

From: Haiku Society of America editor@haikusocietyofamerica.ccsend.com
Subject: HSA Newsletter, June 2025 (with corrections)
Date: June 5, 2025 at 4:56 PM
To: brooksbooks@gmail.com

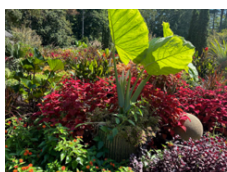


Volume 40, Number 6 | June 5, 2025

Haiku Society of America June 2025 Newsletter (with corrections)



From the Executive Committee



President's Message

Crystal Simone Smith

[Contact Form](#)

If chasing waterfalls is a pastime, then chasing gardens must surely be too. I have visited many gardens across the country; some exquisitely adorned, others emphasizing simplicity. Without bias, I admit I have yet to visit a public garden more grand than Duke Gardens. It boasts a global appeal with plants from East and Southeast Asia, Asian landscapes, serene ponds, and ornate bridges. But, what makes it so dramatically beautiful is the more than 2,500 colorful plant species that flow alongside its pathways for visitors. Without a doubt, gardening is more than a horticultural science. It is artistic expression, and public gardens offer us more than displays of natural beauty, they are polished examples of how art and community are intertwined. They are open to all.

Ponderance: How are you creating or fostering inclusive art spaces in these harrowing times?

Photo: Flower Montage, Terrance Gardens @ Duke Gardens, 2023



First Vice President

Gary Hotham
hsavicepres@aol.com

Knowing and Writing

“Poetry isn’t something you know and then write, it’s what you come to know as you’re writing it.”

When writing haiku, it is fascinating to see what the words reveal about what I hadn’t known.

The quoted thought was number 307 in Lee Seong-bok’s book, *Indeterminate Inflorescence: Notes from a poetry class*. He is a contemporary South Korean poet. The book is a thoughtful, stimulating read.

The HSA Merit Book Award judges are hard at work coming up with their list of awardees.



Second Vice President

Sarah Paris
hsa.2vp.sarah@gmail.com

HSA Summer Contests 2025

Our haiku, senryu, and haibun summer contests are now open for submission! The deadline is **June 30, 2025**—please make a note, as this is a change from previous years. For more details, see the contests page on the HSA website: <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/hsa-contests.htm>.

The HSA Rengay Award Contest

Thank you to all the poets who entered our HSA Rengay contest in honor of Garry Gay. The results will be announced in the July newsletter.

General News

2025 Literary Landmark Award

New Jersey Center for the Book (NJCB), an affiliate of the Library of Congress, presented its 2025 Literary Landmark Award to the Nick Virgilio Writers House in Camden, NJ during a reception at the Camden venue on June 1.

Judi Tolchin, board chairman of the NJCB, presented a plaque to Robin Paley, president of the Nick Virgilio Haiku Association and Writers House, recognizing the organization’s “outstanding work and dedication to literacy through poetry, especially haiku.”

During the ceremony Julie Still, reference librarian at Rutgers University, spoke about the tedious but gratifying work cataloging for posterity Camden poet Nick Virgilio’s haiku poetry and papers. And Sean Lynch, poet and archivist, took a deeper dive into the world of haiku through Virgilio’s

And Sean Lynch, poet and archivist, took a deeper dive into the world of haiku through Virgilio's correspondence with fellow poets of his day. Readings from students of the organization's Mighty Writers program rounded out the presentations.

The selection of the Nick Virgilio Writers House recognizes the organization's commitment to promoting literacy through its dedication to Virgilio's work and encouraging young people to write poetry.

NJCB celebrates and promotes reading, books, libraries, and literacy in all its many forms throughout the state. It was established in 2001, becoming the 44th state to create a designated center in affiliation with the Library of Congress, the country's oldest federal cultural institution.



2025 Nicholas A Virgilio Youth Haiku and Senryu Contest

We are delighted that the winners of the 2025 Nicholas A Virgilio Youth Haiku and Senryu contest are live on our website and that of the HSA. View the winners [here](#).

We particularly want to honor the teachers whose skill produce winners in a blinded judging year after year. While all entries go to the judges completely blinded (and there were about 2,100 poems in the competition this year), every year students of haiku poets land in the winners circle. This year David Reynolds of Colorado's Fountain Valley School had three of his students among our six winners. Tom Painting of Atlanta's Paideia School and Arlie Parker of Sage Hill School in Newport Coast California also again had winners. We bring this up to the community as we encourage haiku poets to lend a hand in teaching. We will shortly be publishing fascinating results of a pilot study in Camden public schools in which we were able to move the needle with underserved youth who said haiku gives them access to expressing emotions, feeling more confident about writing, feeling calm and creative, and finding a better understanding of themselves through writing haiku. We invite interested teachers to explore our results with us and help expand the base of teaching haiku in the schools. Contact us to learn more about the program - staff@nickvirgiliohaiku.org.

Betty Drevniok Award Winners, 2025

Haiku Canada's annual international competition for the Betty Drevniok Award yielded eleven winners, including eight Honorable Mentions. The contest judge was Charlotte Digregorio (USA).

- First Place: Nika (Canada)
- Second Place: Lev Hart (Canada)
- Third Place: Carole MacRury (USA)
- Honorable Mentions (in random order): Maxianne Berger (Canada); Marion Clarke (UK); Srimi (India); Nadejda Kostadinova (Bulgaria); Marilyn Potter (Canada); Matthew Markworth (USA); Dru Philippou (USA); and Antoinette Cheung (Canada)

- Charlotte Digregorio

News from the Regions

Towpath

Matt Snyder

Meetings

Towpath members gathered on May 10th to share news and workshop poems. The group welcomed a new member, and discussed the forthcoming anthology, as pre-orders are open for Towpath members. The next regular meeting will be held July 12th – for more information, check out <https://www.towpathhaiku.com/> or email Matt (snyder.matt@gmail.com).

Announcements

- Roberta Beary's haiku sequence, "Mother's Day," is a winner in the Moving Words Competition 2025 sponsored by Arlington Transit (ART). Their poem, chosen by Arlington poet laureate Courtney LeBlanc from among 500 entries, appears on ART buses from April through September.
- Ryland Li as co-editor of *confluence* haiku journal shares an open invitation to a virtual poetry reading on **June 21st, 1 pm EST**, in celebration of the journal's inaugural year of Poet Fellows. During the reading, Fellows representing the journal will share their work, and attendees will be invited to read their own work during the open mic portion. Additionally, attendees will be invited to share comments in response to the Fellows' work, and those comments may be submitted for publication in the journal. Details to attend the reading and how to submit comments for publication will be provided at the [confluence website](#).

Southeast

Michael Henry Lee

Member news from Terri L. French, AL HSA SE Member:

- On Sunday, May 4, the Japanese Spring Festival was held in the Japanese Garden at Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville, Alabama. Terri French guided participants through the haiku path and spoke a little about current English language haiku. The event featured traditional music, dance, and cultural performances, along with beautiful displays of Japanese art and cuisine.
- The Trillium Haiku Circle met at the home of Terri on Wednesday, May 14. Terri, Peggy Bilbro, Karleen Killen, Patricia Sammons, and Alan Burkett were in attendance. Terri and Peggy gave a presentation on haiga, and members then tried their hand at creating their own.
- On Saturday, May 17, Terri and Karleen Killen participated in a Haiku Bee Hike hosted by Huntsville's public radio station, WLRH and the North Alabama Land Trust. After a short hike, at the Blevins Gap Nature Preserve, participants visited the pollinator garden. Terri spoke about haiku and the hikers looked for inspiration to craft their own haiku amongst the native plants and wildflowers. Several of the haiku will be read on an upcoming segment of the Sunday Writers' Corner on WLRH.



segment of the Sunday writers' corner on WLRN.

If you have Regional news of note, please email by the 20th of each month to michaelhenrylee39@gmail.com. Space and time permitting, items will be published in the HSA Monthly Newsletter.

Michael Henry Lee
HSA SE Region Coordinator

Southwest

Agnes Eva Savich

Albuquerque, New Mexico

ABQhaiku held its regular meeting on May 20. The session began with impromptu writing of haiku using a small object each of us brought as a prompt. The next meeting will be June 17th. Writing with a prompt, or discussing an essay or article, will share the time. Members were invited to submit suggestions.



Austin, Texas

The Austin group will meet in person on Saturday, June 14.

Registration is open for a small, intimate haiku workshop event in Arizona, **September 11-14**, hosted by Deborah Bowman and co-led by Tom Painting and Agnes Eva Savich! Read about it [here](#) and register with the following form: <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/pdf/WritingHaiku-Arizona-guidelines.pdf>.

Washington

Richard Tice

Bellingham Haiku

Bellingham Haiku meets in person on the first Saturday of each month. On May 3rd, Patrick Gallagher led us in writing an 18-verse imachi renku. We completed it successfully in a little over two hours. Participating members, contributing one or more verses, were Sheila Sondik, Elaine Miller Bond, Eileen Coughlin, Luke Brannon, Joan Stamm, John S Green, Gwen Stamm, Bob Brunttil, Bob Zaslow, E. Janae Byrd, Carla Shafer, and Patrick Gallagher, sabaki (judge/moderator).

Submitted by John S Green

Haiku Northwest

Sixteen poets of Haiku Northwest travelled to Bainbridge Island Museum of Art on May 10 for a docent-led tour of some of BIMA's collection of more than 3000 artists' books. These books are "three-dimensional," and many of them feature unique perspectives, creative illustrations, and original hand-done bindings. BIMA's special collection can be found in its Sherry Grover Gallery and in a video series (see www.biartmuseum.org). Of course, we focused on books featuring haiku and enjoyed writing ekphrastic haiku to be assembled in a hand-



haiku and enjoyed writing experimental haiku, to be assembled in a haiku bound chapbook later this year.

Our next meeting is scheduled via Zoom on June 12 at 7 pm Pacific. Michael Dylan Welch will discuss "Tiptoe through the Sprouts," a review of the new Brussels Sprout website, which includes all 23 copies of the journal (1988–1995), along with selected poems, editors' choice awards, and statistical data. Contact garciadianne@hotmail.com for more information.

Submitted by Dianne Garcia

Komo Kulshan

Komo Kulshan meets on the 3rd Saturday of odd-numbered months. On May 17th, Julie Bloss Kelsey presented her slideshow, "Haiku Basics: Kire and Punctuation," via Zoom, to 27 eager listeners. After a lively Q&A, we workshopped anonymous haiku submitted by participants, on poems using innovative punctuation. How about this one, one of my favorite examples?

! ; v e \$ m @ + + e < ! e \$ \$

—P.H. Fischer, Haiku Dialogue, January 26, 2022

Submitted by John S Green

Haiga Adventure, Puget Sound Sumi Artists

Joining Haiga Adventure's May 20 Zoom meeting, Sara Blauman, Melinda Brottem, Judy Kalin, Dorothy Matthews, Elinda Sheridan, Cathy Tashiro, Kathleen Tice, and Jeanne Kimura Young shared haiku and haiga.

spring zen
a new leaf
uncurls

—Jeanne Kimura Young

after darkness sun . . .
and the bean
also rises



—Dorothy Avery Matthews

Following readings, we viewed slides and suggested titles for our linked verse publication scheduled for introduction at Haiku Northwest Getaway, Seabeck, October 23 to 26, 2025. Sara Blauman then updated information on our October exhibit at Columbia City Gallery, Seattle, and

information on our October exhibit at Columbia City Gallery, Seattle, and Cathy Tashiro announced Ikebana International Tacoma-Olympia Chapter's June exhibit.

Johnson-Humrickhouse Museum, Coshocton, Ohio, has invited Haiga Adventure to participate in an October exhibition of digital capture haiga images.

Haiga Adventure membership is free to PSSA members. Guests welcome. See sumi.org. Contact Matthews.Poulsbo@gmail.com for an invitation.

Submitted by Dorothy Avery Matthews

California

Richard L. Matta

Haiku Poets of Northern California

The Haiku Poets of Northern California held its spring quarterly meeting via Zoom on April 27. Approximately 40 poets attended to hear the work of featured readers, Mary Jo Balistreri and Richard L. Matta. A recording of their readings will be posted on the HPNC website.

In the meeting, results of the HPNC-sponsored rengay contest were also announced. Yvette Nicole Kolodji and Sean Kolodji served as judges this year. Winning poems and the judges' commentaries will be available on the HPNC [website](#) (scroll down for rengay results).

On July 20, HPNC will hold its summer quarterly meeting, where Janice Doppler will discuss "Perspectives on Zoka and haiku." She will be joined by several poets who will share their thoughts and their haiku.

Submitted by: Beverly Acuff Momoi

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

50th Anniversary Events: May 9, our Spring Reading, in-person and on Zoom, was held at Works/San José. Featured were the Geppo Editors past and present. Selected haiku were read from the past editors and live readings by three recent editors, Betty Arnold, Carol Steele, and current Editor Johnnie Johnson Hafernik. Honored guest, Yukiko Tokutomi Northon, daughter of founders Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi, came from Hawaii to share family history and to give a reading of Kiyoshi's haiku.

On May 10, was an outdoor banquet at the Okyama Room in History Park San José. Yukiko gave a reading this night of Kiyoko's haiku. A major new publication titled Best of Geppo was presented by editor Johnnie J. Hafernik, and is a gift to all YTHS members.

Composer and dancer, Ellen Brooks, created a unique theatrical performance weaving members' haiku that had been previously submitted.

Reported by: Alison Woolpert





*Roger Abe
Photo by David Sheretz*

Southern California Haiku Study Group (SCHSG)

On Saturday, May 17th from 2-4 pm, during the SCHSG monthly Zoom meeting, Fay Aoyagi presented "Meandering," which explored her journey towards starting her blog [Blue Willow Haiku World](#) and her translation process of modern Japanese haiku into English. She discussed the nuances in the translation process and provided a translation workshop. It ended with an engaging Q & A. There were nineteen attendees.

Join our next month's Zoom meeting on June 21st from 2-4 pm PST for a co-presentation and workshop called "Tan-ku: A Door of New Poetry" from Mariko Kitakubo and Kathabela Wilson.

Written by Yvette Nicole Kolodji, Moderator

Mid-Atlantic

Matthew Defibaugh

Haiku Holiday, 2025

Members of the North Carolina Haiku Society and guests held their 45th annual Haiku Holiday Conference at Bolin Brook Farm, in Chapel Hill, on Saturday, April 26, 2025. Longtime host Jean Earnhardt welcomed twenty-three poets to her home for a day of socializing, special presentations, and information-sharing about haiku, literary projects, and various new and forthcoming books authored by conference attendees.

Among the highlights of the day, Donna Beaver and her husband Alan Pizzarelli, respectively, made special presentations during the morning and afternoon sessions. Beaver discussed her ongoing efforts to document and bring to light the voices of Alaska Native peoples and their haiku, prose, short poetry, art, and cultural and historical documents. Pizzarelli shared some of his haiku prose poetry, retraced his evolution as a poet during the Early Haiku Movement in New York City, and paid tribute to acclaimed haiku poet Cor van den Heuvel, with whom he collaborated and forged a lasting friendship.



Midwest

Kathryn Haydon

The haiku community has been so welcoming and supportive to me as a relative newbie. Serving as your [Midwest coordinator](#) provides an opportunity for me to give back. I imagine there are already many wonderful haiku happenings here in the Midwest and I will do my best to connect with fellow Midwesterners to get the word out. I'd also like to know what opportunities YOU imagine and wish for, so please reach out.



Midwest Announcements and Happenings

New Books!

Brooks Books is currently working on the design of the three winning HighCoo Chapbooks for 2025. The authors and titles are *Creek Crossing* by Valorie Broadhurst Woerdehoff, *A Thousand Moons* by Kevin Valentine, and *A Call's Loon* by Vandana Parashar. All three are available as a subscription to the 2025 HighCoo Chapbooks of \$30 for all three. Individually they will sell for \$15 each. See [Brooks Books Chapbooks](#) for more details.

Mary McCormack's latest book of haiku, [Trying on the Night Sky](#), is like a slow-burn romantic novel. Taking readers through the seasons of a year, it also takes them through the stages of a relationship, from the tender beginnings to the deep and long lasting connection between two people in love.

Haiku Rock Garden Travels to Iowa

A selection of poems from the 2024 Exhibit of The Midwest Haiku Traveling Rock Garden will be on display at Camanche Public Library in Camanche, IA until July 22nd, 2025. With the inspiration of the library being located on the Mississippi River, the display cabinet on the right has the theme of "water" and the display case on the left has the theme of "flora and fauna." The selection includes poems from the four Iowans in the 2024 Exhibit. In addition, curator Matthew Markworth will give a presentation at the library on July 22nd at 5:15 pm. Please visit the [website](#) for more information, and check out the Facebook and Instagram pages for additional news and events.

Mississippi Mud Daubers Haiku Group of Southwestern Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri

The Mississippi Mud Daubers met on May 23 at a Starbucks in Edwardsville, Illinois. Only three members were in attendance: John Han, Ben Gaa, and John J. Dunphy.

John Han noted that he has recently given haiku presentations in Farmington, Missouri as well as, via Zoom, at the University of Ljubljana in the nation of Slovenia. John also has an article referenced in Gale-Cengage. John J. Dunphy was unfamiliar with Gale-Cengage. He looked it up and learned that it is "a world leader in e-research and educational publishing for libraries, schools and businesses."

Ben Gaa was the guest speaker at the Eighth Annual Rengay Gathering on April 13. He also read his work at the Irish Literary Salon, which was held in Webster Groves, Missouri. He has 500 subscribers for his haiku channel on YouTube.

channel on YouTube.

John J. Dunphy continues to run his Second Reading Book Shop in Alton, where he offers his haiku and non-fiction books for sale.

All three Mud Daubers proudly noted that they have been getting published left and right.

We adjourned with hopes of having more Mud Daubers at our next meeting.

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

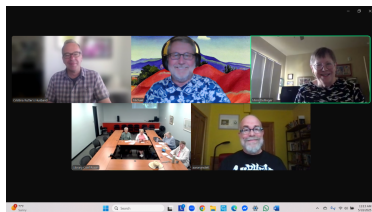


Miss Mud Group

Mountains

Michael Drummy

Nine members of the Mountains Region attended the Denver-area hybrid Payday Plums Haiku Workshop on Saturday, 31 May. Everyone had an opportunity to read their own work and comment on each other's work. It proved to be very productive and many laughs were had as well. Our next workshop is scheduled for either 21 or 28 June. Anyone interested in participating in this monthly workshop – either in person or remotely via Zoom – should contact Billy Guerriero at billguerriero@gmail.com.



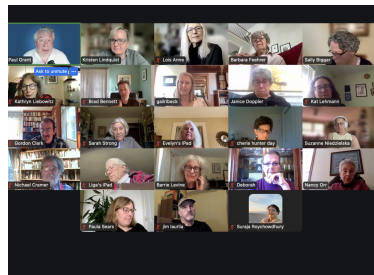
Northeast

Kristen Lindquist

Twenty-three New England haiku poets convened via Zoom for the 3rd HSA New England Virtual Haiku Gathering on May 3. We socialized in breakout groups, then enjoyed a wonderful reading by haiku poet Benedict Grant, who shared poems from his award-winning book *winterizing*. Sarah Strong, retired professor of Japanese Literature from Bates College, then presented on “Haikai & ‘The Creative’: A Glimpse at How Matsuo Bashô Created What We Today Call Haiku.” We closed the meeting by sharing our own poems in a read-around.



A big thank you to Paul (Benedict) and Sarah—and to all who attended: Lois Anne, Evelyn Atreya, Brad Bennett, Sally Biggar, Gordon Clark, Michael Cramer, Cherie Hunter Day, Janice Doppler, Barbara Feehrer, Deborah Burke Henderson, Liga Jahnke, Jim Laurila, Kat Lehmann, Barrie Levine, Kathryn Liebowitz, Kristen Lindquist, Suzanne Niedzielska, Nancy Orr, Gail Ribeck, Suraja Roychowdhury, and Paula Sears.



Oregon

Tanya McDonald

Portland Haiku Group

For the May 17th PHG meeting, we watched a film from Brooks Books titled "HAIKU: The Art of the Short Poem," produced by Tazuo Yamaguchi, which is available to purchase [here](#). The film briefly discusses the history of Japanese haiku, but mostly focuses on the English-language haiku movement through a series of interviews and talks from poets who attended the 2007 Haiku North America Conference, including Sonia Sanchez, Peggy Willis Lyles, William J. Higginson, Jim Kacian, Bruce Ross, Garry Gay, and many more. After the film, PHG poets expressed gratitude for how the film clarified that haiku in English don't have to be 5-7-5 syllables. PHG poets also expressed gratitude for how the film provided a real glimpse of what a haiku conference is like, with a mix of serious subjects and humor. A key takeaway from the film is the beauty of sharing haiku and how haiku can start larger conversations and connect people. - Jacob Salzer

The next PHG meeting will be held on Saturday July 19 from 12 - 2 pm at the Sellwood Community House. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Shelley Baker-Gard at sbakergard@msn.com.

Umpqua Haiku

Umpqua Haiku meets monthly in Roseburg, Oregon. To learn more about the group, please visit the [website](#) or contact Steve Bahr at bahrbiz@gmail.com.

Haiku Oregon

On May 29, eight Oregon poets met on Zoom to share their haiku and receive constructive feedback. The haiku ranged from the humorous to the serious, and we had good discussions on the importance of word choice in haiku, innovative ways to use line breaks to convey emotion, and how to focus on one element of a story or scene to sharpen a haiku.

Registration is still open for our Haiku Oregon Meeting on June 21 at the Newport Visual Arts Center on the Oregon Coast. We are most grateful



to the HSA for helping to sponsor this event. This will be a generative and participatory gathering, with workshops, discussions, and opportunities to socialize and explore. Presenters include Lisa Gerlits, Katharine Grubb, Shelley Baker-Gard, Steve Bahr, Tanya McDonald, Peg Cherrin-Myers, and Jacob Salzer. Open to all, near and far. Registration closes June 10. For further details, including a link to the registration form, please contact Tanya McDonald at tanyamc1375@gmail.com.

South

Captain Billy Bones Sayles

Ahoy there poets of the South,

You know I'm new at this position as South Region Coordinator. The fancy office, big salary, and the company jet are great, but it's kinda lonely. If you're not into entering contests, how about sending me a haiku or a short poem (under 5000 words:) you've written?

Here's one of mine:

sudden downpour
young grapes cluster
under leaf umbrellas

- The Hot Springs Arkansas Haiku Club meets on the first Friday of every month at the Garland library, 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The next meeting is June 6, 2025. This is a free event read-around support group and all are welcome.
- The 29th Annual South Region Haiku Conference will be two days, November 7 & 8, 2025 at the Garland Library, 1427 Malvern Ave, Hot Springs, AR 71909. For more information, email me at: captainsails@aol.com.

South Regional haiku cash-prize contests! Act Soon!

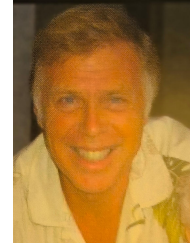
Cash prizes are sponsored by the Honorable Howard Lee Kilby in association with the Ouachita Life bi-monthly Periodical. Anyone in the world can enter. There is no entry fee. July 13th, 2025 is the deadline for the August contests. Email your entry, your name, mailing address, email, and phone number to hkilby@hotmail.com.

Howard asked me, if some berries are called 'Blue-berries', why are strawberries not called 'Red-berries'?

After carefully thinking it over, I have come up with this:

The coveted title 'Red Berries,' as you know, was hotly contended, with some getting the 'Raz' others called out for toxic poisons such as 'Deadly Nightshade,' some were just to cheery-ful to be simply called 'Red,' others were dropped like a hot 'Tomato' (yes it's also a berry). 'Holly' berries appear during the Christmas holy days, 'Current-ly' the jury is still 'Mull-ing' over some contestants, but the first straw-vote to be counted was unanimous... the beloved 'Strawberry.'

The classic title of 'Red Berry' is still available for any new variety in the



future.

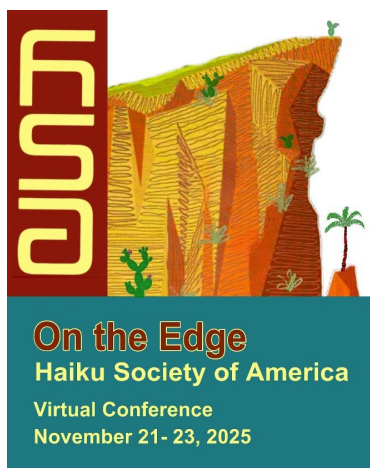
I encourage your haiku clubs in the South to send me your news and upcoming events so I can include them in future HSA newsletters:

captails@aol.com.

When I am with a group of poets, I'm with observers and listeners. My favorite kind of people. I am so happy to have a few poets for friends, please stay in touch.

Captain Billy Bones Sayles
HSA South Region Coordinator for 2025
captails@aol.com

Submissions



Call for Proposals

Submission period: June 15th – August 15th 2025

The Haiku Society of America is accepting proposals for the 2025 HSA Conference, November 21st -23rd, 2025

Theme: "On the Edge"

Location: Virtual / Zoom

The HSA Conference committee is searching for proposals that promote, educate, or explore haiku in cutting-edge or experimental ways. We are open to schedule all types of virtual programs. Feel free to imagine unique or novel technical approaches to virtual proposals. Both individual and collaborative proposals are accepted. All programs selected will focus on haiku and other haiku related forms.

Committee Preferences:

- We welcome experienced and novice presenters.
- All proposals must be engaging, educational, or thought-provoking.
- No self-promotional presentations.
- Readings must include more than one poet and focus on a theme, region, or group.
- We will not accept programs that have been given more than two times (except for readings), unless it has been substantially updated

- updated.
- PowerPoint or shareable documents preferred for presentations, workshops, and readings.
- We will not accept any proposals with racist, sexist, anti-LGBTQ+, ageist, or ableist content nor anything that promotes cultural appropriation.

All programs will have a 50-minute time slot. For presentations, please be sure to allocate 10-15 minutes for questions and answers. For writing workshops, allow 10-15 minutes for your instructions and 35-40 minutes for writing and/or critique.

Proposals with virtual performances or exhibits must send a video sample of previous work to southerncaliforniahaikusgadm@gmail.com. Proposals with readings must send a few sample poems included in that reading to the same email.

Please submit your proposal ideas by **August 15th at 11:59pm PST**. The conference committee will respond to all proposals by September 15th.

2025 Conference Committee: Crystal Simone Smith (HSA President), Yvette Nicole Kolodi (Conference Coordinator - SCHSG Moderator), Marjorie Pezzoli - (Program Coordinator - SCHSG Promotions), and Michael Dudley (HSA International Coordinator)

Please contact the conference coordinator at southerncaliforniahaikusgadm@gmail.com with questions or inquiries.

Submit Your Proposal

Sense & Sensibility Haiku

Welcome to Sense & Sensibility! Another month to explore your creativity during these uncertain times.

Submissions open June 1 for the July Issue of Sense & Sensibility Haiku. Submissions close **June 22, at Noon ET**, unless we reach our quota sooner. Please submit early to increase your chances of being published.

For poets published in the June issue, please skip a month to submit again.

The prompt for July: **"Free!"**

Please submit your work via the Google Form below.

Yours in Haiku,

Patricia Carragon
Editor
Sense & Sensibility Haiku Journal
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Submit Now

The Midwest Haiku Traveling Rock Garden

A quick correction to last month's newsletter: The baseball-themed submission window for The Midwest Haiku Traveling Rock Garden will open on **May 1st, 2026**, not 2025. Poets worldwide will be eligible to submit previously-published poems to the baseball-themed exhibit. In other news, a selection of poems from the 2024 Exhibit is currently on display at Camanche Public Library in Camanche, IA, and will remain on display until July 22nd. Also on that day at 5:15 pm, curator Matthew Markworth will give a presentation at the library and will discuss the origins of the rock garden along with some basics of haiku.

- Matthew Markworth

Events & Publications



The Nick Virgilio Haiku Association will host our annual Graveside Celebration of Nick Virgilio at Harleigh Cemetery, Camden, NJ down by the goose pond on June 29th at 2 PM. As always there will be an Open Mic where participants share haiku and senryu as well as other short form poetry. Refreshments will be served. For those who have not joined us before - Nick's "tombstone" is a podium where we read annually - right down the path from the tomb of Walt Whitman. Watch our Facebook and Instagram in case of rain for an alt location. Information at www.nickvirgiliohaiku.org



***confluence* Poet Fellows Reading**

Sat. 6/21 1 pm Eastern (10 am Pacific, 6 pm British Summer Time, 10:30pm India Standard time)

confluence haiku journal invites you to a poetry reading in celebration of its inaugural year of Poet Fellows. Six *confluence* Fellows (Daniel Shank Cruz, David Green, Lorraine A Padden, Nicky Gutierrez, Rowan Beckett Minor, and Vandana Parashar) will read their poems and share about their creative inspiration. As a journal dedicated to building the haiku community, *confluence* also offers readers the opportunity to respond to the Fellows' poems during the event, and for your responses to be published in the next ..

confluence issue. We also invite you to read your own work during the open mic portion of the evening. We will share more details—including how to submit your responses for publication and how to sign up to read—with *confluence* subscribers by early June. If you're not yet a subscriber, join us for free at the *confluence* [website](#).



Brad Bennett is pleased to announce the publication of a new book of haiku, *a rush of doves*.

"As if his previous books weren't proof enough, Brad Bennett's newest collection shows he is the English-language haiku community's master of music. There's a reason my toddler asks that I read Brad's poems (not mine!) aloud while she labors over her morning eggs. The poems in a rush of doves are simply elemental."

- Evan Vandermeer, Haiku Society of America Newsletter Editor

"Brad Bennett's distinct sensitivity to language and deep affinity with the natural world are qualities ever-present in his work – glimpsed in the nuances of word choice and phrasing, as well as a keen attention to the smallest detail. Indeed, his latest collection is a masterclass in how language, when applied delicately, can achieve emotional depth and resonance in haiku."

- Caroline Skanne, Editor of *hedgerow*

If you're interested in buying a copy, please contact Brad at bgalaxy@verizon.net for ordering information.



Denise Fontaine-Pincince is pleased to announce the publication of *tea all the time it takes*, a haiku anthology she edited that features the work of more than 100 poets from 13 countries. Available on Amazon \$20, or from Denise at dcfontaine@yahoo.com.



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