

### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize—\$100

**dad's flattened penny  
key chained to a rabbit's foot  
Perseids shower**

**Marilyn Ashbaugh**

Dad's flattened penny must be the one that he had acquired when he was a boy. Together with a rabbit's foot, his lucky keychain has always brought him good luck. Tonight, the two of them are ready to watch the Perseids shower, and we are assured that they will be blessed with the most spectacular one! A lucky item for the Perseids shower may not be an original combination; however, by showing them straightforwardly in the haiku, it makes us feel the texture of the flattened penny and also the furry but bony rabbit's foot in our hands. And we are made to smile at the parent and child relationship here. The author is not saying that the father is good at astronomy, or that he is equipped with a good telescope; the child is focused on these lucky items!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize—\$50

**fresh wisteria  
takes over the entire fence  
she forgets her mask**

**Lynn Halley Algood**

The vigorous growth of the wisteria. It is fresh, it has not yet been withered by rain or wind! The world is filled with the scent of wisteria. Why does she have to put on her mask? But this is still in the middle of Covid-

19 pandemic, and we are to wear masks for protection and for courtesy. I think it is important to record a haiku of this time in the Tokutomi Award 2021 for the historians to read!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize—\$25

**bush warbler singing—  
my mother's old yellow dress  
with white polka dots**

**Susan Polizzotto**

The voice of a bush warbler signals the presence of spring on a balmy day. Mother may not be in the garden in her yellow dress with white polka dots at this very moment. But in the daughter's eyes, she is there, tilting her head to listen to the song. Sometimes we remember a person in a specific garment. Here the yellow dress with white polka dots resonates well with the spring garden. "Old" makes me think that she is not there. But it may be just one of her favorite dresses, and she is still wearing it as she did in the author's childhood days.

### Honorable Mentions

cabbage butterfly  
the palest shade of yellow  
on a withered wing

Marilyn Ashbaugh

ikebana class  
pondering a single stem  
of wisteria

Billie Dee

western butterflies  
a caravan of fire trucks  
crossing the state line

Marilyn Gehant

the fence between plots—  
a community garden  
shares its butterflies

Linda Papanicolaou

my daughter leans in  
to the swell of the saddle  
her first Rose Parade

Clysta Seney

he comes limping home  
my old dog bringing snowballs  
in between his pads

Susan Spooner

the glow of the leaf  
where a firefly has landed—  
two colors of green

Clark Strand

the wisteria  
trembles under its own weight . . .  
new prosthetic legs

Debbie Strange

north winds roll snowballs  
across empty pasturelands . . .  
I let the dough rest

Debbie Strange

my children's pumpkins—  
considering their faces  
one scoop at a time

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:** Rose Parade

**Spring:** butterfly; uguisu/bush warbler; wisteria

**Summer:** hydrangea; firefly/lightning bug; heron

**Autumn:** pumpkin; woodpecker; Perseids

**Winter:** poinsettia; snowball; swan

### Contest Judge 2021

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.

## About the Artist

kris moon kondo is a long-time friend of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society. In 1992, she met Kiyoko Tokutomi, who in 2000 stayed with her in her mountain home in Japan.

Jizo represents "supreme spiritual optimism, compassion, and universal salvation" writes Mark Shumacher. Kris has been sketching and painting Jizo statues and stones since she came to Japan in 1972.

After the Fukushima disaster of 2011, Kris started painting more to overcome her feeling of helplessness and to give peace to all those lost. She gave them to friends who volunteered to give them to survivors, and when she could go to Tohoku, she distributed them herself.



may our burdens  
be lighter pebble  
by pebble —kmk

Now, with the global pandemic, the stones  
may offer hope and consolation to all of us.

## Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

### Announces



Winners of the  
**Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi  
2021 Haiku Contest**