G E P P O

the haiku study-work journal of the

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Volume XXIII:1

<u>[anuary-February 2000</u>

Members' Haiku for Study and Appreciation

Members' Halku for Study and Appreciation			
3528	winter camellia falls – deep silence into the darkness	3536	in the morning sun new frost and leftover snow melting together
3529	a waning moon finally throw away the lett into the waste basket	. 3537 ter	shattering the egret's reflection a minnow escapes
3530	yard sale over – a pair of flamingo dragged to unsold pile	3538	wedding vows from her bouquet a petal falls
3531	thin winter coat so little protection against her boyfriend	3539	my neighbor after the political meeting returns my rake
3532	ten below a fine line of	3540 geese	depth of winter the roadside shrine unseen
3533	post office trash can - a batch of brochures titled Tell Us What You Think	3541	mid-February altar candles flicker as the bride enters
3534	gauging last night's chill by the depth of ice on our bird bath	3542	protecting his mate from our gaze, the hisses of a male swan
3535	dining today on pyracantha berries tipsy robin	3543	rush hour traffic crawling around stranded cars dumplings in bean soup

3544	skiing in set tracks then blazing trail next snowfall covers my mistakes	3555	holiday party a young couple arguing under mistletoe
3545	beyond CPR small bird wings still on snow you were my angel	3556	winter desk three line to trap the cosmos and me
3546	all these winter stars – can't help feeling a little inebriated	3557	fallen camellias— I learn the name of a baby with his eyes
3547	early morning light lingering among the sprays of pussy willows	3558	on the stepping stone to her tea house a winter leave
3548	a hundred blackbirds start up in a rush of wings from the muddy field	3559	Lanterns lit on waking 'til <u>early spring dawn</u> rises before I do.
3549	young boy leaning on his shovel new flakes falling	3560	At every step, sandals still bog. Scrape, scrape! <u>Late</u> <u>Spring's</u> birthplace is mud.
3550	blizzard – my shouts not even reaching me	3561	Long <u>night's</u> heartening sound; I heard a nightingale whistling in the dark.
3551	houseflies on the windowsill don't they know it's winter?	3562	creel empty my favorite fishing hole muddy with runoff
3552	january rain overflowing water pots scattered duckweed	3563	streetlight shadows I step out of misty rain into a doorway
3553	dare not gaze at pink and black swirled sunrise – brake lights ahead	3564	mustard blossoms shift in the wind —ancient orchard
3554	artichoke closer to the heart of it leaf by leaf by leaf	3565	old poodle waits in the dog-pound waits and waits

3566	almost snowing now and then a white flake in the cold rain	3577	oncoming storm patio windbells dancing to a different tune
3567	cats in the sun when i speak their names their tails twitch	3578	Hokkaido's cranes their stately dance barely dents the snowcrusted field
3568	autumn monarch— to a cypress branch, carrying my loneliness	3579	taking off from atop the flagpole a crow finial
3569	the ticking of snow- forgiving her sister once again	3580	a blinding snow on Baldy-san: smog
3570	feeding each other buttery artichoke leaves this urge to undress	3581	gray overcast – some feathers missing from an eagle's wing
3571	partial moon— silhouettes of geese necks floating on the pond	3582	her parting words – the patter on the fallen leaves of sleet
3572	unseasonably warm the neighbor brings a fistful of radishes	3583	fat, gaudy, and dazed in John Belushi costume the winter bee
3573	still, the snow lingers in the shadows of the mountain road	3584	calling neighbors at power out—Crock Pot of bean soup still hot
3574	another cup of coffee served by a new waitress days getting longer	3585	stopping past the car wreck the muddy road
3575	a strange kite flying out to sea the year of the dragon	3586	knocked from tree niches by the blustery north wind old nests roll around
3576	cat is playing with a cotton ball	3587	sleet at the window her quavering hand struggles
	by the old fireplace		to write the letter

3588	stormy winter night grandchildren curled at my hips eager for stories	3699	White stillness blankets hills, and souls sleep peacefully. Frosted branches sigh.
3589	faded manuscripts into the packing case a scent of cedar	3600	Cool night breeze whispers memories across warm skin. A love comes to mind.
3590	planting the plum tree in spite of his illness a red bird settles in	3601	a small snow drift holds the garden gate I check each day
3591	ancient spring a thin moon & my fingers ringed with silver	3602	time please gentlemen – he pushes his shadow home in a wheelbarrow
3592	early spring planting seeds in my hand mixed with snowflakes	3603	her life stacked beside an empty moving van naked for all to see
3593	today's newspaper murder rape and mayhem lining my parrot's cage		Challenge Kigo Cold Rain
3594	our family squabble lightning repartee flashing thunder in the distance	cold r	ain all day another choshi of sake for the sukiyaki Naomi Y. Brown
3595	the wind blows dry leaves in winter garden scattered dreams		ain, nes to me not coming
3596	during the long night the wind rattles doors and windows the rhythm of winter		John Stevenson ctic Turn he cold wind
3597	depth of winter people ignore warning signs rebel clouds bring snow	stay cold r	ys on course Laurabell ain
3598	Lupines and poppies clashing orange and purple notes blend in harmony		s in the mailbox and wilted Patricia Prime

the doors clang shut locked patient protected from self windows weep cold rain

Christine Doreian Michaels

cold rain off the sea—
a hairline crack in this shard
of violet glass

Alice Benedict

the busker's hat slowly filling up with the cold rain

Giovanni Malito

cold rain -"I had a dream" tape
from the library

Fay Aoyagi

Chilling drizzle falls in a desolate hush empty loneliness

William Peckham

in the pinesI wait for a breakthis cold rain

Alex Benedict

so nearly full the cold rain splashes out – granite hollow

Claire Gallagher

watching it again
with the cat: William's Twelfth Night;
the cold steady rain
Carolyn Thomas

a cloud of dust how easily forgotten yesterday's cold rain

Yvonne Hardenbrook

cold rain slashes my cheek -- glimpses of pink in the western sky

Joan Zimmerman

cold rain gusts I clutch my umbrella high on the handle

Anne M. Homan

a sudden cold rain filling the broken gutter and my weathered boots

Gloria Procsal

my cat and I warm by the window the cold rain outside

Richard Bruckart

cold rain falls throughout the long night a winter's song

Eve Jeanette Blohm

cold rain on my cheek
echoes beneath drifted snow
rhododendron buds

Ross Figgins

Members' Votes for November-December

Anne Homan – 3452-1 3453-1 3454-3 Eve Blohm - 3455-1 3456-1 3457-0 Gloria Procsal – 3458-0 3459-0 3460-4 Teruo Yamagata – 3461-0 3462-9 3463-2 Dave Bachelor - 3464-3 3465-0 3466-1 **John Stevenson** – 3467-3 3468-0 3469-1 Carolyn Hall - 3470-10 3471-4 3472-4 Y. Hardenbrook – 3473-5 3474-4 3475-2 **Robert Gibson** – 3476-5 3477-5 3478-1 **John Ower** – 3479-2 3486-0 3490-0 **Claris Moore** – 3480-2 3481-4 3482-0 **Richard Bruckart** – 3483-0 3484-2 3485-0 **Kathleen Decker – 3487-4** 3488-1 3489-0 Echo Goodmansen –3491-2 3492-0 3493-4 Patricia Prime – 3494-1 3495-1 3496-2 Laurabell - 3497-5 3498-2 3499-1 Carolyn Thomas – 3500-7 3501-3 3502-1 Louise Beaven – 3503-1 **Zinovy Vayman** – 3504-2 3505-2 3506-2 Chris Herold – 3507-3 3508-3 3509-5 Giovanni Malito - 3510-5 3511-4 3512-1 Mary Ferryman – 3513-1 3514-0 **Ross Figgins** – 3515-4 3516-2 3517-2 **Alice Benedict** – 3518-3 3519-4 3520-2 **Roger Abe** – 3521-0 Claire Gallagher – 3522-2 3523-5 3524-0 Fay Aoyagi – 3525-4 3526-5 3527-6

November-December Haiku Voted Best by Readers of Geppo

seafaring story—
the book rises and falls
on his chest

Carolyn Hall

so many days already marked new calendar

Teruo Yamagata

departing autumn the trout's leap turns into ripples

Carolyn Thomas

Pearl Harbor Day I increase the speed of the treadmill

Fay Aoyagi

New Year's Day neighbor teaching her old dog another trick

Yvonne Hardenbrook

one wing useless an old gull hunts the jetty rocks

Robert Gibson

autumn weekend wind and leaves play in the schoolyard

Robert Gibson

downpour next year's seed lines the gutter

Laurabell

first frost click of the dog's toenails across the tile floor

Christopher Herold

dead of winter. . . the scarecrow guards an empty garden

Giovanni Malito

the sun and I so slow to rise

departing autumn

Claire Gallagher

San Francisco dusk a homeless man and his dog sharing the blanket

Fay Aoyagi

SEASON WORDS for spring

selected from the lists In the Members' Anthology

Season: spring months: March, April, early spring, lengthening days, spring dream, spring dusk, spring evening, spring melancholy, tranquility, vernal equinox.

Sky and Elements: bright, haze or thin mist, first spring storm, hazy moon, March wind, melting snow, lingering snow, spring breeze, spring cloud, spring frost, spring moon, spring rain, spring rainbow, spring sunbeam, warmth.

Landscape: flooded river/stream/brook, muddy/miry fields, muddy road, spring fields, spring hills, spring mountain, spring river, spring sea, spring tide.

Human Affairs: plowing or tilling fields, sleeping Buddha, spring cleaning, windmill, April Fools Day/April fool, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter (~ bonnet/clothes, ~ eggs, coloring/hiding ~ eggs, ~lily, ~ parade, ~ rabbit/chicken/duckling), Passover.

Animals: abalone, bee, baby animals (nestlings, fledglings, calf, colt, kitten, puppy, fawn, lamb, etc.),bush warbler, cats in love, crane, flying squirrel, frog, lizard, pheasant, robin, mud snail, soaring skylark, stork, swallow, tadpole, whitebait (a fish), nightingale, wild birds' return(geese, etc.).

Plants: asparagus, bracken, bramble, camellia, cherry blossoms/tree, crocus, daphne, blossoms or leaf buds of trees and shrubs (almond, apple, apricot, maple, oak, pear, pine, etc.), forget-menot, grass sprouts, mustard, parsley, plum blossoms/tree, California poppy, seaweed or laver(nori), shepherd's-purse, violet, pussy willows or catkins, willow.

Challenge Kigo for March April by Patricia Machmiller Spring Ice

At the beginning of spring as the sun warms the air, ice fishermen, skaters, and children of all ages are attracted to the ice on rivers and creeks. But spring ice, for all its allure, is treacherous. The thinning of the ice over sand bars and submerged logs where the sun's rays have been reflected upward is not visible from above. Winter ice is very strong laterally; when it is stressed you can hear it crack. It lulls those who frequent the ice into a false sense of security, for spring ice, weakened by the sun, has tiny invisible hairline cracks honeycombing through it. This ice, already cracked, gives way without warning. When spring ice shatters it usually breaks into small cubes.

One last deception: ice that was strong in the morning can be weak by afternoon and may fail to bear the same weight that crossed it in the morning!

unable to stop the dog and his boy running across the spring ice!

Patricia Machmiller

spring ice on Bad Crick - in the distance the sound of a calliope!

Patricia Machmiller

Editor's Correction::

Please note the corrected copy of Claire Gallagher's Challenge Kigo for Cold Rain, appearing in our last issue.

the first snowfall in years – Silicon Valley looses some edges

Dojins' Corner Jerry Ball and Patricia J Machmiller

pjm: Jerry chose poems 3458, 3484, and 3498 to discuss. Of the poems I chose this time, 3467, 3522, and 3525, I would say that only one of them feels to me successfully completed. The two poems that still seem incomplete were chosen because they are expressing something deep, and if they have flaws, they are flaws that can be overcome and the poems, I think, are worth the struggle it will take.

3458 stunted pine
wrinkled arms holding
a night full of snow

jb This is a wonderful image. There is a truth filling it that is a truth about life. I see old age and the loneliness of old age. There is a frustration in the "stunted pine" that is rewarded by the "night full of snow,"so typical of life's trials. Also, the language flows. The author knows what is meant by a "line" of poetry. Each line is complete and also flows into the next. I believe this haiku is high quality both artistically and technically.

pjm: The phrase, "night full of snow," is a beautiful expression of the enormity of life's experience. I would prefer that the image of the pine be more simply and literally drawn. This would allow the magnificent way the last line opens out to be unencumbered by the mental gymnastics required by the personification in the second line.

3484 back from the beach
discarding my little boy's
buckets of sand

jb: This haiku presents us with an image of an action so common for a parent. All the "serious" play of the child in gathering the sand is now "discarded." How often do we do similar things? The image is quite clear and the language flows. The haiku reads well and resonates to anyone who has a sense of what parents do to take care of children.

pjm: A small moment at day's end between a parent and his or her child when the whimsy of childhood meets the practicality of parenthood. There is a note of regret, I feel, but the poem is written so straight-forwardly, so unsentimentally, I had to reread it several times to discern where I got this notion. I find it in the sound, the b-b-b of back and beach and boy's, and buckets. Buried in those b sounds is the parent's unspoken reluctance so that even as the sand is poured the reader can almost hear the parent's internal voice saying but-but-but.

Another question this poem causes me to ask is related to the season. Without explicitly saying so the poem for me exists in summer. The question I ask is would the poem work better in another season? Autumn? Winter? Not to my mind. But spring . . .? Maybe . . . It's something to mull over . . .

3467 early Alzheimer's she says she'll have . . . the usual

pjm: Heartbreaking. The loss of memory. The loss of the familiar. The everyday. The ellipsis, that small hesitation, says everything. Almost. For me, this poem could go deeper. "Bare tree branches" create an image that resonates with neural synapses, or "beginning of winter" with the onset of forgetfulness, or "winter solitude," the deep-down aloneness of the

individual with a deteriorating mind. Without a kigo the poem is a poignant moment. With a kigo the poet gives the poem something to resonate with that can carry the reader even further into the experience

jb: I can respond to this image. My father died of Alzheimer's and I witnessed many scenes just like this one. Could it be that this needs some kind of kigo? The strength of this haiku lies in it's image.

3498 alone christmas eve the caress of a snowflake

jb: Again a writer presents us with a truth expressed in an image that is literally false. Of course no snowflake actually "caresses" us. Yet in the metaphorical world of this writer we realize that this may be the only caress we receive on this Christmas eve. The language also works. There is a kireji and the third line is a surprise. Nicely done

pjm: I would say that this haiku is a heroic try at putting two kigo of the same season in the same haiku. But in the time-honored tradition of Christmas, let me be scrooge! Haiku is just too small a poem for both "christmas" and "snowflake." Neither adds to the other; in fact, they drain the energy away from each other so that as the reader reflects, first, on one, and then the other, the haiku begins to deflate.

3522 lost! stopping

for directions at the door
hung with toyon

pjm: What makes this poem work is the sequence of perceptions. The reader

enters this poem "lost!" Frustrated and anxious, the reader casts about for help, for a sign. In the midst of confusion, the bright red toyon berries are a beacon—they say, "this house is friendly; this house has an open heart." And with gladness, our frustration falls away. "So what, I'm lost," we say. The toyon makes it matter not!

jb: Once again Patricia selects a poem that I've passed by and regret. This is a wonderful haiku! What makes it wonderful is the flow of it, and how it is filled with the life experience that we can relate to. Like the one I selected (about christmas eve) this haiku has a surprise in the third line. The image of the "toyon berries" brings us into the image. When I read this haiku I feel like I, too, stand at the stranger's door to ask directions.

3525 under the city light my curse to you in white breath

pjm: An urban image, fresh in its perception. The curse, in the physical form of "white breath," is colder, more sinister, an evil wish made visible. In some ways this is the best poem of the GEPPO: in the way that the visceral anger is given a visible, yet elusive, spirit-like container to be delivered in, and the sense that this image is exactly right and yet it is surprising in its uniqueness. But, the poem could benefit from some tinkering with syntax and grammar, I think.

jb: I feel a bit uneasy when I read this haiku, but I think that the author, too, feels uneasy. I once wrote: the remaining cold/erasing the old address/cursing the new one. These two haiku have similar feelings to me. I felt uneasy writing about

my new address; I expect that the author, too, has mixed feeling about a "curse to you/ in white breath." I think this haiku is brilliant and Patricia is quite correct in selecting it.

Please send us your comments in care of the GEPPO or at

A New Haiku Contest

This is not a major contest, certainly, but it ought to be fun for those who participate. There will be one prize of \$10, as well as publication of one's haiku on a postcard. The winner will receive 50 copies of the postcard, and other copies will be distributed to HPNC members attending the quarterly meeting following the contest. Those submitting poems are asked to allow their poems to be published, and a small collection of selected poems will be published as well as the winner.

Due Date The first contest due date is March 31. Poems should be in hand by that time.

How to Submit Please send your poems to

Paul O. Williams

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish to learn about your poem and those put in the collection. You may submit any number of poems you wish. Anyone may submit poems.

Subject For the first contest, each haiku should include either trees or wind or both. Poems not including either will not be considered. Poems should be original and unpublished.

Results Results will be presented at the spring quarterly meeting of HPNC on May 7th

Saijiki

A subcommittee of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society has been formed to work on a Saijiki. The geographical scope of the current effort is the San Francisco Bay Area.

The subcommittee has identified some spring kigo for which they are seeking haiku: California Poppy, globe lily, California newt, singing frogs, green hills, (field) mustard, shooting star (the flower), Ceanothus, Painted Ladies, first (tree/bloom/blossom.)

If you have haiku using these kigo and you wish to have them considered for the Saijiki, you could submit them to the GEPPO as the subcommittee plans to use the GEPPO as a primary source for haiku (with the author's permission, of course).

Submission Guidelines for GEPPO

Deadline for the next issue is April 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 unpublished 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. Each of the poems you select 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

The Kiyoshi Tokutomi Memorial Haiku Contest

In-hand Deadline: May 31, 2000

1st Prize \$100 • 2nd Prize \$50 • 3rd Prize \$25•

Honorable Mentions

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 contest list. Haiku that use more than one season word, or that do not contain one of the listed *kigo* will be disqualified.

2000 Contest Word List

New Years: first sparrow, first sunrise first dream, new diary

Spring: spring evening, long day spring storm, soap bubble, Easter, cat's love, tulip, magnolia

Autumn: beginning of autumn, long night, moon, shooting star, scarecrow, closing the pasture, Star Festival

Winter: freeze, days getting shorter, the skate or skating, withered field, winter mountain, winter vacation

- Entry Fee: \$6.00 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^{1/2}" 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 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 October, 2000. 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:

Jean Hale

Calendar

March 11 – 1:30 PM, East Valley Health Center, 1993 McKee Road, San Jose

April 8 – Meeting 1:30 PM, EVHC

May 20 – Haiku in the Teahouse, 1:00 PM, Japanese Friendship Garden, Kelley Park, 1300 Senter Rd., San Jose; YTHS 25th Anniversary Dinner, Hyatt-St. Claire, San Jose

June 10 - Meeting 1:30 PM Hakone Gardens, Saratoga

July 8 - Tanabata Celebration, 6:00 PM, Livermore

September 9 – Moon Viewing Party, 6:00 PM., TBA

October 19-22 – Conference at Asilomar, Pacific Grove

November 11 – Meeting 1:30 PM, EVHC, San Jose

December 9 – Holiday Potluck, TBA

GEPPO

is the bimonthly study-work journal of the Yuki 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 \$20.00 per year in U.S.& Canada \$25.00 International. which includes membership in the Society.

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

1999-2000 Officers

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

Young Leaves: A Celebration of Spring

On May 20th, 2000

The Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

is celebrating its

25th Anniversary

with a

Garden Walk and Haiku Reading

featuring

Kiyoko Tokutomi,

Co-Founder of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Teruo Yamagata,

Director of the Yukuharu Haiku Society, Japan

and

Past Presidents:

Patricia Machmiller, Jerry Ball,

David Wright, June Hopper Hymas, and Alex Benedict

with

Roger Abe, President

and the

San Jose Bando Mitsusa Kai Dance Group

followed by an

Open Reading

in the

Japanese Friendship Garden

at 1:00 PM in Kelly Park, San Jose, CA

and

A Celebration Banquet and Evening Program

of haiku composition, spontaneous readings, music, and poetic performance featuring Noh Dancer,

Ellen Brooks

at 6:00PM

at the St. Claire Hotel

on Market and San Carlos in San Jose

For more information visit the Yuki Teikei Web Site: www.yukiteikei.org