

From: Haiku Society of America allyson@haikusocietyofamerica.ccsend.com
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To: brooksbooks@gmail.com



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Haiku Society of America February 2024 Newsletter

Photo by Susan Spooner

Thank You for Being a Member!

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.

Please remember that if your mailing address changes during the year, you should **email Michelle Schaefer** at HSAsecWashington@gmail.com in order to update your postal address and receive your copies of *Frogpond* and the annual anthology.

From the Executive Committee

President's Message

Bryan Rickert
bcrickert72@yahoo.com

Dear HSA Members,

I hope this email finds you well. I would like to thank everyone who sent in ideas and proposals for our next online conference on November the 2nd of this year. The roster is far from full for this event so I would like to encourage our membership body to consider presenting. As in the past, presentations will last about fifty minutes. If this is too long of a time to present your ideas, feedback has shown that many participants enjoyed the breakout sessions. In this way, a presentation could last 35 minutes and be accompanied by a fifteen minute breakout session that ends with a reading.

I have always bragged that the haiku community is one of great diversity. So many people from so many different walks of life. What unique perspective do you have on haiku? What aspect of haiku are you interested in and are reading about? Knowing that the conference is months away, is there a new idea in haiku that you would like to research and present to our

group? There is still plenty of time to be creative and prepare. Presentations can be historical, cultural, biographical, linguistic, or about style. What is it that you have always wanted to know about haiku? Now is your opportunity to dig in and report your findings. I would also like to encourage our international members to bring their voice and their haiku traditions to the conference. Everybody truly has something to share.

Be creative and above all else have some fun. The deadline for proposals is March the 30th. Please send me your ideas to bcrickert72@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Bryan

First Vice President

Gary Hotham
hsavicepres@aol.com

HSA Merit Book Submission Deadline Coming Soon!

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

The judges are ready to enjoy your creative work.

NB: All submissions so far have received an e-mail reply from me. If one was included in the submission. If you submitted books and have not received a confirmation e-mail contact me: hsavicpress@aol.com Also check your spam folder!

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.

Second Vice President

Sarah Paris

hsa.2vp.sarah@gmail.com

Upcoming 2024 Contests

HSA Nicholas Virgilio Memorial Award

Teachers, parents, young poets: The gates are open for the annual Nicholas Virgilio Haiku and Senryu competition for Grades 7-12.

Deadline: In hand by March 27, 2024. 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 per student.

Full details: <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/virgilioawards/Virgilio-contest-guidelines.htm>

HSA Rengay Award in Honor of Garry Gay

Time to start collaborating for the annual HSA Rengay Contest!

Deadline: Submissions will be accepted from April 1 to May 31, 2023.

Eligibility: The contest is open to the public. HSA officers who are members of the executive committee are not eligible, but regional coordinators may enter.

Awards: First Prize, \$200; Second Prize, \$150; Third Prize, \$100.

Full details coming soon!

Newsletter Editor

Allyson Whipple

allyson@allysonwhipple.com

Soft Launch of Newsletter Submission Form

In order to better manage the volume of newsletter submissions, I am soft-launching a new Google Form to handle all membership updates. The point of the soft launch is to check for any major logistical issues before making the form the official way to submit

newsletter content.

The benefit of this form is that it will store your submissions easily in my Google Drive and give you an automatic response to verify that your submission went through. This keeps my inbox under control, reduces errors, and ensures you know that I actually got your message.

I am asking all HSA executive committee members, regional coordinators, and members to use the new form for your March updates. (Exceptions are detailed below the link.) If you run into any issues, please use my standard email to send your update, and also let me know the specifics of the problem you encountered. I can't fix the issue without the details!

Please use the following link to send any March updates:
<https://forms.gle/3ZjG6WWbfUKZQeq27>

Exceptions: if you have *already* sent me a March update as of February 5th, **or** if you have already submitted to the photo pool, you do **not** need to resubmit.

Formatting Note: The new form allows for either the copy and pasting of updates, or the uploading of attachments. Editorial standards 1, 2, 4, and 5 apply only to those using the attachment method. Guidelines 3, 6, and 7 apply to all members, regardless of if they are using the copy-paste method or the attachment method.

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.

Corrections and Apologies

Towpath Haiku representative Matt found a formatting error in Roberta Beary's Kusamakura-winning haiku reprinted in the January issue.

Roberta's haiku should have appeared this way:

war zone
a soldier unhands
the firefly

A note to all submitters: pasting poems into email can often alter the formatting in unintended ways. If you are sharing any haiku that are formatted in anything other than left-alignment, I recommend sending them as an attachment.

Featured Essay

Alku and You

May 15, 1935 – November 22, 2023

by Cody Huddleston

lost in thought
the faint babble
of a distant brook

AI is making waves in every area of technology, and, by implication, culture. Whether these waves are tidal remains to be seen, with some arguing that AI will guide us towards a utopia, others fearing an Orwellian hellscape headed by a digital Big Brother, and still more arguing that all AI can do is shuffle around data, making it, at best, a convenience, and at worst, a tool for misinformation.

But how does any of this pertain to haiku? Can ChatGPT or any of its competitors create haiku? Sure, they can write poems in the outdated 5-7-5 mode, but can they create anything of aesthetic merit? And, if not, how long until they can? What about the use of AI as a tool for revising our poems? Why let a poem sit in a drawer for months on end when there's a submission deadline at midnight and you still aren't sure if that stunning haiku you wrote yesterday is really as good as you think it is? And what about the ethical and philosophical considerations that the use of AI in haiku presents? The attribution of authorship becomes blurred when AI generates poetry. Does the AI or the programmer behind it deserve credit for the generated haiku?

Despite these issues, AI offers intriguing possibilities for poets working within the haikai genre. AI can serve as a tool or muse, inspiring us with prompts, suggesting words or themes, or even analyzing vast collections of haiku to aid in the creative process. The collaboration between human creativity and AI innovation might lead to hybrid forms of haiku that blend the depth of human insight with the computational capabilities of AI systems.

At present, the limitations of AI in generating haiku are evident. AI struggles to grasp the subtleties of seasonal nuances, the emotive depth of human experiences, and the profound silences inherent in haiku. The spontaneity and "aha" moment, a hallmark of a well-crafted haiku, often elude AI-generated attempts. These challenges emphasize the irreplaceable role of human intuition, emotion, and artistic sensibility in crafting haiku that resonate with readers.

ChatGPT wrote the above haiku. It took about a dozen prompts for me to "teach" it the form, which I did by feeding it dozens of my previously published poems and asking it to write in a similar vein, correcting silly mistakes along the way (especially its tendency to slip back into 5-7-5 and to rely on clichés like "dance," "memory," "dreams," and "autumn leaves".) It took another five prompts to encourage it to revise the above poem. But the result was a quality haiku.

Should journals allow haiku written primarily or partially by AI? What if AI is simply used to provide writing prompts or conduct research? My advice is this: Whatever you do, do it in full disclosure, limiting yourself to sending Alku only to journals that accept email or paper submissions, as opposed to web forms. This way, you can put asterisks next to your AI-assisted poems and attach an appropriate disclaimer

beneath them, leaving it up to the editor to determine if their journal is an appropriate place to host such work.

Regardless of how unready the haiku world is, AI is already affecting our ecosystem. Haiku, haibun, and essays can be inspired, revised, and even written from scratch by AI. The implications of this are, depending on your disposition, likely somewhere between unsettling and terrifying.

Two paragraphs of this essay were written by ChatGPT. Can you tell which two? Probably. It tends to fall into the writing style of a college freshman vaguely afraid of its professor. But can you tell which of these haiku was written by it?

tombstone's shadow
the silent prayer
of a daisy

empty bedroom
the sparrows mend
their nest

News From the Regions

California

Deborah P. Kolodji

Descanso Gardens Haiku Workshop

On February 10, 2024, Descanso Gardens is sponsoring a haiku walk and workshop to coincide with the camellia bloom. The workshop will be from 10:30 am to 12 pm, and will be conducted by Deborah P Kolodji. The workshop is free and open to all with admission to the garden. There is no registration requirement. Descanso Gardens is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011.

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society - Tokutomi Memorial Contest 2024

Dōjin

President Linda Papanicolaou opened the Zoom meeting, which would reveal the kigo chosen for the 2024 Tokutomi Memorial Contest, named in honor of YTHS founders, Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi. Kathabela Wilson, Tokutomi Contest Chair, announced the contest kigo and submission guidelines. She had requested kigo suggestions from *Dōjin* SPhillip R. Kennedy. He commented on the importance of the season and recommended that the kigo and the season both “echo” throughout a haiku. Rick Wilson heralded the seasons with beautiful Japanese flute music.

- New Year: first sunrise
- Spring: balloon, tulip, artichoke
- Summer: billowing clouds/cloud peaks, summer concert, phlox
- Autumn: autumn woods, cricket(s), long night/lengthening night

- Winter: snowman/snowperson, winter bee, turnip

The February 10, 2024 meeting will be a Zoom workshop given by Dōjin Phillip Kennedy, “New Yuki Teikei *Kiyose* (Season Word Handbooks) Project.”

Submitted by: J. Zimmerman & Alison Woolpert

Haiku Poets of Northern California

The Haiku Poets of Northern California held its first meeting of 2024 via Zoom on January 21. More than 50 poets attended to hear featured readers, Jennifer Burd and Laszlo “Laz” Slomovits, read their haiku and collaborate on a musical performance. A recording of their readings and musical collaboration can be found on the **HPNC website**.

After the program, results of the HPNC-sponsored contests for haiku, senryu and tanka were announced. Results and the judges’ commentaries are now available on the **HPNC website**. Submissions to the HPNC-sponsored renga contest are currently being accepted, and the contest deadline has been extended to February 29 (this year only). Submission guidelines can be found on the **HPNC website**.

Jennifer Burd and Laz Slomovits

Southern California Haiku Study Group January 7, 2024 – Haiku Gifts Exchange

On a cold Sunday afternoon, 20 members of the Southern California Haiku Study Group met at Nano Café, in Sierra Madre, California, to exchange the haiku gifts they had made. Gifts ranged from a haiku about champagne that actually came with a small personal body of champagne, to boxes of chocolate with haiku, to haiga, and other artistic interpretations of a haiku. The gathering was attended by Scott Galasso, D’Ellen, Bona Santos, Jackie Chou, Kim Esser, Patricia Wakimoto, Charles Harmon, Maja Trochimczyk, Sandra Payne, Deborah P Kolodji, Lynn Allgood, Sandra Payne, Kathabela Wilson, Yvette Nicole Kolodji, Susan Rogers, Mary Torregrossa, Mynor Loarca, Joan Fingon, Tad Wojnicki, and Sharon Yee. It was good to be able to meet up in person.

January 20, 2024 – Workshop

On Saturday, January 20th, haiku poets met by zoom for our monthly workshop. Following our customary read-around of haiku, our zoom tech, Joan Fingon, introduced our featured presenter, Yvette Nicole Kolodji, who gave a presentation/workshop on “Finding Singularity in Haiku.” After defining some definitions of singularity, she gave examples from the June 2023 Haiku Foundations Haiku of the Day, which she guest edited on the theme of “singularity.” Each haiku was accompanied by the artwork she

drew for each poem and participants were asked to discuss how each haiku embodied a facet of singularity. After the presentation, there was a ten minute writing session inspired by the topic. Participants were asked to send their poems privately to Yvette, she then shared them anonymously in the chat and we had an anonymous haiku workshop on the haiku written. We didn't have time to discuss all of the haiku submitted, so we are planning to continue that portion of the workshop next month at the February 17th zoom workshop.

Back: Kim Esser, D'ellen, Scott Galasso, Joan Fingon, Charles Harmon, Yvette Nicole Kolodji, Tad Wojnicki, Patricia Wakimoto. Front: Jackie Chou, Bona Santos, Mary Torregrossa, Deborah P Kolodji, Maja Trochimczyk, Sandra Payne. Photo by Lynn Allgood

Oregon

Tanya McDonald

Due to an ice storm, the **Portland Haiku Group** postponed their January meeting until Saturday February 10. It will be held at the Sellwood Community House from noon to 2pm and John Budan will be facilitating. Please email Shelley Baker-Gard at **sbakergard@msn.com** if you have any questions.

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**Umpqua Haiku** meets the first Wednesday of the month at the Roseburg Public Library. For more information, please visit the group's website: **<https://www.umpquahaiku.com>**

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On January 28, the first **Haiku Oregon** meeting of the year took place on Zoom. Eight poets were in attendance, ranging from Portland all the way south to Ashland. Shelley Baker-Gard spoke about the Portland Haiku Group and Steve Bahr provided background on Umpqua Haiku in Roseburg. Although there is currently no haiku group meeting in Ashland, the hope was expressed that this might change in the future. After these introductions, everyone participated in an anonymous haiku critique session, offering constructive feedback on six haiku that were submitted by attendees. Haiku Oregon will meet again on Zoom in March.

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 questions, please contact Oregon regional coordinator Tanya McDonald at **tanyamc1375@gmail.com**.

Washinaton

Richard Tice

Haiku Northwest

Haiku Northwest met the evening of January 11 via Zoom. Our featured speaker Tanya McDonald discussed the founding and challenges of publishing *Kingfisher*, a pocket-sized haiku journal. She read a selection of haiku and senryū from the first eight issues and noted submissions are open in February. Our meeting concluded with an open critique of work submitted by attendees. On Saturday February 10 from 1 to 4 PST Michael Dylan Welch will host our meeting, featuring Anne Burgevin and Nicholas Klaczansky. Connie Hutchison will present another of our 35th anniversary moments, "The Swinging Grasshopper: How Bob Major Inspired a HNW Tradition." If you'd like to receive a zoom invite to this meeting, please contact Dianne Garcia at garciadianne@hotmail.com. Finally, many of us are looking forward to participating in NaHaiWriMo, writing a haiku a day during the month of February based on prompts in Facebook.

Submitted by Dianne Garcia

Haiga Adventure, Puget Sound Sumi Artists

Guests Kathleen and Richard Tice and Michael Dylan Welch joined ten regular Haiga Adventure members on Zoom January 16. David Berger narrated and showed slides of his art venture of two days enduring long lines to see 13th-century Chinese ink paintings, *Persimmons* and *Chestnuts*. The art from Kyoto, Japan, had taken its first journey out of Japan to the San Francisco Asian Art Museum. David included concurrent leading-edge contemporary Japanese anime, manga, and monster theme exhibits.

the tree
at mom's old house
six ripe persimmons
Kathleen Tice

Guests are welcome to the February 20, 11:30 AM, meeting. Contact Dorothy Matthews at Matthews.Poulsbo@gmail.com for the Zoom link. February 24 is the next full moon; send haiku of your night-sky, full-moon viewing to Dorothy for a moon-viewing chapbook to be distributed at the October Seabeck Haiku Getaway Conference.

We are pleased to announce that the new PSSA president is Judy Kalin.

Submitted by Dorothy Avery Matthews

Commencement Bay Haiku

Our group met twice in January, one meeting in place of the postponed December meeting and the other to read our haiku

postponed December meeting and the other to read our haiku. January 8th opened the new CBH New Year. Ten regulars workshopped and critiqued their work.

Aidan Castle read a haibun, and Peggy Castro relayed memories of her grandfather in tanka. Bill Fay explained his practice of using idioms from disciplines like music, politics, and law. Here is one example:

acceptance speech
the call and response
from the robin's nest
Bill Fay

CBH met on January 22 to "Celebrate the Light" with a retrospective reading. Poets were invited to mix and match poems from their own work in 2023 and choose ten favorite published or unpublished haiku and related works to show and read. Fifteen members read their work of haiku, senryū, tanka, essay, renga, cherita, and haibun.

last toast among friends—
a rosé
the color of twilight
Dianne Garcia

Submitted by Kathleen Tice and Dorothy Avery Matthews

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 *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

Joan Canby will be facilitating a two-hour haiku/senryu workshop at the Writer's Garret in Dallas on March 9 (writersgarret.org). She will be discussing the basics of haiku and senryu, providing handouts of examples for an hour and then the next hour it will be a generative workshop.

ABQ Haiku (Albuquerque, NM)

Marylyn Burrige, Terranda King, Josh Rappaport, Janet Ruth, Scott Wiggerman, and Nancy Wohlenberg met on January 18th at an Oasis classroom. We discussed a plan for learning and applying the material in Lee Gurga's book, *Haiku: A Poet's Guide*.

The assigned reading for the February 20 meeting begins on Page 13, "The Art of Haiku" and continuing to Page 24 to "Season." We ended with reading and commenting on each member's two poems submitted in advance.

New Meeting Space and Time

Date and Time: Tuesday, February 20, 1:30-3:30

Place: North Valley Library Meeting Room

Austin Haiku Group

Our next meeting will be February 17, 10:30-12:30, at the private home of one of our group members. We are planning on workshopping poems, and a discussion of A New Resonance 13. Group leader Agnes Eva Savich was recently elected as the HSA Southwest Regional Coordinator and is planning on networking with the other regional coordinators before coming up with a plan for the year.

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!

Ohaio-ku Study Group

The Ohaio-ku Study Group met Saturday, January 20th from 10am to noon via Zoom, facilitated by Nicky Gutierrez. The following Ohio poets were in attendance: Nicky Gutierrez, Barbara Sabol, Nancy Brady, and Valentina Ranaldi-Adams. The following visiting poets were in attendance: Janice Doppler, Ruth Holzer, and Allyson Whipple.

We had our read around and discussion on haiku events and our writing goals for the year.

After our discussion we had our kukai. The kukai theme was "First laugh/first smile." In third place, we had Janice Doppler; in second, we had Ruth Holzer, and in first, we had Nancy Brady. Instead of prizes, they all receive honor and round of applause.

Then we workshopped and made announcements. Next kukai theme is "Leap Day/ Leap Year."

Our next meeting will be on February 10th 10am-12pm EST via Zoom.

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.

Illinois State Poetry Society-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter

The Illinois State Poetry Society-Haiku Society of America Haiku Chapter invites you to its regularly scheduled Zoom meeting on Sunday, February 18, 2024, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

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

- Please send Tom your RSVP by Tuesday, February 13.
- For those RSVPing, Tom will send out the meeting agenda and further information when he receives your reservation.

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

South

Howard Lee Kilby

My objective is simple: Build Membership in the South Region. Will you help me? We are 29 members strong. It's fun to have an objective. I'd like to see our numbers grow. I've given memberships to a lot of people during the past 30 years. Lee Gurga once called me a Haiku Evangelist. He was right. I still am.

Hang on folks, we're going forward.

Email me at hkilby@hotmail.com or call 501-767-6096.

We need someone to serve as a point person for each state. As a man once said, "Let's Roll!"

Enjoying a meal at the South Region 27th Haiku Conference. From Left, Arkansas Poet Laureate Suzanne Underwood Rhodes, Theresa Mormino, Julie Zimmermann, Maxine Dickerson, Julia Ranft, Christina Beck, Alan Beck, Howard Lee Kilby, Dr. John H. Han, Lorena Sayles, William Sayles and our featured poet, Charlotte Digregorio.

Mid-Atlantic

Scott S. Turner

Towpath Haiku

Meetings

Towpath Haiku met on January 13th via Zoom, with 16 attendees in total. The group welcomed several new faces and engaged a lively round of introductions, sharing of poems, and workshopping. An in-person event is scheduled for February 3rd, and the next regular meeting will be March 9th via Zoom.

Northeast

Kristen Lindquist

Information Needed

While I've initiated Nor'easter, a monthly e-newsletter for HSA members living in New England through which we can share poems and information, I have no information on any public haiku groups meeting in the region. Please share with me your group information—and any other relevant news—so that I can share it with New England members! Email kelindquist@gmail.com with relevant updates.

News and Announcements

Call for Submissions on the Theme of Love: the Good, Bad, or Ugly

Charlotte Digregorio seeks submissions of haiku, senryu, or tanka for her blog, www.charlottedigregorio.wordpress.com, on the theme of Love: the Good, Bad, or Ugly. Her blog includes "The Daily Haiku," with writers from sixty-one countries. You may email Charlotte with just one of your poems on this theme at c-books@hotmail.com. Previously-published or unpublished will be considered. (No poems will be edited.)

Deadline: Feb. 12.

Selected poems will appear in a post on Feb. 14.

Call for Submissions: Haiku in the New Jersey Botanical Garden

For the seventh year the Haiku Poets of the Garden State will again partner with the New Jersey Botanical Garden in Ringwood, NJ, on an installation of haiku poetry signs throughout the garden grounds to celebrate Poetry Month in April.

For the April 2024 Poetry Month Haiku Installation at the New Jersey Botanical Garden, we invite poets who currently live in, or have previously resided in, New Jersey to submit up to 10 haiku for consideration. We are looking for quality, garden-related haiku that will enhance the visitors' experience of the botanical gardens and the historic manor on the grounds. Here is a link to the NJ Botanical Garden website for reference: <https://njbg.org/>

You may submit previously published haiku as long as you hold the rights to the poetry.

Submissions should be emailed to: GardenHaiku@gmail.com. The haiku should be included in the body of the email. No attachments—attachments will not be opened or considered. Email subject line must be: NJBG SUBMISSION (this text only). Be sure to include your name, email address, and the name of the New Jersey city/town you live in (or previously lived in).

Submissions Open: February 1 - February 29, 2024.
(Submissions received outside of the submission period will not be considered.)

Notification: Selected haiku poets will be notified via email by mid-March, 2024. The haiku selected for signs in the New Jersey Botanical Garden installation may also be featured on the Haiku Poets of the Garden State website <https://hpgs.weebly.com/> .

Save the Date: Cradle of American Haiku Gathering

August 23-25, 2024
Mineral Point, Wisconsin

Join the Facebook group "Cradle of American Haiku" and keep checking back for more information as it becomes available.

The SEA CHANGE Anthology Launch & Reading

March 9th, 2024
11:00 a.m. EST

11:00 a.m. EST

We want to share our excitement with you about the new book, *SEA CHANGE*, and what better way than a reading? All are invited, we just ask that you sign up so we can be aware of our capacity. We will first have the anthology contributors read in the order their poems appear in the book. Then, if we haven't run too long, we may have time for an open mic, so bring a one-liner to share, if you like!

There are two sign-up lists: one for those in the anthology and another for all of our other guests, whether you have been a whiptail contributor or not. This will help us track who and how many we can expect to be reading.

Sign-up closes March 2nd! You will receive notice a few days prior, confirming your space, the Zoom link, and additional instructions to help us keep a bit of order during the reading.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for this celebration! We look forward to seeing you in the cloud!

Anthology Contributor Registration

Guest List Registration

***Respirator Blues* by Elaine Parker**

Adams (Luminare Press)

Respirator Blues is a collection of ninety lowku poems (senryu) exploring the good, the bad, and the ugly of Covid-19. *Respirator Blues* gives its topic due respect while weaving in welcome touches of levity, humor, and sarcasm. These poems provide the opportunity to read briefly but think deeply, arouse memories, and encourage reflection on the challenging experiences impacting pandemic survivors.

Buy from [Amazon](#)

***Sea Change: An Anthology of Single-Line Poems* edited by Kat Lehmann and Robin Smith (Red Moon Press)**

The collection of 84 spellbinding poems selected from the first seven issues of *whiptail: journal of the single-line poem* is published by Whiptail Press in collaboration with Red Moon Press. The anthology was edited by Kat Lehmann and Robin Smith with a foreword by Jim Kacian, President of The Haiku Foundation.

Sea Change is just that—a fresh and essential collection of

innovative, contemporary English-language haiku, tanka, and micropoems, and a celebration of the ways that these single-line poems differ from their more commonly encountered enjambed counterparts. Scholars, writers, and readers of poetry will enjoy these selections, which are expansive of their genres while maintaining a touchstone to Japanese aesthetics.

Buy from [Red Moon Press](#)

***To Tower Above Me Still: Tree Haiku
& More at Creekside Park* by Robert Epstein**

For those who venture into Nature or the local park, far too many are distracted by their smart phones, oblivious to the tall pines or shrub oaks offering shelter from the sun or storm. Yet, without these and many other trees that need no names, we would literally have no life. We exist because they exist, and yet we take them for granted, even discard them when they obscure one's view or become unwieldy. "Trees are sanctuaries," declares novelist and poet, Hermann Hesse. In these pages, haiku poet Robert Epstein celebrates the trees, the creek, and more that occupy his favorite park in Marin County: Corte Madera Creek Park. Share with him the wonder, delight and personal healing he has found here.

Buy from [Amazon](#)

***Faunistics: A Collection of Wild
Haiku and Illustrations* by R. C. Thomas**

Take an around-the-world trip, spotting a vast array of wildlife in their natural habitat with Faunistics. Includes bespoke black and white illustrations, seven full-page colour montages, and features the award winning haiku 'silver lining—' (Joint First Place, Sharpening the Green Pencil Haiku Contest 2022; shortlisted for the Touchstone Awards for Best Individual Poems 2022):

silver lining—
what the storm takes
from the magpie's fable

Buy from [Amazon \(US\)](#)

Buy from [Amazon \(UK\)](#)

Buy direct from rcthomasthings.com and get a free bookmark!

**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 BillieWilson at BillieWilsonAlaska@gmail.com.

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

Road, Juneau, AK 99801-8501 USA.

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

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

Adjudication: A judge will be selected by Modern Haiku; the judge's name will be announced at the time of the awards. Judging will be double-blind, and the judge will not know the identity of the entrants. The judge's decisions are final.

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

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

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

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