

1st Prize—\$100

**the hoot of an owl
the way Mother put up with
my bedtime questions**

Gregory Longenecker

Although I have seldom heard an owl hooting, I know how a mother responds to her child's demands after her full long day because I used to be a very demanding little girl asking my mother to read page after page from the book I adored, *Heidi*. My 95-year-old mother still tells me how she wore her voice out for me every night. The warm and low Mother's voice echoes, in a peaceful sonorous way, assuring the little one that she can handle all the questions being asked, "So please be still, and go to sleep!"

2nd Prize—\$50

**the sequined costume
of the baton twirler gleams
young dandelion**

Clysta Seney

The first impression of the haiku is energy, youth, and brightness convincing me that the spring season is here! The baton twirler leading the whole marching band, walking energetically, turning and then throwing up her baton to catch it again in her sequined costume; the brass band's full sound, their proud postures, and smiles! The young dandelion's fresh yellow powerfully supports the joy of this moment as the parade passes by.

3rd Prize—\$25

**first flute of bamboo
one hole for each old regret
spaced unevenly**

Bill Cooper

The first flute of bamboo, I assume, is a *shinobue* flute which has seven holes placed unevenly and accompanies many Japanese traditional performing arts. A clear sound of *shinobue* flute matches the festive mood of the New Year. Though the haiku reminds us that the New Year's arrival is not always a happy time, it sometimes makes us remember our old regrets to help us, hopefully, come up with a better New Year's resolution.

Honorable Mention

incessant chirp-chirp
walking up to the cricket
it stops and I stop

Roger Abe

dandelion patch
my father mows around it
after his bypass

J Hahn Doleman

dandelion fluff
Dad places another pin
in my travel map

Gregory Longenecker

filling the jam jar
this gift of dandelions
from the kid next door

Carole MacRury

dust-covered raindrops
drought becomes its opposite
just for this moment

Lorraine Padden

a passing shadow
on my grandfather's sundial—
old earth warming up

Linda Papanicolaou

return of the drought—
an old tin shed collapses
onto its shadow

Linda Papanicolaou

crickets in the field . . .
we still hear grandma calling
us home for dinner

Debbie Strange

dandelion tea—
opening the newspaper
a mouthful per page

Genevieve Wynand

empty feed buckets
our seats for the orchestra
of chirping crickets

Genevieve Wynand

Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi Haiku Contest

The Annual Tokutomi Haiku Contest of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society (YTHS) is named for Mr. Kiyoshi and Mrs. Kiyoko Tokutomi, bilingual speakers of English and Japanese. They founded the Society in 1975 to foster writing haiku in English along traditional Japanese guidelines. YTHS studies (but is not limited to) this form. The Tokutomi Haiku Contest is the longest-lived contest in the West that requires contest entries to follow this traditional form.

Contest Guidelines

This contest is for English language haiku written in the traditional form of three lines using a 5-7-5 syllabic pattern. Each poem is required to contain one (and only one) season word (kigo) from the following list chosen for this year's contest:

New Year: first flute

Spring: dandelion, warming earth

Summer: drought, waterfall

Autumn: deer, crickets

Winter: hibernation, owl

Contest Judge 2020

Emiko Miyashita (1954-), a Japanese haiku poet, has attended the Haiku Retreat of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society (YTHS) at Asilomar, on and off, since 2000. On her first visit she read from her translation of *Love Haiku: Masajo Suzuki's Lifetime of Love*. She is a judge for the monthly haiku contest organized by the English-Speaking Union of Japan, writes a column for the Haiku International Association, and conducts thirty kukai a year. She enjoys commenting on haiku for "Dojin's Corner" in *Geppo*, the quarterly journal of YTHS. She is a member of Haiku Canada, a director of the Japan Airlines (JAL) Foundation which has organized the World Children's Haiku Contest since 1990, and a grandmother of three little girls.

A tribute to Kiyoko and Kiyoshi Tokutomi

Air-writing

Moved by reading the article about Kiyoko and Kiyoshi written by Patricia J. Machmiller and Yukiko Tokutomi-Northon, where it mentioned Kiyoko was air-writing to Kiyoshi after he lost his hearing. What a special couple; maybe even a love story. Love for each other and the promotion of poetry; sharing knowledge and their lives, giving freely to a cause.

winter took his sound
vibrations were rerouted
between heart and soul

Doug Profitt



Kazume Shibata, Kiyoko Shibata, Hiroyuki Shibata, Kiyoshi Tokutomi, Masayoshi Shibata, Hisayo Shibata, and Mitsuyo Shibata, at Dazaifu Shrine, Fukuoka, Japan, 1951

Mitsuyo Shibata Tao writes of this photo "We went on a one-day trip by train with [my] future brother-in-law. Kiyoko made a fancy lunch box and we ate in the garden. It's a good memory."

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society Announces



Winners of the
**Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi
2020 Haiku Contest**