

From: Haiku Society of America editor@haikusocietyofamerica.ccsend.com
Subject: HSA Newsletter, October 2025
Date: October 5, 2025 at 7:52 AM
To: brooksbooks@gmail.com



Volume 40, Number 10 | October 5, 2025

Haiku Society of America October 5, 2025 Newsletter



From the Executive Committee



President's Message

Crystal Simone Smith

[Contact Form](#)

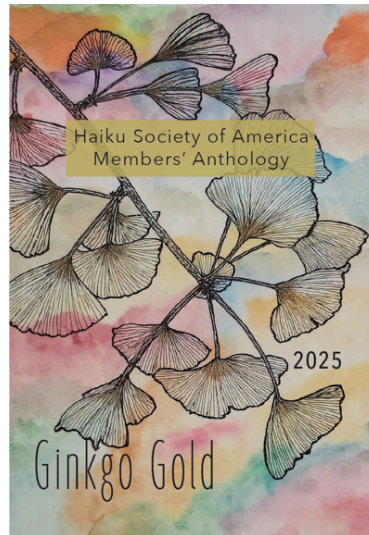
Poets,

Sometimes we gather on a mountain or sunny coast or in a gleaming dark city to bask in our tinyword accomplishments and break bread. We wielders of words know one truth: "Quality is not an act, it is a habit." We can debate who said this, but writing a short poem, a book, an essay, or simply a good line requires a dedication beyond hobby work. We often work alone, because solitude is somewhat vital to it— "A dark, cool, quiet place. A basement in your soul," as Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami states. But when possible, I like to be with the writers and raise a glass to what we do. Until next time HNAers!

The HSA 2025 Member's Anthology is in the final completion stage. Gratitude to editor Nicky Guitierrez for serving as editor. Expect your

copy later this month. Also, expect a separate communication to register for our "On the Edge" virtual conference soon! Stay tuned.

In haiku,
Crystal Simone Smith



First Vice President

Gary Hotham
hsavicepres@aol.com

Send Me a Poet Who Reads

"The poet finds that he must read deeply and broadly in other poets, and in writers of prose, to learn how these same fundamental tools—sound, image, tone, etc.—have been put to different uses. Many young poets believe that reading lots of poetry will impinge on their creativity; this is simply not the case. Rather, learning the many ways in which language can make communal the private vision facilitates the process of expressing your vision...." Ryan Wilson, *How to Think Like a Poet* (Wiseblood Books, 2025)

I suspect most members of the HSA are gluttonous readers of haiku and other forms of poetry. I think a constant habit of reading and writing is the best recommendation for any writer. And haiku beginners need to read deeply and broadly in the haiku literature. I know from my earliest beginnings I always looked forward to the next issue of a journal or a collection of haiku. Writing haiku may be an addiction, but so is the pleasure of reading them. Keep at it!

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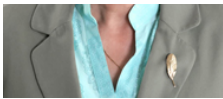


Second Vice President

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

Winners of the 2025 HSA Haibun Award

Judges: Glenn G. Coats & Aubrie Cox Warner



Judges: Glenn G. Coats & Aubrie Cox Warner

First Place: "Lucky" by John Barlow, Ormskirk, UK

Second Place: "Rocky Mountain Postcard" by Edward Cody
Huddleston, Baxley, GA

Third Place: "Housecleaning" by Dru Philippou, Arroyo Hondo, NM

Honorable Mentions (in alphabetical order)

"Scavengers" by Mathew Caretti, Pago Pago, American Samoa

"Reel Too Real" by Mark Forrester, Hyattsville MD

"What Would It Be Like?" by Doris Lynch, Bloomington, IN

<https://www.hsa-haiku.org/haibunawards/haibun-2025.htm>



Treasurer

Cynthia Brackett-Vincent

cbv.hsa@encirclepub.com

Greetings from colorful Maine,

As the foliage comes to its peak with all its festivities—hayrides, apple picking, football games, costumed children at our doors, etc.—it reminds us that the year is slowly winding down. With that also comes time to renew our HSA memberships. Out of necessity, we have adjusted our yearly fees.

In the almost three years since I have been your Treasurer, our member fees have stayed the same. That cannot be said for our expenses. Thinking solely about *Frogpond* and our annual members' anthology, our expenses have increased as the cost of paper, printing, and mailing has risen. It is no longer feasible to send these four issues out at our current rates. Along with the cost of our publications, there are fees we don't necessarily see tangibly—such as our expenses for Zoom for meetings, Constant Contact for our emailing of this newsletter, Election Buddy for our annual elections, software used to create *Frogpond* and the yearly anthology, PayPal for facilitating online payments, and the projects we fund (mini-grants, Merit Book Awards, conference costs, etc.).

With all this in mind, after deep consideration, our new membership fees are as follows:

- United States regular: \$40
- United States student PDF: \$20
- Canada/Mexico: \$42
- All other countries: \$50
- PDF-only: \$34

We hope these changes won't be too much of a burden. When I look at it overall, I see the benefits we receive (four publications/year, significant discounts on contest entry fees, monthly newsletter, conference entry, regional chapter activities, mentor-mentee opportunities, website resources, etc.), I feel that my \$40 will be well-spent.

Wishing you the beauty of the fall season.

~ ~ ~

—Cynthia



News from the Regions

Washington

Richard Tice

Washington
Richard Tice



Bellingham Haiku

Bellingham Haiku met on September 6, with seventeen cheerful attendees. After a read-around, Victor Ortiz led a workshop on exploratory English-language haiku. For the sake of discussion, we assumed a false binary that focused first on normative ELH, with the group compiling a list of features and examples, followed by creating another list of experimental ELH traits, also with examples.

Victor then introduced his exploratory “lipoku” form, a combination of haiku + lipogram (a text that avoids a particular letter). This lipogram, however, uses only one kind of English vowel, such as,

look down for cosmos most roots form worlds

~Victor Ortiz, Heliosparrow Poetry Journal (Oct. 27, 2020)

We then finished our time together with writing a “lipoku” as a group. And that was a lot of fun too!

Submitted by Victor Ortiz

Haiku Gathering at Center for Spiritual Living, Tacoma

On September 9 we celebrated our one-year anniversary last month with the publication of our anthology, *Nasturtium*, edited by Alan Harvey, containing haiku and haibun. For some members, this was the first time seeing their haiku, senryū, and haibun published.

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For September our writing prompt focused on using the full moons. A different member's haiku will be selected for each month. Judy Davis wrote our Sturgeon Moon haiku, and Michele Javanshir's haiku was selected for the Corn Moon. After one year we will have a linked haiku sequence including twelve poets.

We enjoy meeting in person on the second Tuesday of the month, and some of the attendees also attend the weekly meditation meetings at the center where the haiku group gathers. We look forward to expanding our craft with the addition of renga and haiga soon.

Submitted by Alan Harvey

Haiku Northwest

HNW met November 11 on Zoom from 7 to 9 pm, Dianne Garcia moderating. She began by reviewing the upcoming yukata textiles exhibit at Danaca Design Studio and the haiku submitted for each textile. (Yukata is a form of Japanese casual robe.)

The theme of the meeting was travel. Each person shared a haiku, haibun, haiga, or photoku (shahai) related to a journey, travel, or trip undertaken in the summer. We demonstrated that we are a well-travelled group. We also had time to share a dozen or so poems for friendly feedback.

Komo Kulshan Haiku

On September 20 Annette Makino presented many of her haiku and collage haiga and conducted a workshop on writing ekphrastic haiku. Her work was enthusiastically received, and attendees wrote numerous haiku to the prompts.

Haiga Adventure, PSSA

On September 2 Columbia City Gallery in Seattle opened a haiga exhibit of artwork by more than a dozen Puget Sound sumi artists (PSSA). The gallery held an open reception for the artists on September 6, and nearly one hundred attendees were able to view the art and haiku and learn more about the form of haiga. The exhibit ends October 12.

California

Richard L. Matta

Haiku Poets of Northern California

On August 17, the Haiku Poets of Northern California held its 35th annual Two Autumns reading via Zoom. Approximately 60 poets attended to hear featured readers Mimi Ahern, Randy Brooks, Gary Hotham, and Yvette Nicole Kolodji. HPNC President Garry Gay served as emcee for the event. The commemorative chapbook, *Water Between Mountain Stones*, was edited and produced by Shirley and Randy Brooks. A recording of the readings can be found on the [HPNC website](#).

On October 19, HPNC will hold its Fall quarterly meeting, with featured readers. Sandra Anfano and Mark Teaford.



Submitted by Beverly Acuff Momoi

Southern California Haiku Study Group (SCHSG)

The SCHSG monthly Zoom meeting, September 20th from 2-4 pm PST, featured Crystal Simone Smith reading from her recently published book *Runagate: Songs of the Freedom Bound*, and presenting "Japan: The Narrow Road." Her presentation highlighted her and Basho's pilgrimage along *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*. Twenty-six poets attended.

Unfortunately, the Meet Your OC Community Event was postponed.

Please join our upcoming events:

On October 4th from 10-12 pm PST, SCHSG will meet at the Merry Go Round Lot 2 in Griffith Park for a Ginko Hike. We will observe nature and stop periodically to write and share poetry.

On October 18th from 2-4 pm PST, Emily Bernhardt will present the results of our October Kukai at SCHSG's monthly meeting. If you would like to partake, please [submit your poems](#) by October 9th. The votes for the poems must be cast by October 15th.

Written by Lee Hudspeth and Yvette Nicole Kolodji

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Kae Bendixen and Shelley Wessels (and their dog Ruby!) welcomed YT members to watch the early September Harvest Moon together. Everyone enjoyed the delicious potluck and each other's company: eating, laughing, and sharing moon kigo before the moon made its appearance. Sweets played a significant role in the evening's fun, including moon cookies, a belated Tanabata star cake, and Roger Abe's s'mores!

Like being at a drive-in theater, everyone was able to watch the moon rise in the east from chairs in the driveway. Crickets on full blast accompanied the writing. Everyone returned to the back patio to share haiku and get a second or third serving of dessert before departing.

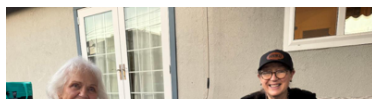
moon viewing greeting
Ruby
wagging her tail

—Roger Abe

s'mores
and more . . .
sweet toothed moon

—Patricia J Machmiller

Submitted by Kae Bendixen





*Carol Steele (in Haiku Hat by Karina Young!) and Judith Schallberger /
photo by Mimi Ahern*

Mountains

Michael Drummy

Eight members of the Mountains Region attended the Denver-area hybrid Payday Plums Haiku Workshop on Saturday, 27 September. As always, it proved to be very productive and many laughs were had as well. Our next workshop is scheduled for 18 October. Anyone interested in participating in this monthly workshop—either in person or remotely via Zoom—should contact Billy Guerriero at billguerriero@gmail.com.



Midwest

Kathryn Haydon

ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter

The Illinois State Poetry Society-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter will hold its next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting on Sunday, October 19, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. CDT. The chapter meeting is open to anyone interested in haiku.

The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, October 14. Contact Tom Chockley at tomzhaiku@outlook.com or thomasse2@hotmail.com to register to attend the Zoom meeting and to receive further information.



Northeast

Kristen Lindquist

Greetings from New England!

In lieu of haiku group news, which we sadly lack, here are some haiku written to a photo prompt offered in a recent issue of Nor'easter, the regional newsletter for New England HSA members:

summer house
the path in the darkness
we know by heart

—David Cashman (RI)

tree-lined pond
a game of solitaire
left unfinished



—Edward J. Kielly (ME)

pastel sky —
the children
they used to be

—Gail Ribeck (ME)

wood stove smoke
across the lake
almost home

—Andrew Pineo (NH)

And on a personal note, while I wasn't able to attend HNA this year, I hope to see some of you at the Seabeck Haiku Getaway in WA later this month, where I will be offering several presentations on, of course, birds and haiku.

Oregon

Tanya McDonald

Haiku Oregon

On Sunday, September 21, eight members of Haiku Oregon met on Zoom for an anonymous critique session of unpublished haiku that were submitted ahead of time. The discussions covered a variety of topics, including punctuation, narrowing the focus, word choice, sound, and line breaks.

Portland Haiku Group

Because a significant number of PHG members attended Haiku North America, there was not a PHG meeting in September. The next meeting will be held on Saturday, October 18 from noon to 2 pm at the Sellwood Community House, where those who attended HNA will be discussing their experiences.

Monoku Haiku Contest

1. Anyone can enter.
2. Criteria: a one-line haiku that is no longer than 30 letters or characters long including spaces. No particular theme.
3. No more than 2 entries per person.
4. There will be a 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place.
5. Each winner will receive 20 pencils with their own monoku and 1 of each of the other winning monoku (22 total).
6. The judging will be held at the November 15th PHG meeting and will be done as a kukai with the entries anonymous.
7. The winning monoku will be printed on pencils that will be given out to those attending the PHG meeting in December.

Pencil Purchase — If anyone wants to purchase a set of the 3 winning monoku pencils, contact Shelley Baker-Gard for the cost & postage (it won't be much).

Please submit entries to Shelley at sbakergard@msn.com prior to midnight PDT on November 1.

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.

Southeast

Michael Henry Lee

SE Region News and Notes

Autumn Zoom Event
Saturday October 18, 2025 2 pm ET
Presentation, Kukai and Open Mic Reading

Featured: "A Conversation with John Stevenson: Personal reflections on haiku pioneers, the role of editing English language haiku and more!"

Check your email for details! Register Today!

Member News

Nhu Nguyen conducted haiku workshops at JapanFest in Atlanta last month. During the two-day event (September 20–21), Nhu organized and presented two Haiku Showrooms and two Haiku Stage sessions.

In the Haiku Showrooms, the availability of a large screen allowed Nhu to deliver clear and engaging presentations. Through photo slides, Nhu explained the history of haiku, its characteristics, and provided guidance on how to write haiku.

At the Haiku Stage sessions, held in a large hall that attracted more than 50 attendees each day, Nhu shared similar content while also encouraging interaction, including Q&A segments. The audience was invited to create and share their own haiku, some reading their poems aloud. Participants were encouraged to continue writing and to connect with the HSA as well as local groups such as the North Georgia Haiku Society and the Atlanta Haiku Group.

Although JapanFest featured many diverse cultural programs, the haiku events drew strong interest from those eager to learn more about Japanese culture. The sessions successfully introduced haiku to new audiences and created opportunities for meaningful exchange through poetry.



Nhu Nguyen





JapanFest 2025



JapanFest 2025

Colleen M. Farrelly is currently leading the Haiku Social Club, a study/workshop group dedicated to connecting with and developing the talents of haikai poets (originating with the former HSA 40 and Under program). While our focus remains on younger members, we welcome everyone to future sessions—particularly those willing to share their knowledge with us. If you're interested, please email: cfarrelly786@gmail.com.

Please email SE Regional news of note 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

South

Captain Billy Sayles

Last-minute Great News!

Lee Gurgan, D.D.S.
Past president of the Haiku Society of America, will be making three presentations at our 29th Hot Springs, AR Haiku Conference.

November 7 & 8, 2025
at the Garland County Library,
1427 Malvern Ave, Hot Springs, AR

Conference begins with a welcoming social by past HSA Secretary, Howard Lee Kilby at 9:00 am each of the two days. This historic conference is open to the public. Lunch will be provided each day compliments of the Arkansas Haiku Society and Howard Kilby. It's not too late to register: captainsails@aol.com.



There is no registration fee.

We are so happy that Lee will be traveling from Illinois to attend and speak on three haiku publications he has been an editor and significant part of in 2025: Haiku 2025, Haiku 21.2, and Haiku, Language, Thought by Richard Gilbert. Welcome Lee!

I'll start the rest of this news update with a haiku of my own:

sailor
playing his old concertina
music time machine

Yep, that's me. An old sailor and I'll be speaking and playing some timeless melodies on my 143 yr old English concertina during our 29th Hot Springs Haiku Conference.

Published authors are welcome to display books for sale from the display table both days.

Friday, November 7, 2025

09:00 am Welcome social and haiku intro by the Honorable Howard Lee Kilby, founder of the Hot Springs Haiku Club in 1997.

09:30 - 10:30 Doctor Jianqing Zheng, author and professor with a presentation of "Photoku" of the Mississippi Delta and haiku.

10:30 - 11:00 Hawaiian Surprise! Captain Billy Sayles, Merchant Marine Master, Retired, musician, author, South five-state, region coordinator for the Haiku Society of America. Presentation on building your poetic confidence / getting published.

11:00 - 12:00 This spot is currently available. Who wants to go next? A variety of fascinating speakers have been invited to present: Professor John Crawford, PHD, Award-winning Haiku poet Andrew Newman, Poets, Judy Corwin, Barbara Robinette, AJ Wentz, Charles Hunt, Julia Ranft, Alan Beck, Roberta Wilson, Samm Binns and Hot Springs Poet Laureate, Kai Coggins.

Noon - 2:00 pm World Buffet lunch provided by the Haiku Society of Arkansas (Howard Lee Kilby)

2:00 - 3:00 pm Lee Hurgan, past president of the HSA

3:00 - 5:00 pm Who wants to go next? The above listed poet speakers

Saturday, November 8, 2025

9:00 - 9:30 am Welcome social with Howard Lee Kilby

9:30 - Lee Hurgan and a wu wei morning of haiku speakers

Noon - 2:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm A wu wei walk along the beautiful Hot Springs Creek greenbelt park.

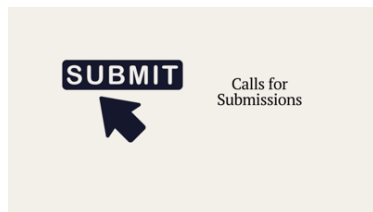
3:00 pm Picnic table / haiku writing session

4:00 pm or so Aloha Oe

The Arkansas Haiku Club meets every first Friday of the month at the Garland County library, 2:00 to 4:00 pm see address above.

Poets attending last years conference and luncheon

Submissions



Submissions Open October 1 for Sense & Sensibility's November Issue

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

Due to the increased interest, submissions will close October 15, 2025, at noon ET, unless we reach our quota sooner. Please submit early to increase your chances of being published.

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

The prompt for November: "Gratitude!"

Please submit your work via this [Google Form](#) from October 1. Submissions open on October 1, 2025. Please don't send submissions before then because they will not be considered for publication.

Buy me a cup of coffee:

We welcome PayPal donations at:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?business=Y2K8L9SMVYC5L&no_recurring=0&cy_code=USD
Yours in Haiku,

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

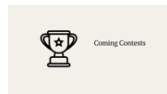
Learn More and Submit

Charlotte Digregorio seeks haiku or senryu submissions on the theme of any upcoming holidays through the end of the year for The Daily Haiku that runs on [her blog](#). You may email her through Oct. 15 with JUST ONE of your best poems, either previously-published in a journal or unpublished, at c-books@hotmail.com. (If previously-

published, please give the name of the journal, the issue number, and year.) Beginners and experienced poets are welcome to submit. The Daily Haiku features poets from sixty-one countries. Also, Charlotte has been judging poetry contests for public libraries. Please check her blog periodically for any upcoming contests.

Learn More and Submit

Contests



2025 San Francisco International Haiku, Senryu, and Tanka Contest

The Haiku Poets of Northern California invite poets worldwide to submit original, unpublished work (no limit on entries) for a chance to win cash prizes, publication, and recognition. Judges will award first, second, and third places in each category, with \$100 for each first-place winner, as well as honorable mentions at their discretion. Winning poems will be announced at January meeting, with top entries appearing in Mariposa and full results, including judges' comments, published on the HPNC website. Submissions are accepted via Google form, with a \$1 entry fee per poem payable through PayPal. Full guidelines and submission details can be found on the [website](#).

—Sarah Paris

Learn More and Submit

Publications



HOT OFF THE PRESS!!!

DOWNHILL HOME by Chuck Brickley, author of multi-award-winning ***EARTHSHINE*** (5th printing, Snapshot Press, 2017)

Chuck Brickley is a master of shokumoku, or “glimpse.” These haiku and senryu from the San Francisco Bay Area reverberate not only with the tragic stories of our time, but also with the joyful moments of our daily life. I really love them.

— Shigeyoshi Hara, Professor Emeritus, Dokkyo University, Japan
Translator of *Danger On Peaks*, and other works by Gary Snyder

DOWNHILL HOME is nothing short of an offering, revealing how wisdom deepens when we see with our hearts and how a single moment can expand our understanding. These exquisitely crafted poems reflect what it means to care for this world and those with whom we share it. This book is amazing.

— Ce Rosenow, Past President, Haiku Society of America

