

From: Haiku Society of America hsa.bulletin@gmail.com
Subject: RESENT with Correct President Message: HSA Newsletter, December 2023
Date: December 5, 2023 at 12:59 PM
To: brooksbooks@gmail.com



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Haiku Society of America December 2023 Newsletter

snowy-trees-sm.jpg

Your monthly news: Everything haiku

Renew your membership by December 31st!

This is a reminder that Haiku Society of America memberships run for the **calendar year**. To ensure you remain a member in 2024, be sure to renew your membership by clicking the [Renew Membership](#) link below.

Remember also that if your address changes, you need to email HSA secretary Michelle Schaefer at HSASecWashington@gmail.com to ensure you continue to receive issues of *Frogpond* and the membership anthology.

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.

[Renew Membership](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

Bryan Rickert
President
bcrickert72@yahoo.com

Dear HSA Members,

I hope this email finds you well. There are a number of relevant things to talk about this month. It is that time again to renew your yearly membership to the Haiku Society of America. The HSA is a wonderful organization and what makes this community so great is our generous members, our dedicated volunteers, and the wonderful poetry that we have the pleasure of presenting to you every year. We are only as strong as our membership.

The second point of communication is about an oversight on my behalf. Allyson Whipple is our hard working Newsletter Editor and in her time with the organization has started to wear more hats for us and has become indispensable. She is also the Midwest Regional Coordinator. Because of all of her commitments, Allyson has to step away from the Coordinator role, but I neglected to remove her name from the HSA election ballot that everyone received last month. So, much to our dismay, the position of Midwest Regional Coordinator will be vacant. Several people have been contacted to fill this position. Unfortunately, no one has been able to step up. If there is anyone interested in filling the role of Midwest Regional Coordinator, please feel free to email me.

Finally, I would like to thank the people who voted in this year's election for our Officers and Coordinators. A link to the results will be in this email communication. My heartfelt congratulations and appreciation for everyone on the ballot who works hard to make the HSA what it is today and what it will be in the days ahead.

Sincerely,
Bryan Rickert

[View the Election Results](#)

Gary Hotham
First Vice President
hsavicepres@aol.com

Reminder!

Submissions for the annual HSA Merit Book Awards open on **1 January 2024** and ends on **15 February 2024**.

Some submission advice:

- Pack your books well. A thin envelope does not provide much protection as they travel thru the postal system. This is especially true if coming from another country. I have received some packages with damaged copies and even a missing copy.
- If you are sending the submission from another country put them in the mail early!

- Check your book's copyright date/print date. All submissions for the current award should be for books published in 2023.

Remember that digital books are eligible for entry. Two printed copies of the book should be submitted. And, if available, send a link to the electronic copy.

Thanks.

Full guidelines at: <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/hsa-contests.htm#meritbook>

Chuck Brickley
Second Vice President
hsa.2vp.chuck@gmail.com

Dear HSA members,

Four years? You're kidding, right?

It was a great honour to be asked, and to serve as your 2nd VP during this last stretch. I've had mega fun chillin' on Zoom with fellow ECers and administrating the contests. I cherish the many acquaintances and friendships made along the way. In the new year, I can be contacted at chuckbrickley@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for more fun and games with your new 2nd VP, Sarah Paris—an excellent haiku poet, brilliant, yet down-to-earth admistrator, and good friend.

Meanwhile, best of the season to ya! May you always find inspiration in the *profound mundane*.

In haiku friendship,

Chuck

some sun
down this side path ...
I won't be long

Allyson Whipple
Newsletter Editor

allyson@allysonwhipple.com

Video Contest Survey Results

Now that I have reviewed the results of the video contest survey with the rest of the HSA board, I can now share an update with the general membership.

As I mentioned in November, 178 people filled out the survey. Of those, 84% of people said that they would not be interested in a video contest. The rest of the questions indicated a general disinterest as well.

In the interest of transparency, I have made the slides of my presentation to the board available to the general membership as well. You can view them here: [HSA Video Contest Survey Results](#)

Future Plans

Thank you for your patience as I navigated my first year of editorship. This transition year was made extra challenging by the sudden loss of Ignatius Fay, our greatest source of institutional knowledge and continuity. Most of this year has been a learning curve.

Now, however, I'm finally finding my way, and I'm ready to make some adjustments to the design of the newsletter, as well as the process.

My goals for 2024 include:

- Maintaining an editorial calendar to keep track of content in advance;
- Documenting all of my processes and procedures, and updating regularly, so anyone who might step into the role in the future (hopefully not for a while yet) will have less of a learning curve;
- Redesign the newsletter in a way that provides the same information with less scrolling;
- Developing a master newsletter template, making the editing process more streamlined

Thank you for continuing to trust me with the newsletter. I hope to serve you for many more years!

Call for Essays

I have begun to solicit essays from members, but with nearly 1,000 people on the roster, I can't invite everyone personally. If you would like to write an essay in 2024, please email me at allyson@allysonwhipple.com and let me know. Since the editorial calendar is fresh, you have your pick of months! March is the only month in which the essay slot is full. If you have a great piece you want to write, but want to wait until spring or summer, send me an email, and I'll get you on the calendar now.

Call for Photos

I welcome seasonal photos from all HSA members for use in the opening of our newsletters. Currently, all slots for 2024 issues are open. If you have photos you would like to share, please email up to four images to allyson@allysonwhipple.com. If there is a specific month in which you would like for them to appear, let me know, and I will do my best to accommodate.

Corrections and Apologies

Updated Contest Results

The poem chosen as 2nd place winner by the judges of this year's HSA Haiku Award contest has been disqualified. Unfortunately its author, Scott Mason, had inadvertently entered a previously published poem (see Scott's apology below). The judges decided to award 2nd place to "unable to fit it" by Paul M., and refrain from selecting a third place winner. Congratulations, Paul!

The new results of the contest can be found at:
<https://www.hsa-haiku.org/haikuawards/2023-henderson.htm>

Scott's apology:

In mid-November a fellow poet brought to my attention that a haiku of mine which received an award in this year's Henderson competition had previously appeared from me elsewhere in print. Once I verified this and thanked the person who let me know, I immediately notified HSA of my embarrassing blunder. The online contest results have now been adjusted, the applicable prize money has been refunded and I've personally apologized to the contest administrator and judges for the disruption this caused. But I also wish to apologize here to all the other contestants, the HSA membership at large and anyone else affected by my combined carelessness and forgetfulness. As far as I know this has been my first such lapse in twenty-plus years of submitting to journals and competitions; nevertheless, it has delivered a clear lesson about the need to be doubly vigilant with my record-keeping. I prize my good standing in the haiku community above any award, and that community deserves no less than full disclosure and swift corrective action when this sort of mistake is discovered.

—Scott Mason, November 19, 2023

Newsletter Corrections

I made two errors in the November issue. First, I misspelled Michelle Schaefer's name in the membership renewal reminder. I apologize for my proofreading error.

Second, I failed to include the correct Commencement Bay Haiku Group report (Washington region). I apologize to the group for my oversight. The report should have said:

*Commencement Bay Haiku, moderated by Richard Tice, met Monday, October 24, on Zoom. Nine regular members joined the meeting: David Berger, Aidan Castle, Alan Harvey, Dorothy Matthews, Susan Roberts, Judith Schallberger, Carmen Sterba, and Kathleen Tice. The meeting began with a five-minute reading by Aidan Castle from his book *The Gossamer*.*

The group discussed the haiku submissions for the nine haiku stations in an upcoming haiku walk in 2024. For example, Kathleen Tice submitted this haiku for

the Time of Day station:

*autumn night . . .
suddenly seeing
the stars*

A few days later, Aidan presented an interactive session, "Surrealism in Haiku," at the Seabeck Haiku Getaway, moderated the write-now sessions, and read from his new book. David Berger, Alan Harvey, Susan Roberts, and Dorothy Matthews also helped with registration, exhibits, and short sessions, and several members had winning haiku in the kukai.

Submitted by Dorothy Matthews

—Allyson Whipple

Anthology Corrections

Despite the dedicated teamwork from my anthology helpers, there were some errors and omissions. As the editor, I take full responsibility. I would like to apologize to **Ben Oliver, Nathanael Tico, Mary Weidensaul, and Lee Strong, OFS**, for my oversights. I hope I can make it up to each of you someday.

—Allyson Whipple

Pleasures and Pitfalls in Creating Haiga

Annette Makino

You probably know the satisfaction of writing a well-crafted haiku, when just the right words in the right order create something greater than the sum of its parts. Now imagine that feeling magnified by adding a visual dimension, opening up an extra avenue of creative expression. That is the reward of creating haiga.

You will also find that haiga are more accessible to your cousins, colleagues or others who aren't particularly interested in haiku. An arresting image combined with a few well-chosen lines of haiku is easy to digest without any knowledge of Japanese poetry. For many years I have published a calendar of my haiga. Sold mainly in grocery stores, bookstores and plant nurseries in my community, these reach hundreds of people each year who have no special connection to haiku, but who find beauty and meaning in the haiga.

"But wait," I hear you objecting, "I don't have an artistic bone in my body!" Fear not. In the Japanese tradition, haiga did not require any particular artistic skill. Though there were certainly practitioners who were great artists, like Buson, most haiga images were very modest. The creator's sincerity and individual expression were key.

Also, with today's availability of digital photography and photo editing apps, creating variations of haiga is more accessible than ever. (But note the hazards of photo

variations of haiga is more accessible than ever. (But note the hazards of photo-haiga, below.)

As haiku poets, we have learned that, typically, a key element of an effective haiku is to “mind the gap”—to create some distance between the one-line fragment and the two-line phrase of each poem, enabling readers to make connections themselves. (Of course, some powerful poems break this general guideline.)

The same holds true in the juxtaposition of the image and words in a haiga. Stephen Addiss has written, “In a fine haiga, the poem does not just explain the painting, nor does the painting merely illustrate the poem. Instead, they add layers of meaning to each other.

However, in my experience, this is easier said than done. If the haiku doesn’t include a strong visual element, it is fairly simple to create some disjunction between the art and text. But if your haiku contains a visual image, as many effective poems do, and if you are using a representational artistic style, it can be hard to find the right distance between the poem and the art. On the one hand, you don’t want to make the connection too obvious; on the other, you don’t want to confound or disengage the viewer.

For instance, in a haiku about a fledgling learning to fly, pictures of birds immediately come to mind. But some other potential visual subjects that offer related but less overt connections might include feathers, fields or clouds. Even paper airplanes!

Correspondingly, if your artistic style is more abstract, it’s easier to create contrast between the text and art even if the haiku features a visual image. For instance, traditional Japanese haiga made of a few semi-abstract brushstrokes allow plenty of space for the viewer to fill in.

I find that many haiga using photos (known as *shahai* in Japanese) leave me cold; a photo can contain so much visual information that it closes down interpretations of the piece as a whole. But photo-based haiga can be successful if they use more impressionistic images like simple landscapes or extreme closeups. Photos that are manipulated with filters to become somewhat abstracted can also be very effective. And a more detailed photo can still work if the poem shifts away from it enough.

There is a lot involved in crafting haiga; I’ve only touched the surface here. But in the end, I encourage you to create what you want to create. Guidelines can be helpful, but don’t let them limit you. It’s all about the joy of expressing yourself!

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For a gallery of Annette’s haiga, see <https://www.makinostudios.com/gallery>

For her 2024 haiga calendar, see <https://www.makinostudios.com/more-items-collection/2024-mini-calendar>

For an essay on linking in haiga by Michael Dylan Welch, see <https://www.graceguts.com/essays/linking-and-leaping-a-haiga-primer>

One of Annette Makino's haiga.

NEWS from the Regions

Deborah P. Kolodji
California

Southern California Haiku Study Group

On November 18th, the Southern California Haiku Study Group met via Zoom to read the haiku from their new anthology, *The Taste of Sunlight*. Haiku editor, Kathabela Wilson, was the emcee, and 40 poets attended the reading. All of the haiku was read, with assigned readers reading the poems of poets unable to join the zoom.

The Taste of Sunlight was edited by Kathabela Wilson, Marcyn Del Clements, and Lorraine A Padden. Kathabela edited the haiku section, Marcyn edited the linked verse section, and Lorraine edited the haibun section.

The linked verse and haibun sections will be read at the December 16th Zoom meeting. Each editor will emcee their own section.

The book was laid out by Diana Ming Jeong and the title was taken from the following haiku by Susan Rogers:

orange tomatoes
fresh from her mother's garden
a taste of sunlight

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society News

The November Zoom meeting of the YTHS began as President *Dojin* Linda Papanicolaou welcomed current and new members, made announcements and encouraged members to renew their membership for 2024. First Vice President Marilyn Gehant followed with an invocation for the four local indigenous tribes in the area, reminding members that November is National Native American Month and closing with insight into the Pomo tribe in Northern CA.

The featured event – ‘Midwifing the Unborn Haiku’ began with members joining break-out rooms each moderated by a *Dojin* in order to praise/question/polish each participant's poem. Five *Dojin* participated: Roger Abe, Mimi Ahern, Johnnie Johnson Hafernik, Kiyoko Tokutomi *Dojin* Patricia J. Machmiller, Linda Papanicolaou. Members found this exercise very helpful and

came away with insight into how to make their poems come to life and be top vote-getters in future *Geppo* issues.

Submitted by: Michèle Boyle Turchi

Haiku Poets of Northern California

HPNC will hold our first meeting of the new year on January 21, 2024 with readings (and music!) by Laszlo Slomovits and Jennifer Burd joining us from Michigan. We continue to hold our quarterly meetings online and welcome members from near and far. See details on our [website](#) for how to join. The HPNC website also has a growing list of [recordings](#) of readings and presentations from the past three years that we hope you will enjoy. Happy Holidays!

Cover of the Southern California Haiku Study Group anthology.

Shelley Baker-Gard

Oregon

In-Person Meeting and Zoom Meeting

The Portland Haiku Group and several Oregon HSA members met on November 11th, at the Sellwood Community House. We had ten poets attending the meeting and participating in the kukai. The first place winner of the kukai for the haiku category went to John Budan for “gathering chanterelles...”, second place went to Jone MacCulloch for “umbrella drum...”, third place went to Jacob Salzer for both his haiku “blackberry vines...” and his tanka “blinded...”.

The Oregon HSA Bi-monthly Zoom call was held on November 26th. It was well attended with twelve Oregon and out of state poets (Massachusetts, Arizona, Washington, Montana, and British Columbia). The first part of the meeting was the kukai. Shirley Marc took first place for “the book lies open...”; second place was a tie between John Budan’s poem “nameless...” and Shelley Baker-Gard’s poem “garden graves...”; third place was a tie between Lynne Jambor’s haiku “mid-winter...” and John Budan’s poem “ overseas flight...”.

For the second half of both of the meetings, members shared examples of poetry they recently experienced or read that they particularly enjoyed with the group. This led to many interesting discussions and insightful analysis. We also had a lot of fun at both meetings.

Next meetings

The Portland Haiku Group Meeting, December 9th: Since the Sellwood Community House (SCH) is having a bazar from 10am -2pm, the next Portland Haiku Group in person meeting will be at Shelley Baker-Gard's home from 12-2pm on 12/9. Her address is: 1647 SE Sherrett st. (4 blocks south of Tacoma St.) , Portland. Jacob Salzer will lead the meeting and will collect the poems for the kukai. Please send any entries you want to share to him by 12/1 – email jacobsalzerhaiku@gmail.com . Please enter no more than 3 short forms (6-word stories, haiku, senryu, tanka or 1 short and 1 long poem such as a haiku series or a haibun). If you want help with any one of them at the kukai, mark it with an asterisk *, otherwise all comments are only positive- what you liked about those you voted for. Please let Shelley know if you have any questions at sbakergard@msn.com

The Umpqua Haiku Group is a newly formed group in Roseburg, Or. Steve Bahr organized the group and created a terrific website for them that has many resource links <https://www.umpquahaiku.com>. Their next in person meeting is on 12/6 at the local library. Contact Steve Bahr for details at bahrbiz@gmail.com.

The next Bi-monthly ZOOM only meeting is Sunday 1/28/24 from 2 pm – 4 pm: Email Tanya McDonald (the new 2024 Oregon HSA Coordinator) at tanyamc1375@gmail.com if you want to receive the invitation – it is open to anyone. Please email her your poem entries by 1/24 (2-3 haiku/senryu/tanka; or 1 haibun + 1-2 short poems).

Richard Tice
Washington

Richard Tice
Washington

Haiku Northwest

Haiku Northwest members participated in two regional public events in November: *Bunka no Hi* (Culture Day) at the Japanese Community Center of Washington and a combined meeting with the Seattle Athenaeum in Pike Place Market (a membership library.)

For *Bunka no Hi*. a steady stream of visitors came to Haiku Northwest's table.

which featured haiku activities, free informational brochures and pamphlets, and impromptu haiku written for visitors. Rainier Ginsha, an eighty-nine-year-old Japanese haiku group in Seattle, had the table next to us. They featured an exhibit of relocation camp haiku and tanka and an exhibit of Japan Air Lines international children's haiku.

On November 11 we held our monthly meeting at the library in the venerable Pike Place Market. Nineteen people attended, sharing rounds of haiku reading and writing and then listening to Michael Dylan Welch's presentation "Our Endless and Proper Work, Learning Attention from Mary Oliver."

Submitted by Dianne Garcia

Komo Kulshan Haiku

Our group, comprising the northern Puget Sound and the Vancouver-Victoria region, met via Zoom on Monday, November 18. Those present included Alan Bridges, Gary Evans, Patrick Gallagher, John Green, Lynn Jambor, Carole MacRury, C.J. Prince, Michael Dylan Welch, and Bob Zaslow.

Patrick Gallagher presented "Haiku Seasons of the Salish Sea," including discussion of the Japanese tradition of season words, the benefits of season words in English-language haiku, and the use of season words characteristic of a locality. Patrick offered a list of candidate season words for the Salish Sea bioregion of the U.S. and Canada and exemplified their use in haiku such as that below:

a thousand
snow geese in one photo
the Buson challenge

John S Green

Submitted by Victor Ortiz

Haiga Adventure, Puget Sound Sumi Artists

PSSA Haiga Adventurers opened the November 21 meeting with Melinda Brottem, Suzan Harper, Emily Kane, Dorothy Matthews, Muriel Taylor, and Jeanne Kimura Young, discussing mushroom-gathering experiences and making a fall word list for haiku and haiga. We also expanded concept proposals for our 2024 annual project, a giant haiga collage. Moderator Muriel Taylor closed the meeting with a humorous postscript to October meeting's seasonal topic: cooking-exploding spaghetti squash.

Below are two autumn haiku the authors plan to include in haiga:

moving day . . .
a red mushroom
with white polka dots

Emily Kane

the mountains
show their bones
first snow

Dorothy Avery Matthews
3rd place, Seabeck Haiku Getaway 2023 Kukai

Submitted by Dorothy Avery Matthews

Commencement Bay Haiku

Richard Tice moderated a Zoom meeting of ten poets who answered his call “to get their monthly ten minutes of fame” at our November 27 gathering. Attending were David Berger, Dianne Garcia, Emily Kane, Reva Levin, Dorothy Matthews, Susan Lee Roberts, Judith Schallberger, Kathleen Tice, and Michael Dylan Welch.

Alan Harvey presented an outline of a haiku walk with eight theme stations for discussion and writing. We hope this will be part of the next Seabeck Haiku Getaway. Poets shared haiku and tanka dealing with recent experiences, moon-viewing, and exotic places. Michael Dylan Welch read a parody of the tenacity of 5-7-5 in English haiku, using paint by numbers as the subject. Alan Harvey read his first-place haiku in last week’s *kukai* (a peer-reviewed haiku contest) of The Haiku Foundation, which had the theme “reaping”:

fisherwomen gathering moonbeams off the water

Speaking of *kukai*, several members had winning poems in the Seabeck Haiku Getaway 2023 Kukai: Richard Tice, 2nd place; Dorothy Matthews, 3rd place, Michael Dylan Welch, 4th place, and Aidan Castle, 5th place.

Submitted by Dorothy Avery Matthews

Allyson Whipple

Midwest

Call for Midwest Coordinator Volunteers

As Bryan mentioned in his announcement above, I was put on the HSA ballot for Midwest Coordinator by mistake. However, in order to fulfill my goals as newsletter editor. I need to step down. As a result. as of January 1st. there will

not be a Midwest Coordinator unless someone steps up to volunteer. I'm happy to discuss the requirements for the position to anyone who is interested. Email me at allyson@allysonwhipple.com for more information.

Illinois State Poetry Society-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter

The Illinois State Poetry Society - Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter invites you to its regularly scheduled Zoom meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2023, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Tom Chockley at tomzhaiku@outlook.com.

- Please send Tom your RSVP by Tuesday, December 5.
- For those RSVPing, Tom will send out the meeting agenda and further information when he receives your reservation.

ISPS and HSA haiku enthusiasts are invited to attend. We ask that those who wish to workshop their haiku for feedback, please limit the number to one haiku per participant.

Ohaio-ku Study Group

The Ohaio-ku Study Group met Saturday, December 9th from 10am to noon via Zoom, facilitated by Nicky Gutierrez. The following Ohio poets were in attendance: Joshua Gage, Nicky Gutierrez, Valentina Ranaldi-Adams, Elliot Nicely, Nancy Brady, Esther Rohm, and Jill Lange. The following visiting poets were in attendance: Curt Pawlisch, Janice Doppler, Ruth Holzer, and Sarah Metzler.

We started our meeting with a presentation Joshua Gage on returning to the basics of haiku.

After the presentation, we had announcements and our kukai and workshops. The kukai theme was "comfort food." Coming in third place was Joshua Gage, coming in second were Nancy Brady and Sarah Metzler, and coming in first Nicky Gutierrez, instead of prizes they were given a round of applause!

Our next meeting will be on December 9th. 10am-12pm EST via Zoom. Allyson Whipple will be reading from her book *Postcards From Texas* (Cuttlefish Books).

Please check the Ohio Haiku Facebook page for meeting information. Or for out-of-staters who wish to join us, please contact Nicky Gutierrez, nickgootz@gmail.com.

All are welcome! We'd love to see you there.

Mississippi Mud Daubers Haiku Group

The Mississippi Mud Daubers, a haiku group for poets residing in southwestern Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri, met on the evening of December 1 at the 222

Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri, met on the evening of December 1 at the 222 Artisan Bakery in Edwardsville, Illinois. Only four members were present: John J. Han, Bryan Rickert, Allyson Whipple and John J. Dunphy.

John J. Han, Bryan, Allyson and Ben Gaa gave readings on November 20 at the Focal Point in St. Louis. Twenty-five persons were in attendance, while the event streamed to an cyber-audience of about thirty. Their readings were well-received. Allison said, "It was great to read in a group who are my nearest and dearest poetry friends." John J. Dunphy said that he was delighted to have four members of the haiku group he founded back in 2006 participate in this event.

John J. Han attended the Hot Springs Haiku Conference on November 10. He gives haiku workshops twice a year at the Farmington, Missouri High School.

Allyson's term as HSA Midwest Coordinator will expire at the end of this year. She will continue serving as HSA newsletter editor. We congratulated Allyson for doing such a fine job editing the members' anthology.

John Dunphy said he was pleased to have work in the December issue of *Failed Haiku*.

Our meeting ended early since the 222 Bakery had changed its hours and now closes at 6pm. Nonetheless, we managed to conclude all business. John Dunphy remarked that never had he witnessed so much brilliance and profundity manifested in such a brief period of time.

Respectfully submitted by John J. Dunphy, founder and coordinator of the Mississippi Mud Daubers Haiku Poets Group.

From left to right: Allyson Whipple; John J. Han; John J. Dunphy and Bryan Rickert.

Scott Turner

Mid-Atlantic

Towpath Haiku Group

Towpath Haiku met most recently on November 11, 2023. In attendance were 10 members of Towpath, a guest, and Randy Brooks who presented on "Bill Pauly's Haiku Journey." Randy led an engaged and animated discussion of Bill Pauly's life and his work, ranging from his experimental and concrete poems to gender, dreamspace, and traditional themes.

The next meeting will be held **January 13, 2024, at 1pm EST via Zoom.**

Wanda Cook

Northeast

Congratulations to Amy Losak!

Amy Losak is thrilled to announce that – thanks to Charles Trumbull – her late mother, Sydell Rosenberg, now has a bio in “Haikupedia.” Syd was a charter member of HSA in 1968, served as Secretary in the 1970s, and on two Merit Awards book judging committees.

Amy is grateful to Charles for his kindness, persistence and dedication. (In other words, she couldn't have done this without him!)

<https://haikupedia.org/article-haikupedia/sydell-rosenberg/>

In addition, Amy's and Syd's haiku are featured in this new guide for teachers, parents and children, “How Do You Haiku?” (Plumbago Press, edited by poet Danna Smith): <https://www.amazon.com/How-You-Haiku-Step-Step/dp/B0CDYXFF9Y>

Lastly, their collaborative chapbook, “Wing Strokes Haiku” (Kelsay Books, 2022) received a lovely review (one of several this year) in the literary journal, “Quail Bell Review”: <http://www.quailbellmagazine.com/the-real-20/book-review-wing-strokes-haiku>

June Rose Dowis

South

South Region Report for December 2023

The annual HSA South Region Conference held in beautiful Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas was another wonderful event this year. The historic Arlington Hotel and Spa served as the location for two days of learning and laughter among the participants led by long time haiku poet and advocate Howard Lee Kilby (top left in photo) Keep early November clear on your calendars for next year's event. For more information, contact Howard: hkilbv@hotmail.com

Haijin enjoying the HSA South Region Conference.

Michael Henry Lee

Southeast

Southeast Region Report for December 2023

The SE Region hosted 25 members and guests for an “Almost Winter” Open Mic Zoom Event on Saturday November 4th. Special guests included Bryan Rickert, HSA President, and distinguished members of the Nick Virgilio Haiku Association.

Attendees enjoyed presentations about Nick Virgilio, who is credited with helping to popularize haiku in the United States. Antoinette “Toni” Libro recounted her association with Virgilio in *“Listen to This One...” The Voice of Nick Virgilio*. Libro shared recollections of Virgilio, having both hailed from South Jersey where he visited her classes and she published his haiku in *Asphodel*, a literary journal she founded and edited.

Stanford M. Forrester, former HSA President and founder of bottle rockets press, shared remarks and a haibun by Jerry Kilbride about Virgilio. Forrester also knew and published Virgilio, as well as having maintained a mutual association with Kilbride, a former HSA Vice President.

Prior to the event, 18 attendees submitted haiku for the “Almost Winter” kukai contest. Each voted via blind ballot for their favorite. The top 3 vote-getters received a copy of *“Nick Virgilio...A Life In Haiku”*. Here are the winning entries (in alpha order):

Terri L. French

frost warning
green tomatoes ripen
on the windowsill

Robyn Hood Black

almost winter as the crow flies

Edward Cody Huddleston

bonfire
leaves enough
for one more story

The event concluded with an Open Mic segment for attendees to share their poems. It was a great opportunity to promote and share the bond of haiku in the SE Region.

Michael Henry Lee
HSA SE Region Coordinator

Haijin at the Almost Winter Zoom event.

Broader Haiku NEWS

***Faunistics* Book Launch**

27th January 2024, 7pm BST

R.C. Thomas launches his haiku collection, *Faunistics*, with a Zoom reading on Saturday 27th January, 7 – 8.30pm GMT (2pm EST, 1pm CST, 12pm MST, 11am PST). Join him in taking a trip around the world, discovering fauna in their haikai form. There will be an open mic opportunity and a chance to win books and other goodies. Register to get involved and stay updated:

<https://forms.gle/h5vmkcQkXFRx14XD8>

"Employ all your senses dear reader, as the author takes you on a mysteriously magical ride." - Alan Summers, Founder of Call of the Page

Animal Poems Contest Winners

Charlotte Digregorio recently judged the Animal Poems Contest, sponsored by the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library District in Illinois. Poems of many forms were submitted including various Japanese ones. Two entrants who are HSA members submitted haiku and received Honorable Mentions: Debby Strange (Canada) and Janice Doppler (Massachusetts).

Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival's Haiku Invitational: 2023 Highlights and Winners

A message from Isanna Wong of the VCBF:

This year, we were thrilled to receive a staggering 1800 submissions from around the globe, resulting in approximately 3000 unique entries. The haiku community's creativity and passion continue to amaze us year after year. To celebrate the talent of haiku enthusiasts worldwide, we invite you to explore the 2023 Haiku Invitational Winners and their exceptional work:

- **Home Page:** [Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival - Haiku Invitational](#)
- **Meet Our 2023 Winners:** [Meet Our Haiku Invitational 2023 Winners](#)
- **2023 Winning Haiku Commentary:** [2023 Winning Haiku Commentary](#)
- **2023 Winning Haiku:** [Winning Haiku - 2023](#)
- **YouTube Video:** [Haiku Invitational Winners Announcement](#)

We are also grateful for the support of Michael Dylan Welch, who not only assisted with the Haiku Invitational but also hosted our recent virtual haiku reading event, "November Cherry Blossoms." Michael is the Founder of National Haiku Writing Month and the Co-Founder of the American Haiku Archives and the Haiku North America conference. Our esteemed panel of judges—Hannah Mahoney, Lorraine A Padden, and John Stevenson—contributed their expertise, adding to the richness of this year's submissions.

2024 Calendar of Art and Haiku by Annette Makino

Annette Makino has published a 2024 calendar of her haiga featuring peaceful landscapes and animals. She created the Japanese-inspired collages in this calendar with Japanese washi papers and other found papers.

These mini-calendars are \$12 each plus tax and shipping.

Order through Makino Studios: [Buy link](#)

A House Meant Only for Summer: Haibun and Tanka Prose by Cherie Hunter Day

"This collection is a revelation. In Day's haibun, the terrain of the natural world is vividly and precisely rendered, with details unerringly chosen to reveal the emotional terrain that lies beneath. Nothing is vague or

...remain that has been... nothing is vague or
superfluous. It cracks you open a little bit to
read about “the touch, touch, touch of a bud
scar” or “the worn flight feather of a crow” —
you realize suddenly you haven’t been
looking closely enough, at anything, and you
want to live it all over again to discover what
you missed the first time.”

—Melissa Allen

80pp; \$20 plus postage.

Available through [Red Moon Press](#), or email
cheriehunterday@gmail.com

Touchstone Award Nominations Open Until December 31st

The Haiku Foundation is currently accepting nominations for The Touchstone Awards for 2023!

[The Touchstone Award for Individual Haibun](#) is bestowed annually on haibun that represent noteworthy additions to English-language haibun in the estimation of a distinguished panel of three haibun poets/editors. Individuals may nominate a total of 2 haibun published for the first time in 2023, 1 of which may be their own, via the entry form. Editors of journals that publish haibun should have received a nomination link; please contact Kristen at thf.touchstone.haibun@gmail.com if you did not receive this information.

Kristen Lindquist
Coordinator, Touchstone Awards for Individual Haibun

[The Touchstone Awards for Individual Poems](#) are bestowed annually on haiku and senryu, that represent noteworthy additions to English-language haiku in the estimation of a distinguished panel of haiku poets, editors, and scholars. For the Touchstone Awards for Individual Poems, poets may nominate 2 previously published poems, 1 of which may be their own, via the entry form. Editors who have not received an email invitation to submit, please email Robin for the appropriate link at thftouchstone@gmail.com.

Robin Smith

Coordinator, Touchstone Awards for Individual Poems

[The Touchstone Distinguished Books Award](#), the pre-eminent award in the genre, is bestowed annually on published collections of poems, or works of scholarship, that represent noteworthy contributions to English-language haiku in the estimation of a distinguished panel of poets, editors, and scholars. For the Touchstone Distinguished Books Award, anyone may nominate either a print or e-book and there is no reading fee.

For books available in electronic format only: Email a PDF of the e-book you wish to nominate to touchstonebookaward@gmail.com.

For books available in print format only: submit six copies of the book you wish to nominate. The postmark deadline is December 31, 2023. One copy will be sent to each of the five panel members; the other will be entered into The Haiku Foundation's permanent hard copy library. Each submitter will be recognized as a donor to the Foundation and cited on the Donation Page of the website. Award recipients and Honorable Mentions will be cited on The Haiku Foundation's website. Nominated volumes should be sent to:

The Haiku Foundation
Touchstone Distinguished Books Award
PO Box 2461
Winchester VA
22604-1661 USA

For books available in both print and electronic formats: While we prefer and encourage the submission of print copies for the panelists to review, we realize this is not always feasible. Whoever submits the book may choose the format. If electing to submit print copies, follow the print copy instructions above. If electing to submit electronic copies, email a PDF of the e-book to touchstonebookaward@gmail.com, then mail one print copy to the address above to be entered into The Haiku Foundation's permanent hard copy library.

For additional information visit: [The Haiku Foundation Touchstone Awards](#)

Bruce H. Feingold
Chairperson, Touchstone Awards
Coordinator, Touchstone Distinguished Books Award

The 2024 Robert Spiess Memorial Haiku Awards Competition

Modern Haiku is pleased to announce the Robert Spiess Memorial Haiku

Awards Competition for 2024. The purpose of this competition is to honor the life and work of Bob Spiess, editor of *Modern Haiku* from 1978 to his death on March 13, 2002.

Theme: Haiku are to be written in the spirit of the following "Speculation" (Robert Spiess, *A Year's Speculations on Haiku*, Modern Haiku Press, 1995):

The sometimes seeming conflict between innovation and tradition in haiku is actually salutary: it can be a creative tension, a system of checks and balances in which tradition keeps innovation from riding off in all directions at once, and innovation keeps haiku from becoming petrified.

Deadline: In hand no later than March 13, 2024.

Rules: The competition is open to everyone but the staff of *Modern Haiku*, the competition coordinator, and the judge. Entries must be in English. Each entry must be the original, unpublished work of the author, and should not be under consideration in a contest or for publication elsewhere. For purposes of this competition, appearance of a haiku in an Internet journal, on a Web site, in a blog, or in any other public media is considered publication, but posting haiku on a private email list is not. Of course, entries should not be shared in an Internet journal, Web site, blog, private or public email list, or any other public media during the term of the competition.

Submission guidelines: Poets may submit a maximum of five haiku written in the spirit of the above Speculation, accompanied by the applicable entry fee.

Email entries are to be submitted as follows: (1) on the *Modern Haiku* subscription page, <http://www.modernhaiku.org/subscriptions.html>, scroll down to the Donate button; (2) make a donation of up to \$5 [\$1 for each entry]; (3) when you receive your payment confirmation number, copy and paste it into an email with your haiku and your name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address; (4) send the email to Billie Wilson at BillieWilsonAlaska@gmail.com.

Postal entries should be typed or printed legibly on one sheet of paper that contains all haiku being submitted (not one sheet per haiku). The poet's name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address (if any) should appear in the upper left-hand corner of the sheet of paper. Send postal entries to: Billie Wilson, 1170 Fritz Cove Road, Juneau, AK 99801-8501 USA.

Please keep a copy of your submission; entries will not be returned. Please follow the instructions carefully; entries that are incomplete or that do not comply with the instructions will be discarded.

Entry fee: \$1 per haiku, cash, check, or PayPal (U.S. funds); for postal entries, make checks payable to *Modern Haiku*; for email entries, follow the instructions above.

Adjudication: A judge will be selected by *Modern Haiku*; the judge's name will

be announced at the time of the awards. Judging will be double-blind, and the judge will not know the identity of the entrants. The judge's decisions are final.

Selection criteria: The judge will look for entries that hew to Western norms for haiku as published in *Modern Haiku* and other leading English-language haiku journals and that best capture the spirit of the theme Speculation above. There are no rules as to syllable or line count.

Awards: First Prize: \$100; Second Prize: \$50; Third Prize: \$25. Up to five poets will be awarded an Honorable Mention.

Notification: Winners will be notified by email or phone before the winning entries are published in the summer 2024 issue of *Modern Haiku* and posted on the *Modern Haiku* Web site, <http://www.modernhaiku.org/>. If you would like a list of the winners, to be mailed after the public announcement, please indicate that on your e-mail entries or send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (SASE) with your postal entries.

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