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Haiku Society of America November 2023 Newsletter





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 Schaeffer 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. It's that time of year again. Later on this month, everyone will receive an email regarding elections for HSA officers and regional coordinators. I encourage everyone to vote. The more voices that chime in, the stronger our organization will become.

It is not too late to run for any office if you so desire. There will definitely be some new names and faces on this year's ballot. If you would like to run for any office, do not hesitate to email me by **November 15th** and I will add you to the ballot. Please use my email that is indicated on the officers' page of the HSA website. The election email is slated for delivery on the 3rd Tuesday of this month.

Now is also a good time to remind everyone to renew your memberships for next year. The earlier the better. This allows the organization to start our new year in the best possible way fiscally and to give us an appropriate number for how many issues of Frogpond that we will need to be sent out. Thank you for everything, and have a wonderful and safe month.

Sincerely,
Bryan Rickert



Allyson Whipple
Newsletter Editor

allyson@allysonwhipple.com

Video Contest Survey Update

Thank you to everyone who filled out the HSA Video Contest survey! We received 178 responses.

I will be presenting the data to the HSA Executive Committee at our next board meeting. That being said, we might not have a decision ready for the December newsletter. Depending on the survey results, we might need additional time to consider the information before making a final decision. We appreciate your patience as we move forward!

Anthology Update

The anthology is at the printer, and will be shipped soon! I am grateful to Cynthia Brackett-Vincent, Ed Vincent, and Jacob Salzer for their assistance. I'm also thankful to Kelsey Shapiro, our representative at Sheridan, for her efforts.

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Prompts

Allyson Whipple

At one point in my haiku journey, I became resistant to using prompts. I'd picked up the idea that desk haiku is inferior to haiku composed in the moment – preferably

the fact that each haiku is moment to haiku composed in the moment – preferably outside the house. (It didn't occur to me that one might experience a haiku moment while sitting at one's desk.) I was also trying to distance myself from the endless workshop exercises of my MFA years. When publications I enjoyed shared prompts, I treated them as themes. If I wrote something that fit the prompt before the deadline, it was a happy accident. If I didn't, I scrolled through my growing list of haiku drafts for something that might fit.

When I began to focus on kigo in 2022, my perspective changed. Each morning, before walking my dog, I would sit down with my copy of *Haiku World* and pick a seasonal word for the day. I wasn't forcing myself to write a haiku a day that incorporated the word. Rather, I was using the kigo as a focus point. On my dog walks, commute, and errands, I challenged myself to see how often I could observe the kigo, and *hopefully* inspire a haiku. Eventually, I realized that I was giving myself prompts, but *approaching* the prompt in a different way. Using a kigo as a prompt was indirectly guiding my writing; it was directly guiding my attention.

I was in a creative rut for the last quarter of 2022 and the first half of 2023. With the upheaval of moving across the country, buying a home, and changing jobs, I struggled to focus and connect with my creative self. When life had settled and I found myself yearning to write again, I found myself turning to prompts to bring me back into the habit. What I had once resisted became a lifeline for my creative practice.

Each week, I began by making a list of all of the prompts for current or forthcoming submission calls. *Poetry Pea*, *Naturalist Weekly*, *Haiku Dialogue*, and the Haiku Foundation's monthly *kukai* were all part of my regular list, along with other prompts that floated across my radar. As with my kigo experiment, I would pick one to focus on for the day, and use it to guide my awareness as I took my daily walks and went about my various errands. I didn't always end up writing to the prompt, but having the framework nonetheless felt useful.

The biggest surprise to me, though, was how now, prompts helped me feel connected to my fellow poets. I took joy in actively contributing to the collective responses to the *Poetry Pea* YouTube prompt or the most recent *Naturalist Weekly* entry. Rather than digging up whatever old poem fit, I felt like I was becoming more integrated into the larger haiku community. Not only that, but I was having fun.

If you have found yourself resistant to using prompts for your haiku, consider whether that resistance is coming from external influences (as it originally was for me). You also might want to think about *how* you are approaching prompts; treat it too much like an assignment or to-do list, and you won't find any fun in it. Let the prompt serve as a guidepost rather than a dictum, and I'm willing to bet that new creative avenues will open up for you.

NEWS from the Regions





Deborah P. Kolodji
California

Southern California Haiku Study Group

The Southern California Haiku Study Group met by zoom on Saturday, October 21, 2023 for our autumn kukai discussion. Emily Bernhardt prepared the kukai, gathered the haiku, created the voting form, and prepared a beautiful autumn powerpoint of the results. The results were presented by Lee Hudspeth and Joan Fingon handled the tech for the meeting. 32 poets submitted 64 poems. There were 25 voting members with 200 votes. 22 poets attended the zoom discussion of the results. The favorite haiku received 11 votes and was written by Vicki Miko. It was a wonderful afternoon discussion about haiku appreciation and what made particular haiku really work for the readers.

Our next zoom meeting will be on Saturday, November 18, where we will read from our 2023 haiku anthology, *A Taste of Sunlight*.

Santa Clarita Sidewalk Poetry

The city of Santa Clarita has announced the winners and locations of 10 poems selected for their sidewalk poetry contest. Haiku and short poems by 4 SCHSG members were selected. Here are their names and the locations of their poems in the City of Santa Clarita, California:

- Lorraine A Padden, 21865 Copper Hill Drive
- Charles Harmon, Haskell Canyon Road, between Bobwhite Circle and Bristol Way
- Yvette Nicole Kolodji, 24180 Lyon Avenue
- Sandra Payne, Adobe Court and Pio Norte Drive

Haiku Poets of Northern California

HPNC held our fall quarterly meeting on October 15. The virtual gathering brought together members from all over the U.S. and one from Australia to hear two featured readers: Wakako Miya Rollinger, a film and new media columnist living in Topanga, CA, and Annette Makino, a haiku poet and artist based in Arcata, California who combines Japanese-inspired paintings and collages with her poems (see her virtual gallery at [Makino Studios](#)). Both of these readings are available on the [HPNC website](#). Our next meeting will feature Laszlo Slomovits and Jennifer Burd on January 21, 2024.

Garry Gay announced that the next Haiku North America conference will take place in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2025. A local planning committee is

busy now securing a venue for the conference and will announce the date and exact location soon. We hope to see many of you in SF in 2025!

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society News

YTHS returned to the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove for its annual 4-day retreat thanks to the work of Barbara Moore, Mimi Ahern, and Patricia Machmiller. Two special presenters, Nanae Tamura and Emiko Miyashita, gave numerous presentations: haiku talks; a haiku workshop; facilitated a formal kukai; and gave a calligraphy workshop. They also were the esteemed judges for this year's Tokutomi Contest. Contest Chair Kathabela Wilson presented the results - Wakako Rollinger taking 1st Prize. Naia, serving as editor and designer, presented the beautiful 2023 YTHS Members' Anthology— *between sun and shadow*. A surprise gift at the retreat was the presentation of a stunning new book, *Luminaries - Celebrating the Dōjin of Yuki Teikei Haiku Society*, edited by Christine Lamb Stern and designed by Jeannie Rueter. Linda Papanicolaou and Patrick Gallagher served as Renku Sabaki; other activities included early morning Tai Chi, an art party, and ginko walks along the Pacific Coast.



Yuki Teikei members at the retreat. Photo by Patrick Gallagher.



Shelley Baker-Gard
Oregon

HSA Oregon News

In-Person Meeting Notes

The Portland Haiku Group and several Oregon HSA members met on October

14th , at the Sellwood Community House. The whole meeting was devoted to a ginko walk to the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge which is about one mile from the community house. We were very lucky as it was not rainy – just a typical PNW cloudy fall day. Those hiking were: Shelley Baker-Gard, Leonard Gard, Cathy Merritt, Tanya McDonald, who shared many keen observations of the birds in the wetland area, Jacob Salzer, our photographer – see below, and James Rodriguez, who added a little flute music. We all had a fun time and along the way a few of us were able to compose haiku – here is a sampling:

By Jacob Salzer

hiding the depths—
a carpet of duckweed
on still water

still wetland . . .
the patience
of the heron

a train horn echoes
over the wetland
my friends' laughter

By Shelley Baker-Gard

crows hopping
to the ping pong of
tennis balls

leaves crackle -
above the conversation
a flaming maple

Next meetings

October 14th: The next meeting will be at the Sellwood Community House (SCH) at 1436 SE Spokane St. Shelley will collect the poems for the kukai., please send her by 11/9, any entries you want to share. 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, mark it with an asterisk *, otherwise all comments are only positive- what you liked about those you voted for. Also for the second half of the meeting, please bring a few examples of poetry you have recently experienced or read that you particularly enjoyed to share with the group. It does not need to be poetry influenced by Japanese forms.

Please let Shelley know if you have any questions at sbakergard@msn.com

The next Bi-monthly ZOOM only meeting is Sunday 11/26/23 from 2 pm – 4 pm: Email Shelley sbakergard@msn.com, if you want to receive the invitation – it is open to anyone. Please email to her your poem entries by 11/24 (2-3 haiku/senryu/tanka; or 1 haibun + 1-2 short poems).



Haijin enjoying the ginko walk.



Richard Tice
Washington

Haiku Northwest

Haiku Northwest met via Zoom October 12. We first noted our thirty-fifth anniversary year. Then we explored some of the many ways a reference to nature can lead us elsewhere, based on the essay “Meaning in Haiku” by Charles Trumbull (link available at <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/frogpond/2012-issue35-3>), which was a presentation at Sebeck Haiku Getaway in 2012 and was suggested reading before our gathering. We then shared haiku for comments and suggestions.

We ended October with the Seabeck Haiku Getaway, featuring presentations by haiku poet and naturalist Jeff Hoagland, haiku comics artist David Lasky, poet Lucien Zell from Prague, a reveal of the 2023 Porad Award winners, write-now activities, a *kukai* (haiku walk) at a state beach, and other activities. The full list of presentations can be found on the HN website. Our thanks to Michael Dylan Welch, Aidan Castle, Curtis Manley, John Green, and Susan Roberts, who formed the core of our planning committee.

Submitted by Dianne Garcia

Haiga Adventure, Puget Sound Sumi Artists

Muriel Taylor moderated a five-member session of the Haiga Adventure Group to consider ideas for our 2024 project. Cathy Tashiro led the study and haiku workshop session, which included this haiku by Dorothy Avery Matthews:

scraping sounds
on the driveway
first dry leaf

Other October activities included participation in Linda Papanicolaou's invitational Moon Viewing and Slide Show, staged in the Bay Area. David Berger, Melinda Brottem, Emily Kane, Judy Kalin, Dorothy A. Matthews, Selinda Sheridan, and Jeanne Kimura Young contributed haiga from the Northwest. The Puget Sound Sumi Artists (PSSA) also prepared the exhibit at the Seabeck Haiku Getaway and introduced *Gifts of Nature: PSSA Haiga Adventure 2023 Chapbook*, a full-color collection of haiga and haiku from members of Haiga Adventure.

PSSA is open to practicing sumi artists and those with interest in sumi-e. For information, please see <https://sumi.org>.

Submitted by Dorothy Matthews

Commencement Bay Haiku

Komo Kulshan Haiku gathered via Zoom on September 16, 2023. Present were Petro C.K., Seth Friedman, P. H. Fischer, Frank Frazee, Patrick Gallagher, John S Green, Lynn Jambor, Vicki McCullough, Victor Ortiz, C.J. Prince, Sheila Sondik, and Michael Dylan Welch.

all summer long
watering weeds—
thinking they were flowers

Jay Friedenber
Prune Juice #09

P. H. Fischer, co-editor of *Prune Juice Journal*, presented "Watering Weeds:

P. H. Fischer, co-editor of *Flame Juice Journal*, presented "Watering Weeds. Humour in Senryū." After brief definitions of senryū and humour, Peter led us through the ten senryū categories of humour as outlined by R. H. Blyth in his seminal book *Japanese Life and Character in Senryu* (1960): grim, tragic, irony, linguistic, kindly, Shakespearean, exposed pretence, indirectness, stupidity, and parody. We then delighted in humorous senryū submitted by participants and finished with anonymously workshopping our own attempts at humorous senryū. We laughed all afternoon!

Submitted by Victor Ortiz and Peter Fischer



Allyson Whipple
Midwest

Illinois State Poetry Society-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter

The ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter held its bimonthly Zoom chapter meeting on Sunday, October 15, 2023. Those who attended were Susan Auld, Jo Balistrieri, Tom Chockley, Jeanne Cook, Janice Doppler, George Gerolimatis, Sangita Kalarical, Rita Melisano, Win Morgan, Michael Nichols-Wisdom, Elizabeth Shack, and Jennifer Thiermann. After introductions, we began our meeting with an old haiku chapter tradition, discussion of a published haiku that delights and one that mystifies. Then we enjoyed the discussion of participants' haiku. These were presented anonymously.

Our next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting: Sunday, December 12. The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, December 5. Contact Tom Chockley (tomzhaiku@outlook.com) to receive further information and to receive the Zoom meeting link to attend.

HSA Midwest Member to Feature at the South Region Conference

HSA Midwest Member Charlotte Digregorio will be the Featured Speaker and Poet at The Haiku Society of America's 27th Annual South Region Conference, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10 & 11, at the Arlington Resort and Spa in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas. Charlotte will give a presentation on "Writing Artful Senryu" on Saturday, and attendees are welcome to bring in a favorite senryu that they've written to read to the group. On Friday, Charlotte will lead critique sessions. Participants are asked to bring in one or two of their poems of any Japanese form for critique. Charlotte will bring in a selection of about ten poems, written by HSA members from throughout the U.S., for discussion. The Conference is free and open to all haiku enthusiasts. Further, on

Wednesday, Nov. 8, there will be an open mic reading for all at Collective Coffee + Tea in Hot Springs. Charlotte will be the Featured Poet.

Charlotte, a retired professor, and author of *Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All*, and six other award-winning books, writes sixteen poetic forms, has won seventy-nine poetry awards, and was nominated for four Pushcart Prizes. Charlotte blogs about general writing for publication and poetry, and posts The Daily Haiku written by poets from sixty-one countries at www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com. Everyone is welcome to submit one of their haiku or senryu for the blog, either previously-published or unpublished, which will be considered for publication. You may contact Charlotte at c-books@hotmail.com with a submission.

Ohaio-ku Study Group

The Ohaio-ku Study Group met Saturday, October 10th from 10am to noon via Zoom, facilitated by Nicky Gutierrez. The following Ohio poets were in attendance: Nicky Gutierrez, Valentina Ranaldi-Adams, Nancy Brady, Jill Lange. The following visiting poets were in attendance: Janice Doppler, Ruth Holzer, Alan Summers, Jo Balisteri, Sarah Metzler.

We started our meeting with a presentation by Janice Doppler about Zoka.

After the presentation, we had announcements and ended the meeting early. The kukai theme is the same and is “comfort food.”

Our next meeting will be on November 11th 10am-12pm EST via Zoom. Rowan Beckett will be giving a presentation!!

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.



Scott Turner
Mid-Atlantic

Towpath Haiku Group

Meetings

The next regular meeting for Towpath Haiku will be held November 11th via Zoom.

Announcements

Towpath member Julie Bloss Kelsey won an Honourable Mention at the [Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Haiku Invitational](#), for her poem

cherry tree in bloom—
two pink lines

two pink lines
on the pregnancy test

And Towpath member Roberta Beary won an Award of Excellence in the [ITO EN Shinhaiku contest](#), for their poem

closed for repairs
cherry blossoms fill
the hotel pool

Roberta gave an online workshop titled “How to Haibun: Roberta Beary in Conversation with Jude Higgins,” on October 28th. More information can be found at [Flash Fiction Festival](#).



June Rose Dowis
South

South Region Report for November 2023

The Haiku Society of America will have its 27th South Region Conference, Friday and Saturday, November 10 & 11, at the Arlington Resort and Spa in Hot Spring National Park, Arkansas. Charlotte Digregorio is the featured poet who will be leading a talk on Writing Artful Senryu and a critique session. Participants are asked to bring in one or two of any Japanese form pieces for critique. The conference is open to all haiku enthusiasts.

Charlotte Digregorio, a retired professor and author of *Haiku and Senryu: A Simple Guide for All*, and six other award-winning books, writes sixteen poetic forms, has won seventy-nine poetry awards, and was nominated for four Pushcart Prizes. Charlotte blogs about general writing for publication and poetry and posts the Daily Haiku of Poets from sixty-one countries at www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com.

For more information on HSA South Region groups or information contact: junerosedowis@gmail.com.



The San Francisco Haiku Anthology: The Next Thirty Years

The editors of a new anthology of San Francisco Bay Area haiku are hoping to track down information on the literary executors or next of kin for the following deceased poets whose work we would like to include: Laura Bell, Kathleen Burgy, Evelyn Hermann, Pat Shelley, Carolyn Talmadge, and Eugenie Waldteufel. In addition, we are seeking a way to contact the poet Ty Hadman, who we believe is very much alive but no longer residing in the Bay Area. If anyone has information that may be useful, please contact Susan Antolin (susantolin@gmail.com), Garry Gay (photogarry@aol.com), or Carolyn Hall (carolynhall.sf@gmail.com). We greatly appreciate your help!

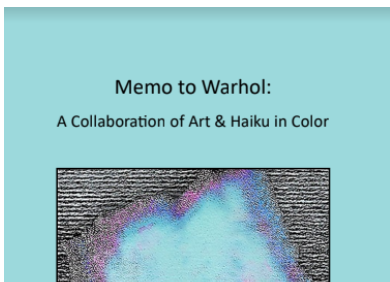


2024 Calendar of Art and Haiku by Annette Makino

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](#)



***Memo to Warhol: A Collaboration of Art & Haiku in Color* by Robert Epstein (Haiku) & Ed Markowski (Art)**

Robert Epstein and Ed Markowski are pleased to announce the publication of a new paperback book of art and poetry, *Memo to Warhol: Art & Haiku in Color*.



Robert Epstein, Haiku
&
Ed Markowski, Art

Foreword by Yvonne Cabalona
author of *Passages — Collected Haibun*

135pp; \$18.
Available at [Amazon.com](#): [Buy link](#)



Accepting Submissions!



2023 Backbone Press Haiku Chapbook Contest
Entry Fee \$20 Prize \$100 & Publication

Deadline: December 15th 2023
Final Judge: Chad Lee Robinson
See website for full submission guidelines:
www.backbonepress.org/how-to-submit

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.



***Pan Haiku Review* is open for submissions**

We are now accepting submissions for Pan Haiku Review 2, a journal founded and edited by Alan Summers.

It's all about 3-line haiku only, and must contain a seasonal reference (kigo) whether classic/traditional, modern, contemporary, experimental, or even speculative!

What is Speculative writing?

To freely explore possibility and impossibility alike within the seasons, and seasonal changes both 'traditional' and new seasonal features and developments.

The request is to send ONE previously published 3-line haiku with a seasonal reference, and ONE unpublished 3-line haiku with a seasonal reference. The window for submissions is 7 days only and will close on Tuesday 7th November 2023.

More details and the submission form can be found at:

<https://www.callofthepage.org/the-pan-haiku-review/>



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