

GEPPO HAIKU JOURNAL

XVI:13

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society of the USA & Canada

Jan/Feb 1995

p1015

book of eulogies,
somewhere the shimmer
of leaves on his grave

p1016

new vines cover
the battered cypress....
my fading scar

p1017

hiding its sins
in willow shadows...
the snake sheds its skin

p1018

winter night
a small hollow place on back
of her knees

p1019

cold rain at dusk
a distant train moans and chugs
into the darkness

p1020

cool breath at bedtime
ah orion rising
the winter sky

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cold the moonlight,
harsh the naked streetlight's stare,
still there are stars

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silly the raindrops
falling from the melting snow,
'til it sounds like spring.

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Raspy old oak leaf-
kicked aside by passers-by,
steeps tea in puddles.

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opening the door
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a father's reward

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guarding barren field
though skies are empty of foes-
snow covered scarecrow

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pausing for breath
another mountain waits-
storm clouds above

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a dry crinkled leaf
hobbles across the asphalt - -
winter wind

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but the ground-hugging cockroach
has its own business

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moon & rainbow - -
eye of the cloud
dragon

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in my neighbor's yard
a snowman wastes away

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little spider
on the ceiling we
are alone tonight

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it's new years day
and so I throw away
another calendar

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breeze
under her skirt
ruffling lace

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her lipstick prints
in my cluttered apartment
the mirror stands out

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tear soaked tissue
soaking his hand
after the fight

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Ficus Benjamina
dying in the doctor's
waiting room. . .

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Wakened by raucous sound
on my walnut tree ---
Nuts to the squirrel!

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Colorful event:
Black snake has green frog for lunch.
Very delicious!

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a wall map
scale of 1 to 50,000
days getting longer

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a lighthouse
on uninhabited island
winter seagull

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upon the fortress
daffodil

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Hear the lonesome cry,
Far ahead the engine drives -
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Tiny arrow point,
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until the cat

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winter almost gone
mourning dove on the feeder
skinny but quick

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out of the fog
the bright magenta
of her new 4 x 4

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power failure
the dark howl of winter wind
through the bending pines

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a circle of mist
the crest of a nearby hill
in a winter dream

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sound of winter rain
the conversation hushes
then slowly resumes

p1051
small beetle scurries
from early morning shadows
and my large footsteps

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black crows squawk
from the highest boughs
of the pine tree

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rose garden path
walking by the bent old man
I straighten my spine

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A merciful climber plant
dresses the dried tree
with leaves and petals.

p1055
New Year holiday.
For children snow is not cold:
it is rejoicing.

p1056
Upon the hillside,
there is a slow train climbing
like an ancient worm.

p1057
fox tracks
 zigzag
over the frozen field

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old retaining wall
sea-battered and buffeted
. . . . cracks in the concrete

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Goodwill salesroom:
faded scarves and stocking caps
. . . . these unmatched gloves

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winter sundown -
a cascade of mallards
scores the pond

p1061
a snowy egret
huddled on a cypress bough
- the midday moon

p1062
neighbor's perfumed cat
becomes a feral carnivore
at my bird feeder

p1063
after my stroke
trying to type a haiku. . .
the moment fading

p1064
"come see the wild geese..."
by the time I find my cane
only dogs barking

p1065
sweet tartness . . .
sugar coated strawberries
and old wedding rings

p1066
a small pool of light
surrounds two deer mice
the old man's flashlight

p1067
ice filled ruts
clear to the horizon
— the road narrows

p1068
 posh hotel
a fat brown spider walks
 across the ceiling

p1069
 bag lady
blocks the church doorway
 icy steps

p1070
 dead cat
lies across the yellow line
 snow falling

p1071
 first morning
festivities forgotten
holed up with haiku

p1072
 counting the winters
his back burdened by shoveling
 like snow-bent cypress

p1073
 appointments canceled
slowed down by flu enjoying
 world through the window

p1074
croaking frogs
 the last note
 high in a tree

p1075
rushing to the bathroom
 sign says:
 wet floor

p1076
 in divorce
fighting over
the wedding album

p1077

Ex-husband and I
through a saguaro forest ...
only touching shadows

p1076

Sycamore branches
nested with drying flotsam ...
the roots embrace rock

p1077

This clod of earth
from the sea cliff above --
grasses still waving

p1078

alone --
scarlet roses in crystal vase
without roots

p1079

autumn morn of cheer:
under my feet forest moss
softly, a deer

p1080

hibiscus in bloom,
on a branch a cardinal
in crimson hues

p1081

Shovel scrapes
Snow from sidewalk
Hacking cough

p1082

Outside door opens
Cat zips through
Warm room

p1083

How cold the moon
aloof and indifferent
yet so lovely

p1084

It is up to me
to find reason for hope
cheerless winter sky

p1085

Blue and clear and cold
false cheeriness over all
bright winter sky

p1086

Christmas cactus blossoms -
are they angels
come down to earth ?

p1087

rapeflowers
from here to horizon
lone white butterfly

p1088

Christmas trees sold out
pine scent still remains
the empty lot

p1089

Jupiter's teen years
pock mark its round, smiling face,
meteor acne

p1090

elements' chorus,
universal symphony,
to praise Creator

p1091

prayer, fasting, alms,
rending your hearts not garments
Lenten conversion

p1092

diet madness—
checking the grams of fat
in the birds' suet

p1093

day by day
camellia buds swell
—sudden snowfall

p1094

the calico cat
gets her neck scratched by me, then
rubs against the fence

p1095

overcome by vines
it has nearly disappeared
the garden wall

p1096

waves crash
along the wet coast highway
the swish of cars

p1097
rails gleam
under a passing train
snow between the ties

p1098
onto our picnic. . .
sun through the tears
of a billowing flag

p1099
deep in the cellar
the coolness
of sprouting potatoes

p1100
waking dream. . .
pin pricks from falling
pine needles

p1101
constant winter rain
at the bottom of the hill
a deepening pool

p1102
in the north window
slight movement of the branches
- winter seclusion

p1103
in the old clearcut
fronds of bracken uncurling
over last years' stems

p1104
on the trail a newt,
her back as dark as the mud,
crosses step by step

p1105
shutters nailed shut
the beach house braced
for winter storms

p1106
on the river bank
where the water runs quickly -
children tossing sticks

Members' Votes for Nov/Dec

George Knox - p927-7 p928-2 p929-6
Gloria Procsal - p930-16 p931-14 p932-15
Floyd Jack - p933-0 p934-0 p935-0
Margaret Chula - p936-0 p937-5 p938-2
Robert H. Poulin - p939-10 p940-0 p941-22
Richard Bruckart - p942-0 p943-2 p944-1
Eve J. Blohm - p945-1 p946-0 p947-12
Tom Smith - p948-25 p949-1 p950-2
Teruo Yamagata - p951-0 p952-0
Shahid Iqbal - p953-0 p954-0 p955-0
Yvonne Hardenbrook - p956-0 p957-3 p958-1
Elizabeth Allbright - p959-4 p960-1 p961-1
Ertore José Palmero - p962-1 p963-0 p964-7
Donna Gallagher - p965-1 p966-2 p967-4
Pat Gallagher - p968-8 p969-13 p970-0
Lesley Einer - p971-1 p972-6 p973-0
David Oates - p974-0 p975-14 p976-7
Ebba Story - p977-4 p978-2
Nancy F. Poulin - p979-12 p980-6 p981-2
Robert Gibson - p982-18 p983-20 p984-7
Echo Goodmansen - p985-3 p986-9 p987-8
Dorothy Greenlee - p988-1 p989-0 p990-3
Robert Major - p991-8 p992-13 p993-2
Margaret Elliott - p994-17 p995-7 p996-0
Laura Bell - p997-12 p998-4 p999-4
George Ralph - p1000-11 p1001-1 p1002-8
C. Herold - p1003-1 p1004-1 p1005-1
Alice Benedict - p1006-7 p1007-5 p1008-5
Alex Benedict - p1009-7 p1010-4 p1011-0
Kat Avila - p1012-1 p1013-1 p1014-0

bluegrey heron
rises from the riverbank
into the rain

Tom Smith

after the funeral --
father's old hammer
constructing a cross

Robert Henry Poulin

winter morning
the cherry tree again
dressed in white

Robert Gibson

Winter sun
both the man and his shadow
in the same coffin

Robert Gibson

november
one year older
the stars

Gloria Procsal

the ancient elm
shedding leaves ...
embraces the moon

Gloria Procsal

storm tossed willows,
in a window of light
the setting sun

Gloria Procsal

"What a lovely daughter!"
the waitress says,
as I'm figuring the tip

David Oates

cool night wind
with the smell of eucalyptus --
losing my way

Pat Gallagher

Childrens' musical.
Some tulips and butterflies
turn the wrong way 'round.

Robert Major

dripping water
lost forever are our
childhood dreams

Eve Jeanette Blohm

in your arms
a red rose, ---
and me

Nancy Ford Poulin

big fight
at breakfast
the sour grapefruit

Laura Bell

between whines
of the chain saw
... the woodpecker

George Ralph

Pattie-cake
muddy hands make
daddy's dinner

Robert Henry Poulin



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

March 11
Regular Meeting
Alum Rock Park Headquarters
1:30 - 4:30

- Pre-meeting Ginko led by Donna Gallagher at Alum Rock Park. Gather at the Park Center at 10:00 for a walk centered on awareness of nature, with quiet time for writing, capped by rounds of reading.
- The meeting will start with rounds of reading, more time for writing, and discussion on awareness of nature in haiku practice.

March 25
Ginko

Thornewood Open Space Preserve

- An all-day introduction to Thornewood, plus practice of haiku awareness, led by Donna Gallagher. For more information, see the detailed announcement in this issue.
- RESERVATIONS NECESSARY:** Call Donna at

April 15
Third Annual
Haiku & Cherry Blossoms!
Japanese Friendship Garden
Kelly Park, San Jose
1300 Senter Road (\$3.00 Parking Fee)
1:00 - 4:00

- Garden Tour by Roger Abe, Readings by 5 Poets, and Open Reading. An easy level walk through the garden led by Park Ranger Roger Abe, who describes the architecture and natural history of the Friendship Garden with lively stories and demonstrations. At the garden's classic Japanese teahouse, five Bay Area poets will read from their work. Tea and light refreshments will be served. Bring your haiku, tanka, renku, or haibun for the Open Reading to follow.

(This event replaces the regular April Meeting. Please note change of date and time.)

GINKO

Saturday, March 25

Come celebrate spring with a nature and haiku walk in the lovely Thornewood Midpeninsula Open Space Preserve in Woodside! This 1 and 1/2-mile round-trip Ginko will take you through oak woodland, chaparral, and redwood biotic communities. Along the way to a secluded redwood grove, you can expect to see a variety of spring wildflowers, nice views, and a large pond with resident swans.



This outing will include a significant period of silent observation and writing in addition to the opportunity for sharing haiku and natural history information with the group.

The Ginko will be limited to 15 people. Sign up by phoning Donna or Pat Gallagher at (408) 738-8546. The group will meet to car pool to the preserve at 12:30 p.m. at the CalTrans Park and Ride lot at the Woodside Road (route 84) exit west of I-280.

Participants should bring enough layered clothing to be comfortable in deep shade and something to put on the ground to sit on. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a beverage for yourself and a snack if you need it. You can expect to exit the preserve at about 4:30 depending on group interest and interaction. There is the possibility for reassembling for a light dinner in Woodside afterward.



Rain cancels. Call between 10 and 11 am if you are unsure whether it is raining at the preserve.

The Art of Haiku ———

The Kigo: Simplicity and Power

Rose. One word. In the Western psyche it unpetals itself: red, flower, summer, mature beauty, romantic love, woman, sensual, skin, perfume, secret (subrosa) place. It is a word that pulls you in and opens you up to its long history of allusion and myth, of story and wonder. Used in a haiku this word touches the rest of the haiku extending its perfume, infusing and informing the haiku with its essence and, if the haiku is successful, it receives back from the rest of the haiku a confirmation of some aspect or quality of its "roseness." This is the stuff that kigo are made of. Powerful words that connote at least season, often, myth, literary allusion, history, tradition, spiritual and cultural values.

Another very Western word that works on the Western mind in the same way that kigo do in the Japanese tradition is robin. This word cannot be read or heard without the thought of spring coming to mind. The association of the robin with spring in the West is so strong that to try to refer to a robin and convey any other season places a difficult burden on the writer. In haiku, a form that is limited in words and space, the task is great, indeed. Instead of working in opposition to this power, haiku writers have found this strong association to be a very useful device to get more impact into those seventeen syllables.

Another aspect that the kigo brings to the haiku--this one word or phrase--is time. Haiku, while a literary art (which comes out of traditions of story and narrative and, therefore, being an art based in time), has often been compared to painting or photography because of its use of the image--an instant in time. Haiku without kigo may have powerful images, but they float, ungrounded in the imagination. The kigo brings to the haiku the season, grounding the image some place in the year. And, because of the cyclical nature of the seasons, it reverberates with the idea--season after season, year after year--of the eternal.

Thus the kigo has an elegance all its own: a simple word or phrase, and yet, like the rose, is layered--complex and deep, temporal and eternal.

Patricia Machmiller

Challenge Kigo- Winter Sky

white plumes rise
from a fallen moose---
winter sky

Gloria Procsal

a vapor trail
across the blue winter sky
far far away

Robert Gibson

Pausing with my shovel,
Glancing at the winter sky,
Hoping snow will stop.

John Tabberah

excited children
show off a dead barred dove- -
the vast winter sky

Kat Avila

blue winter sky
in the bare tree sparrows
perch in sunshine

Echo Goodmansen

those dark clouds
lonely without moonlight
that winter sky

Robert Henry Poulin

Gone forever
the happy days of summer. . .
Gray winter sky

Richard F. Bruckart

A brash intruder !
Delta's white, contrail scribblings
Streak the winter sky

Floyd E. Jack

winter sky
my breath
the only cloud

Yvonne Hardenbrook

the winter sky
a few steps along the trail
then the sound of rain

Jerry Ball

starless winter sky
thunderheads roll past the moon
warming the night

Patti Emmett

Winter storm coming
over the bay, effacing
the shape of islets.

Ertore José Palmore

January thaw
pale winter sky over
graying snowfields

George Ralph

broken ankle -
the heavy white cast
of winter skies

Ebba Story

magic winter sky
mixing all the elements - -
alchemical brew

George Knox

winter sky- -so full
of snow--scarcely time for us
or sparrow's passage

Tom Smith

dark thoughts mass like clouds
winter sky burdened with grey
my spirits crave light

Christine Doreian Michaels

Out this old window
dim winter sunset
once again

Laura Bell

High in the sweet gum
a squirrel nest, exposed
to the winter sky

Donna Gallagher

white specks feather down
overlooking winter sky- -
geese are lost in clouds

Nancy Ford-Poulin

Pollution alert
no drying socks by the fire
log burning taboo

Dorothy Greenlee

heavy clouds
hang in the winter sky
another cup of tea

Naomi Y. Brown

black, velvet branches
twinkle with blinking star-lights
in clear, winter sky

Dorothy Forman, OSF

earthquake victims
huddle under
the winter sky

Maggie Chula

breathing fire
into the winter sky
hot air balloon

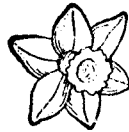
Christopher Herold

pale winter sky--
the faces
of passers-by

Michael Dylan Welch

now I imagine
a journey longer than planned --
the gray winter sky

Alex Benedict



Editor's Note:

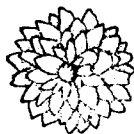
"Set the foot down with distrust upon
the crust of the world- it is thin."

Edna St. Vincent Millay

I think of this line every time the earth
goes through one of its upheavals.
Currently my thoughts are with the
people in Japan, recovering from the
dreadful Kobe earthquake; in particular,
our Yuki Teikei members in Osaka.
We, in California, wish you strength and
courage to deal with this catastrophe.

His friends in Northern California and
elsewhere send good wishes to George
Knox, who suffered a health setback in
December. You have our admiration,
George, for your "keep on keeping on"
spirit.

Many thanks for all your notes and letters
- and SASE's.



Renewal Reminder

If there is an R printed on your mailing
label, we don't have your annual
membership renewal yet.

To keep the Geppo coming, please
send the \$15 renewal to:

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Attention: Kiyoko Tokutomi

If you have recently sent your dues,
disregard this reminder. Thank you.

Deadline for the next issue is **April 15**.
Send submissions to:

Jean Hale

You may send one to three haiku on any
theme and one haiku in response to the
challenge. Please make clear which is the
challenge kigo haiku.

A word about voting - You may vote for
up to ten haiku . The top three of your
choices (if you so indicate) will earn five
points each, the remainder one point
each. If you don't highlight the top three
choices, I give each choice one point.

.....

Editor's Correction:

With apologies, what follows is the
corrected version of a haiku printed
incorrectly last issue.

afternoon shadow
closing in on the black cat ----
his spot in the sun

Yvonne Hardenbrook

*March–April challenge kigo
by Alex Benedict*

robin Spring California.

Robins are present all year round, but it is in spring they are most noticeable. The first robin of spring. Here in California, flocks of robins migrating north; sometimes ten, sometimes fifty, and always melodious. Some will stay and nest, most will move on to fledge their young in northern forests.

*from within the hedge
a cacophony of song –
migrating robins*

Alex Benedict

*in her careful hand
his mother writes of the time
spent watching robins*

Patricia Machmiller

CHALLENGE KIGO CHALLENGE!

What are the season words of your region? We would like to involve our members in the selection of challenge kigos for the Geppo. If you wish to respond, include a brief paragraph (100 words or less) that describes why the word (or phrase) is appropriate to use as a season word. State both the season and your location, and include one or two examples of haiku that use the kigo. Preferably, at least one of the cited haiku will be your own. If the poems have been previously published, include appropriate citation (publication, date and so forth). The haiku you select should be a 5-7-5 haiku with only one season word/phrase. All submissions must be in English, though haiku in other languages, with an English translation are okay.

Submission deadline is one month before each issue's closing date, and the kigo suggestions must be appropriate for the following two months. For example, in this issue we are inviting you to submit a challenge kigo for the May June Issue. and the submission deadline is March 15. For the May-June issue, the deadline for season words appropriate to July and August is May 15.

A committee of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society will select one challenge kigo for each issue of Geppo. Submissions should include an SASE and be sent to:

Alex Benedict

You can e-mail submissions to