

# G E P P O

the haiku study-work journal  
of the

## Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Volume XX:6

November–December 1998

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- |      |   |      |   |
|------|---|------|---|
| 3006 | election day-<br>a jack-o-lantern leering<br>from the trash can         | 3014 | early snowflakes<br>whitening dark hair<br>muted lute-song                |
| 3007 | a neighbor drags<br>his ash can to the curb<br>late autumn evening      | 3015 | northbound train<br>after the tunnel the green mountain<br>becomes autumn |
| 3008 | weightless<br>on Election Day?<br>Senator Glenn                         | 3016 | Greek Arion, he says,<br>is my favorite poet:<br>all his poems are lost   |
| 3009 | departing autumn<br>the rainstorm leaves imprint<br>of leaf on sidewalk | 3017 | icy Basho's shrine<br>graffiti on peeled plaster<br>and under it too      |
| 3010 | depth of winter<br>the wind howls all night<br>leaving snow on walk     | 3018 | new reclaimed land juts<br>out like a peninsula<br>the migrating birds    |
| 3011 | winter sea<br>hides the history of storms<br>lost horizon               | 3019 | a dump truck passes<br>fully loaded with gravel<br>the days are shorter   |
| 3012 | chill north wind<br>older now<br>it's colder                            | 3020 | no receptionist<br>inside dental clinic —<br>just poinsettia              |
| 3013 | frost-tipped lantana<br>crumbles into dust—<br>mom's withered hands     | 3021 | Halloween evening<br>the policeman adds pepper<br>to his hamburger        |
-

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 3022 | patches of moonlight<br>the sound of a teaspoon<br>somewhere in a cup             | 3033 | winter window<br>her grand piano silhouetted<br>by moonlight...silent            |
| 3023 | a window painter<br>with Christmas decorations<br>somewhere in his head           | 3034 | winter solitude<br>Irish harp speaks to me<br>of warming sea winds               |
| 3024 | passing cloud<br>a time for words--<br>starry night                               | 3035 | in failing light<br>between TV football games<br>neighbors playing catch         |
| 3025 | barren winter field --<br>two men sit on folding chairs<br>smoking their pipes    | 3036 | first dusting of snow--<br>in her new boots she returns<br>the ones she borrowed |
| 3026 | contest guidelines:<br>find big eraser, sharpen pencils,<br>wait for a snow flake | 3037 | winter window--<br>in my warm room a rainbow<br>around the moon                  |
| 3027 | in the melting snow<br>tracks of the dead<br>rabbit                               | 3038 | the newspaper<br>I fold into a crane<br>... Pearl Harbor Anniversary             |
| 3028 | after the storm<br>dark spot in the snow<br>frozen mouse pup                      | 3039 | World's AIDS Day<br>statics<br>on my tape  |
| 3029 | at the display<br>old man<br>gazing at valentines                                 | 3040 | winter moon<br>looking a bit lonely tonight<br>above my building                 |
| 3030 | ice storm<br>dinner cooked in the fireplace<br>O, pioneer!                        | 3041 | butterfly bush<br>covered with autumn butterflies<br>wings catching the sun      |
| 3031 | two nights reading<br>by firelight and candlelight<br>how did they do it?         | 3042 | sun out of clouds —<br>the carp's wake suddenly<br>turns to silver dust          |
| 3032 | waking up warm<br>with books - hot coffee downstairs<br>and motel breakfast       | 3043 | jazz from the loudspeaker -<br>tour bus windows fill<br>with the heavy fog       |

- 3044 the falconer  
raises her first --  
this brief life
- 3045 swarm of sparks  
above beachcomber's bonfire --  
winter shooting stars
- 3046 first walk  
over the withered moor  
with his grandpa
- 3047 autumn hills  
we stop to rest  
the path on and on
- 3048 is this pale thing  
the autumn moon  
that rose last night
- 3049 road kill  
crow pulls its beak back  
lets a car pass
- 3050 autumn leaves  
the beauty of half naked  
trees
- 3051 bare branches  
the first winter storm  
the last leaf
- 3052 pickup truck  
kids in front dog in back  
road kill
- 3053 sanding the table leg:  
the snow has darkened  
our basement window-well
- 3054 into winter rain  
a bald man's  
white umbrella
- 3055 crumpled in the kitchen  
aluminum foil  
after Christmas dinner
- 3056 November sea-wind--  
each dune-gopher hole marked by  
a small mound of sand
- 3057 above the fogbank  
a faint contrail dissipates  
—unanswered questions
- 3058 pigeons on a wire  
against the pale autumn sky  
red liquidambar
- 3059 Heavenly Bamboo  
marvelous green light filtering  
my dark thoughts
- 3060 divers fallen leaves  
rotting together after  
democratic fall
- 3061 winter creeps inward  
we rarely suspect it  
rides in on sunshine
- 3062 Unwilling to bloom  
my reluctant little bush  
Doesn't give a fig
- 3063 Who cares  
that my night-blooming cereus  
opens while I'm asleep
- 3064 Daylight: robins singing  
Dusk: bats flying  
Who directs traffic?
- 3065 her new red parka  
advertised as waterproof  
leaks a little bit

- |   |   |                         |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| <p>3066 new diary<br/>leaving a blank page<br/>for the day I skipped</p>    | <p>torn lanterns clatter,<br/>wind off the upper mountain –<br/>shawls pulled tighter</p>   | <p>Ross Figgins</p>     |
| <p>3067 crowded museum<br/>everyone also looks at<br/>the sleeping baby</p> | <p>On the first cold night<br/>my bed by the open window<br/>is covered by snow</p>         | <p>Richard Bruckart</p> |
| <p>3068 at the far edge<br/>of the pond in shadows<br/>a white swan</p>     | <p>first cold night<br/>old man beneath thin covers<br/>distant moon</p>                    | <p>Dave Bachelor</p>    |
| <p>3069 this first poem<br/>written on a napkin<br/>at the bus station</p>  | <p>First cold night<br/>van's luggage carrier<br/>filling with leaves</p>                   | <p>Sydney Bougy</p>     |
| <p>3070 rattle of rigging<br/>the stays stiff<br/>sheathed in ice</p>       | <p>this first cold night<br/>we plan to bring the sheep down<br/>from mountain pastures</p> | <p>Alex Benedict</p>    |

*Challenge Kigo*

Haiku with the challenge kigo  
'First Cold Night'

- |  |                           |   |                           |
|--|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <p>did your wind chimes<br/>always sound this way. . .<br/>first cold night</p>  | <p>John Stevenson</p>     | <p>a labored tune<br/>unwinding the music box<br/>our first cold night</p>              | <p>Yvonne Hardenbrook</p> |
| <p>first cold night<br/>I hear the wind howling<br/>a winter song</p>            | <p>Eve Jeanette Blohm</p> | <p>first cold night<br/>ignoring the phone<br/>I read a murder mystery</p>              | <p>Fay Aoyagi</p>         |
| <p>first cold night<br/>somewhere upstairs<br/>snap of a trap</p>                | <p>Gloria H. Procsal</p>  | <p>this first cold night<br/>I tune in now and then<br/>to traffic reports</p>          | <p>Alice Benedict</p>     |
| <p>the first chilly night<br/>Santa argues with his boss<br/>about his wages</p> | <p>Jerry Ball</p>         | <p>first cold night --<br/>neighbor's chimney smoke<br/>drifts into the starlit sky</p> | <p>Naomi Y. Brown</p>     |

Challenge Kigo: First Cold Night -  
continued

first cold night --  
the click of your domino  
as we play by the fire

Michael Dylan Welch

first cold night  
far away sirens fade  
into the distance

June Hopper Hymas

first cold night  
halo around crescent-  
a perfect circle

Zinovy Vayman

Challenge Kigo for Jan -Feb

WINTER SUNLIGHT

by Alice Benedict

A clear, cold morning. Even the clouds  
from my breath are individually gilded  
with light. The separate threads swirl out,  
and disappear again into one another.  
Everything is distinct: the rigging of boats  
in the harbor, the mad red eye of the loon  
that just dipped its head under the calm  
water. Away up the hill, the mass of  
evergreens reveal exact shadings of each  
needle and cone.

winter sunlight  
a stream of small silver fishes  
poured from the net

Alice Benedict

winter sunlight  
casting the dike's shadow  
into the next paddy

*tsugi no ta ni aze no kage aru fuyubi kana*

Kurata Kōbun\*

\* in *A Hidden Pond*. p.209 Kōko Katō, ed.

SEASON WORDS  
for late winter/early spring

selected from the lists In the Members' Anthology

**Season:** winter months (January, early or mid-February), depth of winter, short day, winter day, early spring, lengthening days.

**Sky and Elements:** frost, hail, north wind, snow, winter cloud, winter moon/rain/wind; lingering snow, spring frost/snow.

**Landscape:** winter stream, winter mountain, winter sea, winter garden, withered moor; flooded stream, muddy road.

**Human Affairs:** bean soup, blanket, hot chocolate, charcoal fire, cold or flu, cough, hunting, ice fishing, overcoat, winter desolation, Groundhog Day, Twelfth Night, Valentines Day.

**Animals:** bear, hibernation, fox, oyster, owl, perch, rabbit, reindeer, sardine, sea slug, swan, weasel, winter birds, winter bee, winter wild geese, whale; abalone, pheasant, wild birds' return.

**Plants:** carrot, celery, dried persimmon, early plum blossom, radish, scallion, tangerine, turnip, flowers in winter: winter camellia/ chrysanthemum/ narcissus/peony, withered or frost-nipped plants; azalea, bracken, camellia, crocus, daphne, grass sprouts, mustard, plum blossoms, plum tree, California poppy, seaweed or laver(nori).

September-October Haiku

Voted as Best by the readers of the Geppo

alpine meadow  
sharing snow-melt  
from a tin cup

Robert Gibson

far side of the pond  
the slow wake of a mallard  
spinning out moonlight

Alice Benedict

ginko poets  
heads together  
over a mushroom

John Stevenson

my youngest boy  
gone to another woman  
first day of school

Yvonne Hardenbrook

spider  
last of our wildlife  
and you in the tub

Robert Gibson

early sun  
burning a red hole  
in the fog

Yvonne Hardenbrook

in the heavy air  
I awaken from a dream  
expecting thunder

Jerry Ball

thru bamboo hedge  
a drifting tune  
the ice-cream man

Echo Goodmansen

pale woman  
in a wrap like the backside  
of a leaf

Alec Kowalczyk

hummingbirds migrate  
silence hovers around  
the bird feeder

Naomi Brown

morning glories  
I touch my lips  
to a glass of water

Alex Benedict

shaking his jacket  
a cluster of pine needles  
caught on the pocket

Alice Benedict

Members' Votes:  
September-October 1998 Issue

David Bachelor - 2918-0 2919-1 2920-0  
Jerry Ball - 2921-7 2922-0 2923-1  
Yvonne Hardenbrook - 2924-13 2925-3 2926-9  
Teruo Yamagata - 2927-1 2928-2 2929-0  
Echo Goodmansen - 2930-5 2931-7 2932-5  
Anne Homan - 2933-0 2934-6 2935-2  
Robert Gibson - 2936-5 2937-12 2938 - 24  
Gloria Procsal - 2939-6 2940-0 2941-1  
Joan Zimmerman - 2942-4 2943-2 2944-0  
Eve J. Blohm - 2945-0 2946-1 2947-0  
Edward Grastorf - 2948-1  
Christine Michaels - 2949-0 2950-0 2951-0  
Alec Kowalczyk - 2952-7 2953-0 2954-1  
Robin Chancefellow - 2955-2 2956-0 2957-2  
Mary Ferryman - 2958-0 2959-2  
Fay Aoyagi - 2960-4 2961-2 2962-2  
Naomi Brown - 2963-0 2964-5 2965-7  
Ross Figgins - 2966-1 2967-3 2968-5  
Laura Bell - 2969-2 2970-5 2971-1  
George Knox - 2972-0 2973-5 2974-0  
Louise Beaven - 2975-2  
Alex Benedict - 2976-5 2977-3 2978-7  
Patricia Prime - 2979-0 2980-1 2981-0  
Alice Benedict - 2982-1 2983-7 2984-16  
Ertore José Palmero - 2985-0 2986-6 2987-1  
John Stevenson - 2988-14 2989-1 2990-5  
Zinovy Vayman - 2991-0 2992-1 2993-1  
Richard Bruckhart - 2994-0 2995-0 2996-1  
Steve Bertrand - 2997-0 2998-1 2999-0  
Michael Welch - 3000-1 3001-0 3002-3  
John Tabberrah - 3003-0 3004-6 3005-1

## Dōjin's Corner

### Haiku Commentary

by Patricia Machmiller and Jerry Ball

*This is the first appearance of a new feature article in which Patricia Machmiller and Jerry Ball, founding members of the Yuki Tekei Society, comment on three haiku they each found the most interesting from the previous issue. In Japan, dōjin is a formal rank accorded to poets who can demonstrate knowledge and mastery of haiku practice. Patricia and Jerry have both gone through this process.*

Each of us made our own selections and comments, and then we talked about our selections with each other. We did decide not to comment on our own haiku as our favorites. But Patricia, for example, liked numbers 2921 and 2923, which were composed by Jerry. So we leave them for members to think about.

Here are Patricia's top three poems:

2935: in the pickup's wake  
whirling in all directions  
thistledown blizzard

P: This haiku with its vivid image is unique in its perception of the thistledown as a blizzard. It captures the ubiquitous quality of thistledown -- its chaotic and uncontrollable aspects.

J: I agree. The image is the strong point -- chaotic and whirling -- like life sometimes.

2975: airport parking lot  
in autumn wind mother's scarf  
a stream of color

P: I choose this haiku because of the immediacy of the image and the unusual expression of love and sorrow buried in this haiku. The resonance between the unstated feeling of the poet for his or her mother and the scarf has layers to be mused upon by the reader. I believe that the scarf is the kigo (winter) here so, I hope the poet wouldn't mind a suggestion to revise the description of the wind to eliminate the conflict.

J: The strong point is the reality of the moment that highlights the strong relationship of the poet to the mother. I think the last line could be more concrete. The phrase: "stream of color" is very abstract and general.

3004: taking flight from reeds  
heron unfolds into sky  
(fish suspect nothing)

P: This haiku had for me a bit of the Issa quality of expression reminding me of his caution: "don't worry, spiders --/I keep house/casually" with a modern twist. And the heron "unfolding" into the sky is so very true to the huge bird's motion in taking flight.

J: While the last line doesn't work for me (I think it's an inference, not an observation), I do like the image of the heron "unfolding into sky." I think the poet might eliminate the last line and have a stronger haiku.

Here are Jerry's top three poems:

2926: early sun  
burning a red hole  
in the fog

J: I like this haiku for the image, for the rhythm and cadence, and the way there is tension in the second line developed and given closure in the third line.

P: This haiku has a vivid image. It feels like it could be developed to bring out the kigo (i.e., fog) more. I don't find the tension between the second and third line. In fact, for me, the last line where the kigo is seems to -- pouf -- disappear.

2938: alpine meadow  
sharing snow-melt  
from a tin cup

J: Here is a heart-felt moment. I am transported to the meadow. Everything seems to fit into place ... the meadow, the snow-melt, and the tin cup. But it's what isn't said that makes this haiku work for me. It's the two people sharing the simplicities

*Dōjin's Corner - continued*

that make me think of this as successful.

P: Good image. The simplicity of snow-melt and tin cup echo very well the subject of the haiku -- that of living elementally. The "alpine" meadow, however, seems to me to be an overused word. It undercuts for me the simplicity that is so appealing in this haiku.

2978: morning glories  
I touch my lips  
to a glass of water

J: This is a reflective poem, a lyric. It's simple, nothing much happens, but everything happens. The image is clear, direct, and strong. Again, it's what is not said that is important. I can taste the water.

P: Clear and enticing image. The evocation of three senses while speaking of the pleasure in simplicity is very masterfully done. The morning glories do seem so fresh and so vital.

We all learn from each other, and we are interested in your haiku ideas and practice. Please write your comments and send them to

PatriciaMachmiller (email -



**GEPP0**

*is the bimonthly study-work journal of the Yūki Teikei Haiku Society. Haiku are published as submitted, and members may cast votes for haiku from the preceding issue. In this way we learn by studying the work of others, and by the response to our own work. Subscription is \$15.00 per year, which includes membership in the Society.*

Editor • Jean Hale  
Design • Alice Benedict  
Yūki Teikei Haiku Society

*1997-98 Officers*

Alex Benedict, President • Roger Abe, Vice President  
Kiyoko Tokutomi, Treasurer • Alice Benedict, Secretary  
June Hymas & Patricia Machmiller, Board Members at Large

**Submission Guidelines  
for GEPP0**

Deadline for the next issue is February 10!

- Print your name, address and all poems and votes on a single, full size sheet of paper. You can include:
- Haiku - up to three haiku appropriate to the season. Poems must be in three lines.
- Challenge Kigo Haiku - one 3-line haiku that uses the current issue's Challenge Kigo. Try to use just the one season word. The poem will be printed with your name.
- Votes - Write numbers of up to ten poems from the current issue that you especially appreciate. Choose up to three poems to receive 5 points each; others will receive 1 point. Poems with the top number of votes are reprinted with the author's name in the next issue.

Send to:

**Jean Hale**

*News and Events*

**YT NORTH Regular Meeting,  
Saturday February 13, 2:30  
Saratoga Public Library**

The February Meeting will be at 2:30 on Saturday February 13 at the Saratoga Library. Note the later starting time - the library had a conflict. Poems of early spring will be written and discussed.

The business meeting will include election of new officers (see below).

**YT SOUTH Regular Meetings  
Saturday February 20, 1 p.m.  
Saturday March 20, 1 p.m.  
Borders Books, Long Beach**

The regular meetings of Yuki Teikei South continue at Borders Books, led by Jerry Ball.

Please contact him at \_\_\_\_\_ or email  
information.



## Officers for 1999-2000 Nominated!

New officers for the 1999-2000 term have been nominated. The slate is as follows:

President: Roger Abe  
 Vice President: Patrick Gallagher  
 Secretary: Jean Hale  
 Treasurer: Kiyoko Tokutomi  
 Board Members at Large: Patricia Machmiller and Alex Benedict.

Roger Abe, has been a long-time member, participating in local meetings and events for many years. He is a Park Ranger for the City of San Jose, and has been very effective in organizing haiku readings in the parks. The popular Haiku in the Teahouse Readings at Kelley Park in San Jose was started through his efforts. He has also arranged many other haiku and nature related events in local parks at various times of the year.

Patrick Gallagher has been active in the local society for many years. Most recently he has been President of Haiku Poets of Northern California, and organizer and editor of one of its Two Autumns Reading Series.

As Secretary and Editor of Geppo, Jean Hale will continue to make her great contribution to the Society. Her efforts allow us all to keep in touch with each other and to enjoy our poetry even if we cannot meet in person.

Kiyoko Tokutomi will continue as Treasurer, and also as the guiding spirit of the Yuki Teikei Society.

Election of Officers will take place at the February meeting. Those present at the meeting may vote. Thanks to Patricia Machmiller being the Nominating Committee, and to the nominees for their enthusiasm for leading the Society into its 25th Anniversary year, and into the new millenium!

### Holiday Party

The Holiday Party on December 12 was a warm and exciting gathering of haiku friends. Patrick and Claire Gallagher opened their home and their hearts to haijin from

throughout the Bay Area. People brought one or two poems to hang on the Haiku Tree (a leafless branch set solidly in a pot of smooth rocks). We wrote our poems on strips of gaily patterned paper, and tied them to the tree. After a potluck which was equal parts delicious food and delightful talk, we settled down to read the poems - someone selected a poem from the tree to read (not his or her own), then that poet read next, until all the poems had been read. Reading another's haiku aloud gives a new appreciation of it, and hearing one's own poems read in another's voice can also be a revelation.

We then gave each other haiku gifts we each brought. Some people made ornaments, others poem cards or micro books, and still others sheets with several poems. The evening came to a rousing end with a drum extravaganza with the Gallaghers' extensive and varied collection of instruments. Many thanks to the Gallaghers for hosting this great occasion!

## 1998 MEMBERS ANTHOLOGY In-Hand Deadline May 31, 1999

Please submit haiku for the 1998 Members Anthology! June Hymas will be this year's editor.

- Haiku must have one season word, and be in three lines of close to 5-7-5 syllables. **Haiku without a season word, or with more than one season word will not be published.** A copy of the season word list published in the 1996 Anthology is available upon request, to help you in selecting poems.
- Submit up to five haiku, preferably composed in 1998, typed or neatly written on a single 8.5x11" sheet of paper. Indicate the season word by underlining it.
- Poems must be unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere, except those previously published in *GEPP0*. Please include the issue in which your poems appeared. Poems that received enough votes to be republished will be noted as such in the Anthology.

Send submissions to arrive by **May 31, 1999** with \$2.00 (for mailing costs) to:

**June Hymas**  
**Yuki Teikei Haiku Society –**  
**Members' Anthology**

Members who submit haiku will receive one copy of the Anthology.

## The Kiyoshi Tokutomi Memorial Contest

In-hand Deadline: May 31, 1999

1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$100 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$50 • 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$2 •  
Honorable Mention-Gifts

### CONTEST RULES

- Haiku in English in seventeen syllables, arranged in three lines of 5-7-5 syllables.
- Each haiku must contain one *kigo*, or season word, from the following list. Haiku that use more than one season word, or that do not contain one of the listed *kigo* will be disqualified. Season words for the 1999 contest are:

*New Years: first poem, year of the Rabbit, new calendar, new year's sun.*

*Spring: hazy moon, swallow, muddy road, snail, kite.*

*Summer: bat, waterfall, moor hen or coot, pineapple, sunglasses, lily.*

*Autumn: vineyard, salmon, reeds, starry night, mushrooms.*

*Winter: swan, hoarfrost, tangerine, old calendar, bear.*

- Entry Fee: \$5.00 for one page of three haiku. No limit on entries. Please keep a copy of your entries since entries cannot be returned.
- Submit 4 copies of each page with your name and address on only one copy, typewritten on 8<sup>1/2</sup>" x 11" paper.
- Make check or money order payable to the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society. Overseas entrants please use International Postal Money Order, in US Currency only. For a list of results, include SASE marked "CONTEST WINNERS".
- Entries must be original, unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere. No previous winning haiku are eligible. The contest is open to anyone, except for current officers of the Society.
- Final selection will be made by a distinguished haiku poet. Awards are announced at the Society's Retreat at Asilomar in September, 1999. The Society may print the list of winning poems and commentary in its newsletter and annual anthology.
- Send entries and requests for further information to:

**Alex Benedict, Contest Chair**

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## Calendar of Events

Jan 13	Meeting 11:00 a.m. Hiroshige Exhibit De Young Museum, Golden Gate Park
Jan 23	Yuki Teikei South 1:00 p.m. Borders Books, Long Beach
Feb 13	Regular Meeting 2:30 p.m. Saratoga Public Library
Feb 20	Yuki Teikei South 1:00 p.m. Borders Books, Long Beach
Mar 13	Regular Meeting 2:30 p.m. Saratoga Public Library
Mar 20	Yuki Teikei South 1:00 p.m. Borders Books, Long Beach

## Deadlines

Feb 10	Submissions to Jan–Feb GEPP0
Apr 10	Submissions to Mar–Apr GEPP0