

**From:** Haiku Society of America hsa.bulletin@gmail.com  
**Subject:** HSA Newsletter, January 2024  
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## Haiku Society of America January 2024 Newsletter



*Photo by Roberta Beach Jacobson*

### **Membership Renewals are Due!**

If you haven't renewed your membership yet, do so by **January 10th** to ensure you continue getting newsletters, *Froabond* issues, and the members' anthology in 2024. You can renew your

membership here: <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/join.htm>.

Please remember that if your mailing address has changed in the last year, you should **email Michelle Schaefer** at [HSASecWashington@gmail.com](mailto:HSASecWashington@gmail.com) in order to update your address. Please also contact Michelle if you have any questions or concerns about your membership status.

## From the Executive Committee



### President's Message

Bryan Rickert  
[bcrickert72@yahoo.com](mailto:bcrickert72@yahoo.com)

Dear HSA Members,

Happy New Year! I hope this email finds everybody well. I would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership before the new year began, but just wanted to state that it's never too late to renew or join for the first time.

The Executive Committee has set the date of November 1st of this year for the next HSA online haiku conference. The committee will be accepting proposals for presentations as soon as possible and would like to start structuring the one-day event within the next few months. Proposals can be emailed to me at [bcrickert72@yahoo.com](mailto:bcrickert72@yahoo.com). The deadline for proposals is Sunday, March 31st at 11:59 pm PST.

We are looking for presentations that do not restate or rehash the same topics covered in previous online conferences. We would also like to encourage our international members to consider presenting on topics that are relevant to where they live and aspects of haiku that are important to them.

The Haiku Society of America has a diverse membership body and exploring that diversity would be a wonderful overarching idea for this conference. I look forward to hearing all of your ideas in the upcoming months.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Rickert



### First Vice President

Gary Hotham  
[hsavicepres@aol.com](mailto:hsavicepres@aol.com)

### Start Your Submissions!

Submissions for the annual HSA Merit Book Awards have begun. You have until 15 February 2024. Full guidelines at: <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/hsa-contests.htm#meritbook>



The judges are ready to enjoy your creative work.

**Repeating 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. I suspect some clerks have a game of seeing how far they can throw a package. And of course how many times the package can be stepped on.

If you are sending the submission from another country put them in the mail early! It is amazing how a quick 21st century trip across the Atlantic can take as long as sailing across it in the 18th century.

Check your book's copyright date/print date. All submissions for the current award should be for books published in 2023. Yes, I have had submissions with a publication date a year or two before.

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.



**Second Vice President**

Sarah Paris  
[hsa.2vp.sarah@gmail.com](mailto:hsa.2vp.sarah@gmail.com)

**HSA Nicholas Virgilio Memorial Award**

On January 27, 2024, submissions will open for the 35th Annual Nicholas Virgilio Haiku and Senryu Competition for Grades 7-12.

Deadline: In hand by March 29, 2023. Entries received after that date will not be accepted.

Eligibility: Any student in grades 7 through 12 enrolled in school as of September 2023 may enter.

Regulations: Submit up to three haiku/senryu per student.

For full details: check the HSA website starting January 27, 2024:  
<https://www.hsa-haiku.org/virgilioawards/Virgilio-contest-guidelines.htm>



**Newsletter Editor**

Allyson Whipple  
[allyson@allysonwhipple.com](mailto:allyson@allysonwhipple.com)

Happy New Year! I'd like to extend a special welcome to our new officers, regional coordinators, and volunteers.

As you might remember, in 2023 I instituted new guidelines for newsletter content. The changes have made my job more efficient, and I'm grateful to those who have been diligent in using them!

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Since it's a new year, I thought this would be a good time to remind people of the guidelines. We have new leaders and new members, and the new year is an ideal point for a refresher.

All enrolled members of HSA are allowed (and encouraged) to submit information to the newsletter.

Remember that all news updates are due the **last day of the month** for the upcoming issue. So get your information in by January 31st for the February issue!

### **Editorial Standards for Newsletter Submissions**

1. Submissions must come in a Word document (not PDF)
2. Submissions should be in Arial font
3. No paragraph indents. Please include an extra space between paragraphs.
4. Headings should be 16-point font
5. Body text should be 12-point font
6. Regional coordinators are limited to one photo **per group** that they represent.
7. Regional coordinators are limited to 150 words **per group** they represent.



### **International Coordinator**

Michael Dudley  
[mjd.ic.hsa.23@gmail.com](mailto:mjd.ic.hsa.23@gmail.com)

Hearty best wishes of the new year to all of you, and may each of you enjoy many creative fulfillments throughout 2024!

How much I have appreciated communicating with members of the global haiku community and collaborating with Bryan on short, medium, and long term goals that are intended to provide meaningful opportunities for international presence and involvement within Haiku Society of America projects of various kinds, including publications and conferences.

Initially, as a practical and efficient foundational reference, an extensive international list of actively involved haiku poets, editors, translators, publishers, academics, scholars, and organizers was begun and continues to grow.

Additionally, some of the included individuals have been invited to compose and submit for editorial board consideration detailed essays on the current state of haiku within their own countries. These texts may include discussion of notable poets and poems, organizations and events, books and publications, as well as significant concepts within, approaches to, influences on, and developments of, the haiku form.

Recently, the HSA Executive members have discussed the 2024 HSA Conference, details of which are included within this newsletter's message from the President. Among the many contributors during the virtual gathering will be those presenting on engaging subjects from various global locales.

I keenly look forward to the next 12 months of possibilities and

activities, and will continue to keep you informed.

In celebration of creativity, connection, and community,  
peace and joy to you,  
Michael

## Corrections and Apologies

In the December 2023 issue, I published an erroneous update from the Southeast Region. Below is the corrected update from Michael Henry Lee, with clarifying emphasis from me.

Stanford M. Forrester, former HSA President and founder of bottle rockets press, shared remarks and a haibun **by Jerry Kilbride** about Virgilio. Forrester was privy to a number of 1st hand accounts from some of the HSA charter members about him, as Mr Forrester was a member of the ne-metro group in New York City and an HSA member since 1998.

My apologies for the mistake!

## In Memoriam

**Raffael de Gruttola**  
**May 15, 1935 – November 22, 2023**  
*by Judson Evans*

*Judson Evans shares this memorial and overview of his haiku poet and friend, Raffael de Gruttola, who died at age 88 last November 22, 2023. All haiku cited in this memorial are from Voice of the Cicada, self-published in 2014.*

Raffael de Gruttola was a man and haiku poet of complexity and contradiction. His haiku could home in on the most local and domestic images and rituals of ordinary life:

lost in the lights  
the high fly ball  
never comes down

but could equally span European literature for inspiration:

*after Federico Garcia Lorca*  
at five in the afternoon  
*a las cinco de la tarde*  
toreador...  
toro...

Raffael prized his father's involvement in the Italian anarchist tradition, and there was always an undercurrent of skepticism, rebelliousness, and outsider-dom in his love of Whitman, of the Blues, of characters on the margins:

comb  
with broken teeth  
Blues harmonica player

Yet he also craved domesticity with the forces of family, children, tradition, and the bounty of kitchen garden, joys of dogs, and a home built as both shelter and gallery of art.

*(For Lina)*  
garden sunflower  
day

each  
a new beginning

He loved the concrete promise of the haiku to knap the raw material of words to get to “things in themselves” and quoted William Carlos Williams’ famous cry of “not ideas but in things,” but he was also haunted by the risks of “the prison house of language.” He was well versed in the linguistic turn of 20<sup>th</sup> century poetics and often wrote his most enigmatic work at the razor’s edge of representation:

tracked dust...  
the wounds  
of envisioned summer

Behind family and domesticity and the seeming certainty of stabilities of perception and language, there is always:

wind  
rain  
and tomorrow  
wind  
rain

But in his ordinary presentation of self, in his role as chief proselytizer for haiku in the Boston area, Raffael was one of the founding members of the Boston Haiku Society (1987) and a guide and catalyst for many writers like me who had found their way to haiku in isolation and who were starved for a wider community and dialogue. He was also musician at heart with a faultless ear (I remember him noting that a florescent light in cafeteria was resonating in B flat), and a connoisseur of abstract expressionist art, which he collected. He was devoted as well to his cultural heritage as an Italian, which extended to his love of Opera and his championing of Italian American artists—particularly Nick Virgilio:

*For Nick Virgilio*  
in the chapel  
lost in the stained glass  
monarch butterfly

He was passionate about aesthetic theory, contemporary politics, social justice, environmental protection:

alone  
on a floe  
polar pup

And, equally dominant in Raffael’s intellectual world: the importance of language to culture—and particularly, the importance of bilingual education to U.S. education system. Above all, Raffael loved conversation, argument, and dialogue, and all these were marshaled to the cause of haiku, for which he acted as self-appointed spokesperson wherever he went.

Raffael was an instigator, an organizer; much of my thirty years friendship with Raffael was built out of collaboration. With our mutual friend Karen Klein, we created a Renku group we called the “Immature Green Heron Group” and wrote together several times a year taking turns hosting at our three residences. When we were hosted by Raffael and his generous, loving wife Lina, we were regaled with stories about the post-war artistic renaissance in Boston with poets like John Weiners and Stephen Jonas, as well as the painters and avant garde and experimental filmmakers of that era. Before the cell phone

painters and avant-garde and experimental filmmakers of that era. Before the cell phone or GPS, driving Raffael home late on the winding and disorienting Cape Cod roads, we often got so involved in conversation about philosophy and art – his latest exploration of postmodern theory or defense of Ezra Pound, or discovery of a challenging new poet, that we would get hopelessly lost and end up in laughter and chaotic unfolding of tattered maps from my glove compartment.

Raffael also brought a cosmopolitan sensibility to Boston Haiku and acted as a crucial agent provocateur of cross-cultural work with a group of us at Boston Haiku Society and the renku master Tadashi Kondo that led to experiments in performance renku with singers, dancers, and instrumentalists as well as poets. One of these experiments resulted in a renku adapted from a one act play, *HAIKU*, by Katherine Snodgrass, Director of the Boston Playwrights Theatre, with Karen Klein and myself, which premiered at Berklee College of Music in the Spring of 2009 with the music of Berklee composer Allen LeVines. Raffael's artistic enthusiasms were eclectic.

violin player  
the shape of the sound  
in her arms

Raffael's enthusiasm for blending haiku with performance motivated his leadership with Karen Klein and myself in hosting HNA at The Boston Conservatory & Kaji Aso Studio in in 2001, where we focused on "Haiku and Beyond," which included performances of works of music, dance, theater, and film that incorporated haiku.

His collaboration extended more broadly beyond our work together to his jazz-based renku group with Paul Mena and Brett Peruzzi who he met with monthly, as well as his many collaborations in dialogue with other poets, including two books of concrete haiku with Louisiana poet Carlos Colón: *Circling Blackbirds* and *Wall Street Park*. He also created collaborative haiga with visual artists in different media, most extensively with painter and printmaker Wilfred Croteau on the haiga collection *Echoes in the Sand* in 2000.

As a long-time friend and collaborator, Raffael was principled, argumentative, endlessly curious and experimental. He brought ready laughter, wit, a sense of the absurd, and a deep sense of wonder not only to his haiku, but to his passionate embrace of the sensory fascinations and human foibles of daily life. I have been struck in the last few years, as Raffael's failing health made me quite suddenly aware of his age –and the difference in our ages—how little that had ever mattered, how powerfully, despite the historical context of his early life, he lived and breathed in the contemporary and embodied Ezra Pound's commandment to poets: "make it new."

#### **A Short Bibliography**

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## News From the Regions

### California

*Deborah P. Kolodji*



#### Southern California Haiku Study Group

On December 16th, the Southern California Haiku Study Group met via zoom to read the haibun and linked verse from their new anthology, *The Taste of Sunlight*. Linked Verse editor, Marcyn Del Clements, was the emcee for the linked verse section, which was followed by Haibun Editor, Lorraine A Padden, who emceed the haibun section. 22 poets attended the reading. All of the poems were 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. The book was laid out by Diana Ming Jeong. It will be available in late January.

On Sunday, January 7th, the Southern California Haiku Study Group will host their annual post-holiday party at Nano Café, 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. The gathering starts at 1 pm. Poets will exchange “haiku gifts.” To RSVP, contact Debbie Kolodji at [dkolodji@aol.com](mailto:dkolodji@aol.com).

The January zoom workshop will be on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 2 pm. To participate, e-mail [SoCalHaikuStudyGroup@gmail.com](mailto:SoCalHaikuStudyGroup@gmail.com).

### Oregon

*Tanya McDonald*



**The Portland Haiku Group** met on December 9 at Shelley Baker-Gard's home. The meeting started with the kukai. The first place for haiku/senryu was a tie between Jacob Salzer and Donald Erceg, second and third place went to John Budan, and fourth place went to Shelley Baker-Gard. Jim Rodriguez accompanied the poetry with his impromptu



flute music. After the kūkai, Jacob Salzer gave a presentation on the how poets can organize and select poems for a chapbook. We also discussed publishing venues. Shelley mentioned that the Independent Publishers Resource Center in Portland is open to anyone seeking help with self-publishing. Several folks expressed interest, so we'll be planning a field trip to their office soon.

The next PHG meeting will be held at the Sellwood Community House on Saturday, January 13th from noon to 2pm. John Budan will be facilitating. Please email Shelley at [sbakergard@msn.com](mailto:sbakergard@msn.com) if you have any questions.

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**Umpqua Haiku** meets monthly in Roseburg, Oregon. Its founder, Steve Bahr, has this to say about the group. "At the Umpqua Haiku meetings, we study Japanese short form poetry two ways: by choosing and sharing published poems, and by giving feedback to each other's unpublished ones. Since we are a small group by choice, we are able to maximize our interaction and share our ideas more efficiently than a large group format allows. Personally, I have benefited tremendously from the Oregon and Washington Zoom meetings that I have attended the past three years that I have been writing haiku, but the immediacy of meeting locally in person with like-minded writers is even more beneficial and entertaining." If you are interested in attending a meeting, please contact Steve Bahr at [bahrbiz@gmail.com](mailto:bahrbiz@gmail.com) or visit the group's website <https://www.umpquahaiku.com>.

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**Mark your calendars!** This year's Haiku Oregon weekend will be held June 21–23 in Portland. This will be a weekend to celebrate Oregon haiku poets with readings, workshops, and presentations. Stay tuned for news regarding the venues and the schedule. If you have any questions, please contact Oregon regional coordinator Tanya McDonald at [tanyamc1375@gmail.com](mailto:tanyamc1375@gmail.com).

## Washington

*Richard Tice*

### Haiku Northwest

Twenty-two attended the Zoom meeting on Thursday, December 14. First, they shared haiku of their own and others on the theme of winter light.

ain't no sunshine . . .  
only snowflakes  
on rhododendrons

Kathleen Tice  
*Kingfisher* 1 (June 2020)



An examination of writing and revision points in Charles Trumbull's article "Meaning in Haiku" followed. The second hour was spent sharing poems submitted in advance for input.

The first meeting of 2024 will feature Tanya McDonald reading from her periodical *Kingfisher* and sharing how she achieved her dream of publishing a haiku journal.

For more general news, the *Brussels Sprout* project is nearing completion. All issues of the magazine edited by Francine Porad (the founder of Haiku Northwest) have been scanned and indexed and will soon be available on the Haiku Northwest website. Plans are also underway for celebrations of the 2024 Haiku Northwest's 35th anniversary.

Submitted by Dianne Garcia and Richard Tice

### **Haiga Adventure, Puget Sound Sumi Artists**

Five regulars met on Zoom Tuesday, November 19, to offer haiga tips and discuss 2024 plans. In 2024 third-Tuesday meetings start at 11:30 AM. Guests are welcome on a limited basis with links provided.

Haiga Adventure invites members and friends to view the full moon every month and write or paint about it, including impressions even when the moon cannot be seen. The group plans to share haiku and haiga from this activity at Seabeck Haiku Getaway in 2024.

end of the year  
full moon ○  
behind the clouds

Emily Kane

The January 16 meeting will feature David Berger's presentation of *Six Persimmons*, a Zen ink painting exhibited for the first time outside of Japan at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum. The 2023 chapbook *Gifts of Nature* may also be ordered with a donation. For any of the above, please contact Dorothy Avery Matthews at [Matthews.Poulsbo@gmail.com](mailto:Matthews.Poulsbo@gmail.com).

Submitted by Dorothy Matthews

### **Commencement Bay Haiku**

Because the regular meeting time in December fell on Christmas Day, the meeting has been rescheduled to January 8 at 5 pm Pacific time via Zoom. We will have a second meeting on the 22nd, our regularly scheduled meeting. We bring our haiku, senryū, tanka, kyōka, haibun, haiga, sets and sequences, and linked verse, including tan-renga and rengay, for sharing. Work about the new year is especially welcome for the 8th. For invitations contact Richard Tice at [retice1950@hotmail.com](mailto:retice1950@hotmail.com).

We have joined Haiga Adventure for moon viewing for 2024. Send your writing to Dorothy at the contact above or to Richard for sharing at our meetings. Submissions for the haiku walk are also open in January.

Submitted by Richard Tice

### **Other Active Groups in Washington**

**Rainier Haiku Ginsha** is a Japanese haiku association that meets on the first Saturday of each month. It follows the fixed form tradition of

the first Saturday of each month. It follows the fixed term tradition of *Hototogisu* magazine and is one of the oldest continuing Japanese haiku and senryū groups in the U.S. **Komo Kulshan Haiku** meets in odd-numbered months. Regionally it includes the northern Puget Sound and Vancouver/Victoria area but welcomes guests. **Mondays at Three**, represented by Ann Spiers, is a group that meets on Vashon Island. **Montesano Haiku** meets on Wednesday mornings. It is a study group near Aberdeen spearheaded by Susan Lee Roberts. **A new downtown Seattle haiku study group** at the Seattle Folio Athenaeum is planned for the third Wednesday of each month at 3 pm, starting in February.

## Southwest

*Agnes Eva Savich*

The Austin Haiku Group had our fall October 14 meeting immediately following the annular eclipse, which led to the immediate sharing of many freshly written eclipse haiku! We also used the meeting to hash out a public-friendly definition of modern haiku and plan out the following weekend, where we held a really great haiku event at local book store BookWoman on October 22. Christa Pandey, Melanie Alberts, Agnes Eva Savich, Claire Vogel Camargo, Tracy Koretsky, Paméla Overeynder and Patricia Wilson were present and shared how they each discovered haiku as well as read from recent work. We had a nice dozen people in attendance. We last met December 2 at the home of member Tracy Koretsky, along with Agnes Eva Savich, Claire Vogel Camargo, and Paméla Overeynder. We had a holiday book exchange, workshopped poems in-depth, and had a haiga generating workshop with artwork. Our next meeting will be in February.



Agnes Eva Savich Reading at the BookWoman event.

## Midwest

*Position Vacant*



If you live in a Midwest state, **please consider stepping up to volunteer as coordinator!** We need your help to keep things running smoothly!



\*\*\*\*\*

**Charlotte Digregorio** of Illinois was recently featured in two articles in Arkansas publications, *The Sentinel-Record newspaper* and *Springs Magazine*, about her decades of work in educating the public about haiku. The articles appeared in conjunction with her haiku speaking engagements in Central Arkansas hosted by the Southern Region of the Haiku Society of America and by the Poet Laureate of Hot Springs.

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### **Illinois State Poetry Society-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter**

The ISPS-HSA Haiku Chapter held its bimonthly Zoom chapter meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2023. Those who attended were Jo Balistreri, Tom Chockley, Jeanne Cook, Janice Doppler, Susan Farner, George Gerolimatis, David Green, Margie Gustafson, Jeff Kressmann, Elizabeth Shack, Jill Spealman, Jennifer Thiermann, Carole Novak, and Katheryn Haydon.

We began our meeting with an old haiku chapter tradition, discussion of a published haiku that delights. Then we enjoyed the discussion of participants' haiku. These were presented anonymously. And each poet had a chance to talk about the haiku moment that evoked the haiku as well as to ask for any additional feedback regarding the haiku.

#### **Our next Haiku Chapter Zoom Meeting: Sunday, February 18, 2024.**

The deadline for RSVPs to attend will be Tuesday, Feb. 13. Contact Tom Chockley ([tomzhaiku@outlook.com](mailto:tomzhaiku@outlook.com)) to receive further information and to receive the Zoom meeting link to attend.

### **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: Nicky Gutierrez, Valentina Ranaldi-Adams, Doug B, Matthew Markworth, Nancy Brady, and Elliot Nicely. The following visiting poets were in attendance: Ruth Holzer, Allyson Whipple, Sarah Metzler, and Janice Doppler.

We started our meeting with a reading by Allyson Whipple on her new book *Postcards from Texas* (Cuttlefish Books).

After the reading, we had our kukai. The kukai theme was "ancient winter/ creatures/ traditions." In third place, we had Nancy Brady; in second, we had Allyson Whipple, and in first, we had Sarah Metzler. Instead of prizes, they all receive honor and round of applause.

Then we workshopped and made announcements. Next kukai theme is "first laughter/first smile."

Our next meeting will be on January 20th 10am-12pm EST via Zoom. Please check the Ohio Haiku Facebook page for meeting information. Or for out of stateers who wish to join us, please contact Nicky Gutierrez.

Or for out-of-staters who wish to join us, please contact Nicky Gutierrez, [nickgootz@gmail.com](mailto:nickgootz@gmail.com).

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

### **Evergreen Haiku Study Group**

The Evergreen Haiku Study Group, based in East Lansing, Michigan, has convened its first four monthly meetings of its 2023-24 season, all via Zoom.

In September, the group hosted Scott Mason, whose presentation "What Makes a Winning Haiku" engaged participants with ideas about how to reward one's reader and listener and how to generate surprise, among other topics.

In October, Laz Slomovits hosted a kukai, for which members anonymously submitted three haiku each. After reading and discussion, favorite haiku were voted on. The top vote-getters were awarded haiku books as prizes.

In November, Jennifer Burd hosted a discussion of Crystal Simone Smith's award-winning chapbook *Ebbing Shore*, which is comprised of pieces inspired by Crystal's visits to plantations and other sites associated with slavery in the United States. The wide-ranging discussion explored the different ways that a cultural moment can be presented within a haiku moment.

In December, Michele Root-Bernstein hosted an anonymous critique, for which members submitted haiku in advance. The group explored the merits of each poem as well as suggestions for improving effectiveness and appeal.

The Evergreen Haiku Study Group will not meet in January, as the steering committee will meet then to plan the remaining four meetings of the year (February through May). Evergreen Haiku is open to residents of Michigan and contiguous Midwest states. For more information, e-mail [evergreenhaiku@gmail.com](mailto:evergreenhaiku@gmail.com).

Submitted by Jennifer Burd

### **South**

*Howard Lee Kilby*

Bravo to June Rose Dowis for serving as the South Region Coordinator and doing such an outstanding job. Standing ovation!

The South Region is composed of Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. How I long to see more activities in the region.

Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas has a haiku club that meets the first Friday of every month. Elections are underway for a new president. Stay tuned.

We've had annual haiku conferences in the South Region since 1997. If



you have an idea for an autumn haiku conference in your area, please contact me.

It is an honor to be a member of the Haiku Society of America.

Act now! Enter the 35<sup>th</sup> Itoen Haiku Contest. Deadline 29 February.

## Mid-Atlantic

Scott S. Turner



### Towpath Haiku

#### Meetings

Towpath Haiku's next meeting will be held January 13, 2024, at 1pm EST via Zoom. For more news and updates from Towpath Haiku, find us at [towpathhaiku.com](http://towpathhaiku.com) and [@towpathku](https://twitter.com/towpathku).

#### Announcements

Roberta Beary won Grand Prize in the 28th "Kusamakura" International Haiku Competition, Foreign Language Category. This is Roberta's second Grand Prize in this competition, having previously won in 2005. Their winning poem this year is

war zone  
a soldier  
unhands  
the firefly

Additionally, "Clouds in Paper," a collection of haibun on the theme of interbeing curated by Ryland Shengzhi Li, was published recently and is available at [The Young Buddhist Editorial](#).

## Northeast

Kristen Lindquist

### HSA Northeast / New England News

For this first newsletter of the new year and my first news blurb as the Northeast regional coordinator, I just want to say how honored I am to represent the New England states for HSA. I also want to send a big *thank you* to Wanda Cook, who retired as the regional coordinator at the end of 2023, for serving us well for so many years.

Wanda has also retired her longtime, lovingly edited monthly newsletter, *New England Letters*, so I will be thinking up something new to share with HSA's New England members on a regular basis. If you have any ideas, I am open to hearing them. In the meantime, haiku groups, please send me your news to share with the larger HSA community!



# News and Announcements

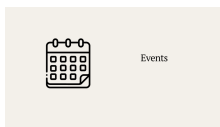
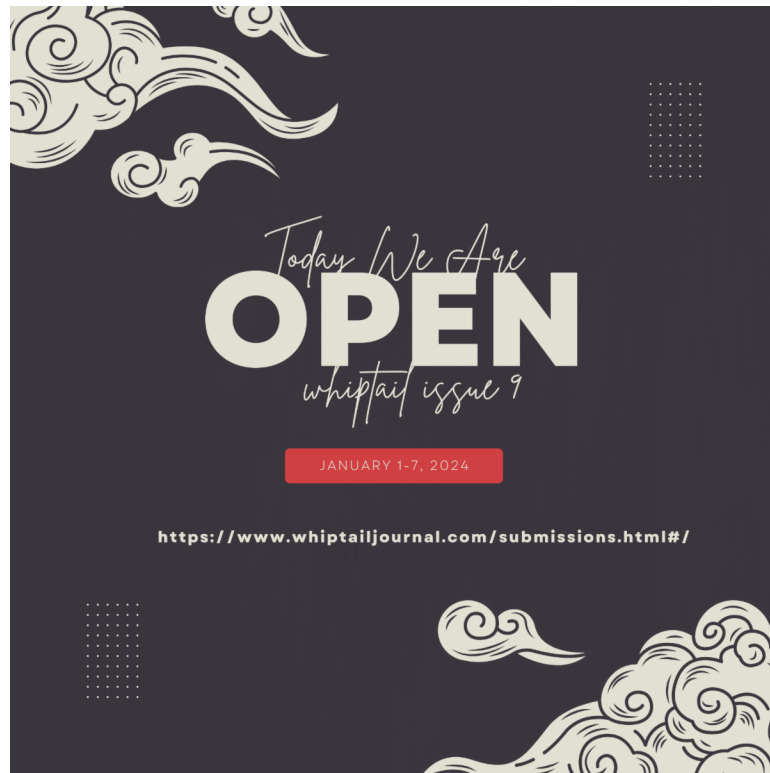


## Article Heading

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## Text Link

### *whiptail* Open Until January 7th

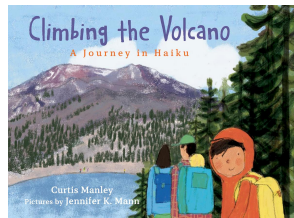
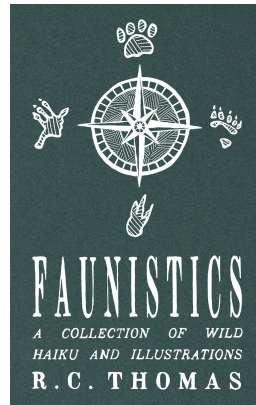


### ***Faunistics* Book Launch - 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7pm BST**

R.C. Thomas launches his haiku collection, 'Faunistics', with a Zoom reading on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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**



### ***Climbing the Volcano: A Journey in Haiku* by Curtis Manley**

*Climbing the Volcano* is a children's picture book with text in the form of a haiku sequence told in the voice of a young boy climbing Oregon's South

Sister volcano with his family. Trekking uphill, they encounter tiny toads, colorful butterflies, soaring birds of prey, and so much more to see, do, and feel. Breezy, childlike artwork harmonizes with the haiku to chronicle this mesmerizing Pacific Northwest journey, a gentle call to adventure in the great outdoors.

“Fragments of beauty and knowledge echo the fleeting nature of encounters with life in the wild, and readers share the young hiker’s sense of triumph at having taken on an impressive expedition that feels well within the realm of the possible.” – *Publishers Weekly*

The book will be available from your local bookstore or online, beginning January 9, 2024—but it can be pre-ordered before the release date.

Buy from [Amazon](#)  
Buy from [Barnes & Noble](#)  
Buy from [Bookshop.org](#)



### ***Eira* by Lew Watts (Snapshot Press)**

Described as “Stunning” (Tanya MacDonald) and “Extraordinary” (Roberta Beary), a new collection of haibun and haiku from Touchstone Award winner Lew Watts.

Copies are available from Snapshot Press at

<https://www.snapshotpress.co.uk/books/eira.htm>





Coming Contests

## The Heliosparrow Haiku Frontier Awards, 2024

<https://heliosparrow.com/heliosparrow-haiku-frontier-awards-2024/>

Honoring the explorative in haiku & short poetry, in five categories: 1) *Haiku*; 2) *Alterku* (showcasing extended-form haiku drawing strongly on haiku form, technique or style); 3) *haibun*; 4) *linked/collaborative, and related*; and 5) *short poem/prose-poem*.

All poems accepted by the journal will be considered for the awards. Poets may additionally submit up to 20 unpublished poems to [helios.sparrow@gmail.com](mailto:helios.sparrow@gmail.com) by February 15, 2024. Our judges are: Jennifer Hambrick, Michelle Tennison, Clayton Beach, and Richard Gilbert. Please visit Heliosparrow <https://heliosparrow.com> for additional information.

Haiku Society of America | P.O. Box 31, Nassau, NY 12123

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