of February. As roving ambassador for The Haiku Foundation, she was here in part not only to promote The Haiku Foundation, but talk 'haiku' with some area poets.

As my luck would have it, I was the only one immediately available to meet with her. On February 6th, we were able to connect, as it turns out, at a place we both rank as one of our favorites. The Morikami Japanese Museum and Gardens is located in Del Rey Beach Florida, and personally, I could not think of a better place to discuss haiku. We had a delightful stroll through their six distinct gardens representing six different historical styles and enjoyed lunch at the Cornell Café for sushi and a little sake.

We enjoyed exchanging books; I definitely got the better end of that deal: her award winning: *Deflection and The Unworn Necklace* for my *Happy Hour*. Lastly, I was thrilled to get a chance to workshop several new poems in progress. One I'll share:

honey bees
it's the little things we tend

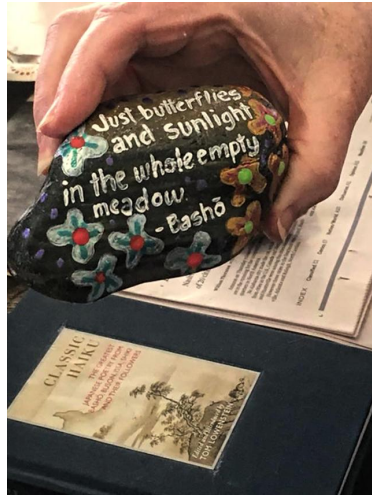
not to forget

Michael Henry Lee

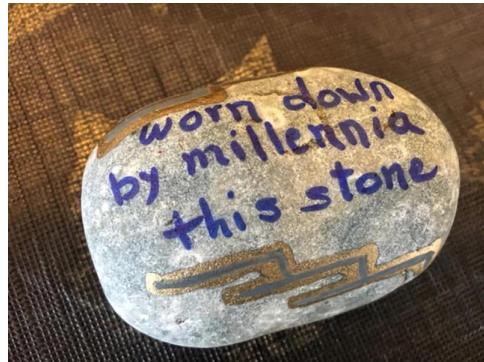
Trillium Haiku Circle

The Trillium Haiku Circle of Huntsville, Alabama met in January to paint haiku rocks. In attendance were Terri French, Peggy Bilbro, Cheryl Lees-Haley and Robyn Corum. The rocks were then hidden at various places around town with a note to post to the Circle's Facebook page if found. So far, two people have posted with photos of their finds! This was a fun haiku craft for a chilly January day and one other groups might enjoy doing.

Robyn painting her 'Basho' rock.



Peggy and her rock.



Roberta and Michael at Morikami 2





5th annual Golden Haiku Competition

The Golden Triangle Business Improvement District recently announced the winners of its 5th annual Golden Haiku Competition. Poets and aspiring poets were invited to submit haiku to be judged by an expert panel.

This year, a record-breaking 1,675 entries from 45 countries and 34 states, plus the District of Columbia, were received. S.E. Regional members: Michael Henry Lee and Marilyn Appl Walker, were selected to have a poem each displayed somewhere in The Golden Triangle Business District of Washington D.C. The following link provides access to all the winners.

<https://goldentriangledc.com/initiative/golden-haiku-2018-winners/>

GOLDEN HAIKU

roof top garden
one snail simply
tells another

— Michael Henry Lee

 GOLDENTRIANGLED.COM/HAIKU
#GOLDENHAIKU

A poster with a yellow and orange gradient background, decorated with white cherry blossom branches. It features the title 'GOLDEN HAIKU' at the top, a haiku poem in the center, the author's name, and the Golden Triangle logo and website information at the bottom.

GOLDEN HAIKU

lemon iced tea —
stealing the show
this goldfinch

— Marilyn Appl Walker

 GOLDENTRIANGLED.COM/HAIKU
#GOLDENHAIKU

A poster with a yellow and orange gradient background, decorated with white cherry blossom branches. It features the title 'GOLDEN HAIKU' at the top, a haiku poem in the center, the author's name, and the Golden Triangle logo and website information at the bottom.

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