GEPPO

the haiku study-work journal

of the

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Volume XXIII:5

September-October 2000

3860	unlocked gate frost-covered pumpkins curious black cows	3868	chainsaw roar died with a tree snap in the woods – raindrop on my cheek
3861	a furtive glance he slides his worn running shoes nearer the scarecrow	3869	tennis shoe imprints co-mingle with deer droppings - quails fly startled
3862	the wind whistles – a boneless crow man bojangles in time	3870	fall clouds—the hiker scurries along the crest line, angles andis gone!
3863	Sunday morning entwined with her tangled in smiles	3871	fall's late afternoon— a spider stops its weaving to ride the dry wind
3864	Long ride without her the moon beside me through the night	3872	autumn light— cob web caught in the cat's whiskers
3865	My lover and I rainbow flags rippling on a Sunday	3873	water garden a red dragonfly darting over the lilies
3866	sniffling home from the doctor's office for some hot chicken soup	3874	afternoon walk – the autumn forest full of monarch butterflies
3867	autumn sun on bluff — alligator, lizard and i both "spread-eagle"	3875	a wasp drinks from the hummingbird feeder - autumn sky

3876	discovered among late summer clouds, my eyebrows	3887	coffee shop comparing love-lives over scones
3877	rusty pipe the plumber's knotted knuckles	3888	beneath sardine cloud pearl-grey backed sanderlings change herring bone tweed coats
3878	autumn night the reflection of a bookcase fills the window	3889	summer heat lingers boy on board threads crest of wave broderie anglais
3879	TV Olympics the trainer of the wrestler releases his breath	3890	bright paper moon string of crystal jellyfish trace the watermark
3880	Rosh Hashana Day our sins cast in water we too walk downstream	3891	out of sight but not out of mind autumn butterfly
3881	just my umbrella and just one wet shoulder – yours as before	3892	the sound of footsteps faded into the distance autumn twilight
3882	The tiny seedpod does a little dance for me the wind her partner.	3893	the national park slopes down to the river autumn mist
3883	Up on the highway the leaves are turning red now sweatshirts for breakfast	3894	midnight reverie so many autumn voices singing in the sound
3884	Like an avalanche, snow clouds roll down the mountain burying summer.	3895	descending the dune into someone's footprints a raven's harsh call
3885	distant sound is it bird or baby?	3896	starless night in the jack-o-lantern's eye a flickering light
3886	on the wall a handwritten sonnet by the mirror	3897	white crescent moon hanging over a still lake the leaping salmon

3898	the flying vee veers a gradual about face Indian summer	3909	as seasons change the wind shifts direction with new song
3899	bellowing bloodied victoriesthe wounded stag	3910	autumn loneliness the salty mist and empty boardwalk
3900	in the park a squirrel digs up a walnut and drops it at my feet	3911	autumn wind whistles a song of endless change
3901	the mockingbird in the nudist colony whistling	3912	frost on the pumpkin the mail today arrives early
3902	the ancient oak buzzing cicadas honor it buzzing saws cut it down	3913	dried horseshoe prints more frequent by the blackberry bramble
3903	near the summit resting on separate rocks – autumn loneliness	3914	sudden downpour— the umbrella salesman offers a rain-check
3904	beginning of autumn the sound of an axe biting wood	3915	Autumn loneliness my circular puzzle up high on the wall
3905	an officer's coat hung on a scarecrow bird shadows	3916	Aged sister moon so pretty at a distance like all the others
3906	Labor Day finally my no-name bush produces a bloom	3917	Ancient pregnant moon in what dark and cold sea is my story writ?
3907	close overhead a lesser nighthawk's low trill	3918	on a pumpkin-colored paper napkin B2B strategy
3908	autumn creeping down the mountain one day at a time	3919	Pomegranate— how can I translate myself for you

3920	colorless wind— the flag for two Koreas marching the stadium	3931	two moons waver in the bouquet of the Slovenian wine	
3921	far apart we ride home from the therapist	3932	flickering candle background music the moon also rises	
3922	Palm Sunday morning derelict berating cinder block wall	3933	wet autumn morning the robins feasting on worms	
3923	poetry reading my date asleep	3934	autumn dusk between leaves on water the silent trees	
3924	helping neighbors rebuild their redwood fence – two monarch butterflies	3935	harvest moon between gray clouds crisp melon slices	
3925	first day of autumn noticing her friend's new wrinkles		allenge Kigo for July-August Porch	
3926	good neighbor — not picking their ripe pears till they invite her		the porch rail atterflies hang upside-down dark thunder grows near Ross Figgins	
3927	from her window seat the cat takes a morning shift neighborhood watch	early	se on the porch autumn sunset gh-ancient oaks Karina Young	
3928	fiftieth reunion surreptitiously glancing at name tags	a	he sa gg ing porch: a case of empties and a broken stroller	
3929	great grandma's sidewalk its widening crack filled with baby tears	wove	Louise Beaven 's empty house— n to the porch hand rail two perfect webs	
3930	pinned to the gray sky a Monarch Butterfly struggles in the wind	end o	Carolyn Thomas f summer orch remains	

between lace curtain and laundry on porch the mountain where I've never been

Zinovy Vayman

I sit on the porch feeling summer slip away and the lake grow still.

Jan McMillan

private porch where I essay the world in my underwear

Richard St. Clair

while parents sleep in she plays alone on the porch each doll bears her name

Christine Doreian Michaels

gran's riverside porch the familiar scent of ripening pears

Gloria H. Procsal

shifting furniture making space in the porch for winter storage

Giovanni Malito

on the porch the old folks' conversation rocking back and forth

Richard E. Bruckart

sprawled on the porch a child in her nightgown searches the stars

Patricia Prime

after dinner neighbor calling to neighbor from porch to porch

Yvonne Hardenbrook

the tall maple leans its branches, touching porch a summer haven

Eve Jeanette Blohm

Halloween turned tight,

the new porch light grows warm

Michael Dylan Welch

alone on the porch I stare at the missing slat as if it were me

W. Eliott Greig

on the porch Ginsberg after Ginsberg to the moon

Fay Aoyagi

forgotten swim trunks covered with snow summer cabin porch

Dave Bachelor

autumn evening sneakers lined up by the door and the still porch swing

Karen A. Grimnes

SEASON WORDS for early winter

selected from the lists in the 1996 Members' Anthology.

Season: early winter months: November, December, chilly night, departing autumn, start of winter, depth of winter, short day, winter day, winter morning, winter night.

Sky and Elements: sardine cloud, frost/hoarfrost, freeze, hail, ice, icicle, north wind, sleet, snow/first snow, winter cloud, winter moon, winter rain, winter solstice, winter wind.

Landscape: reaped or harvested fields, stubble fields, vineyards, winter creek or stream, winter mountain, winter sea or ocean, winter seashore, winter garden, withered moor.

Human Affairs: gleaning, harvest, Thanksgiving; bean soup, blanket, brazier, hot chocolate, charcoal fire, cold or flu, cough, foot warmer, gloves/mittens,

grog, heater, hunting, falconer, fish trapper, overcoat/fur coat, popcorn, quilted clothes, shawl, skiing.

Animals: deer, shrike (butcher bird), siskin, snipe, woodpecker., bear, hibernation, fox, marten or sable, oyster, owl, perch, rabbit, reindeer, sardine, sea slug, swan, weasel, winter bee, winter fly, winter sparrow, winter wild geese, wolf, whale.

Plants: cranberry, pomegranate, dried persimmon, heavenly bamboo(Nandina), pine nuts, radish, scallion, tangerine /mandarin orange, turnip, winter chrysanthemum, winter grass, winter tree or grove, withered or frost-nipped plants.



Members' Votes for July August

Gloria Procsal - 3775-4 3776-1 3777-2 Teruo Yamagata - 3778-3 3779-3 3780-0 Eve J. Blohm - 3781-2 3782-0 3783-0 Pat Prime - 3784-1 3785-1 3786-1 Yvonne Hardenbrook- 3787-4 3788-3 3789-1 Richard St. Clair- 3790-0 3791-1 3792-5 Karina Young- 3793-3 3794-1 3795-0 Laura Bell- 3796-3 3797-5 3798-1 Kay Grimnes- 3799-0 3800-1 3801-8 Roger Abe- 3802-1 3803-6 Richard Bruckart- 3804-3 3805-6 3806-0 Zinovy Vayman- 3807-2 3808-0 3809-0 Carolyn Thomas- 3810-1 3811-2 3812-0 John Stevenson – 3813-1 3814-3 3815-1 Elsie Canfield- 3816-1 3817-0 3818-1 Giovanni Maito- 3819-0 3820-1 3821-3 Carolyn Hall- 3822-7 3823-4 3824-1 Anne Homan- 3825-0 3826-4 3827-2 Naomi Brown- 3828-3 3829-1 3830-1 Michael Dylan Welch- 3831-4 3832-7 3833-3 Chistine D. Michaels- 3834-0 3835-0 3836-1 Ross Figgins- 3837-1 3838-4 3839-0 W. Eliott Greig- 3840-1 3841-2 3842-4 Ioan Zimmerman- 3843-1 3844-2 3845-1 Dave Bachelor- 3846-1 3847-0 3848-4 Fay Aoyagi- 3849-0 3850-1 3851-3 Mary Ferryman- 3852-0 3853-0 William Peckham- 3854-0 3855-1 3856-0 Clair Gallagher- 3857-3 3858-1 3859-1

July-August Haiku Voted Best by Readers of Geppo

summer dusk under a heron's wing the slow flap of air

Karen Grimnes

after sundown in the kitchen mincing words

Carolyn Hall

grey autumn sky – the end of the epitaph etched deeper

Michael Dylan Welch

ocean fog somewhere the beach somewhere me

Roger Abe

The rain has ended Puddles everywhere Walking on the Sky

Richard Bruckart

summer butterfly crossing my path into the dark woods

Richard St. Clair

pieces missing the shackled prisoner works a puzzle

Laura Bell

crashing wave into it a surfer rides the midnight moon

Gloria Procsal

rushing clouds a sickle moon now and then through apple blossoms

Yvonne Hardenbrook

between his manicured lawn and my wild hillside barbed wire

Carolyn Hall

desert morning three-fourths of the world summer sky

Anne Homan

leaping up from my chair —
the telephone ringing
on television

Michael Dylan Welch

he walks back down autumn silence grows with each stone step

Ross Figgins

Book of sunflowers a present from a student many blooms ago

W. Elliott Greig

I swat a fly remember him swat it again

Dave Bachelor

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 th U.S. and Canada and \$25.00 International. which includes membership in the Society.

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

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Membership in the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society is \$20.00 per year in the U.S. and Canada and \$25.00 International. Membership includes six issues of the *Geppo* per year.

Submission Guidelines for GEPPO

Deadline for the next issue is December 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. 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

Young Leaves: An old way of seeing new, Writings on Haiku in English A review by Donnalynn Chase

"I would like to tell you how I opened my eyes to haiku." I love that first sentence of Kiyoko Tokutomi's in her Young Leaves article as its authenticity sets the tone for the rest of the anthology. Midway through that first article, I felt very privileged to be associated with the Yuki Teikei Haiku. Society. I had no idea of the society's rich heritage and the depth of dedication that so many people had and have for a little short poem. As a "virtual" society member, I came to know many other members by their way of seeing new as portrayed in Young Leaves.

As a relative new-comer to writing haiku, I have taken the route from "beginner's mind" through over-studying and researching to despair and abandonment. Sorting through the many, many books, journals, and almanacs, I quickly became very confused and alienated from the poem's form. The writings collected in Young Leaves helped me navigate through "the jungle" to ground me securely in the rediscovery of my own way of being and seeing around haiku. By the end of Young Leaves, I felt confident in the knowledge that there is no one way to write in an old way as we all have our individual ways of seeing new.

The articles on haiku's form in Young Leaves are not intimidating as so many of the handbooks and collections that I have read in the past. The anthology respectfully includes many perspectives while gently advocating the traditional 5-7-5 form. A personal quality is present as each writer shares his experiences and wisdom with haiku as opposed to justifying one doctrine or theory. The articles and the outstanding haiku are offerings to help me decide for myself my relationship with haiku.

Young Leaves is an exquisite celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society. Patricia Machmiller and June Hopper Hymas have crafted a beautiful anthology of heartfelt reflection, commentaries, remembrances, and art by many passionate poets. Its strength is its openness to the vastness of expression and its devotion to an old form. Clearly, haiku is more than seventeen simple syllables.



Challenge Kigo for November-December Clicking or Ticking Leaves

by D. Claire Gallagher

You are at the edge of the woods, on a park bench near a sycamore, or under a meadow tree on an Indian summer day. Perhaps your back is against a maple; perhaps you are on a hill with a view; perhaps you are accompanied by a companion comfortable with silence. Listen well, beyond the obvious sounds.

It may sound like insects clicking. The sun's warmth is drying fallen leaves; as they contract into themselves, their desiccating tissue clicks—a subtle sound, a small snapping. Once you hear it, you might hear ticking from autumn leaves drying all around you, if you listen.

recently my husband retired-the ticking leaves

D. Claire Gallagher

from every direction the click of drying leaves-your one-way ticket

D. Claire Gallagher

cabin ruins-everywhere in the clearing
the clicking leaves

D. Claire Gallagher

Dojins' Corner by Jerry Ball and Patricia J. Machmiller

Jerry's choices for the three best haiku for this *GEPPO* are: 3794, 3799, and 3801.He also identified several others as rumers up: 3776, 3777, 3793, and 3816. Patricia chose 3803, 3810, and 3836.

3794 alone in the fog a blue heron dancing

jb: This is close to a nature sketch haiku (shasei) except for the metaphor "dancing." What I like about this haiku is the clarity of the image and the austere quality. I think the haiku might be strengthened by omitting the "alone" which is really not needed. Consider:

fog
 a blue heron
dancing

Nevertheless I think this is a fine haiku with a good feeling.

pim: The heron dancing is somewhat interesting, but the haiku has two strong kigo from different seasons, fog (autumn) and heron (summer), making it impossible to find unity and resonance beyond the sketch that Jerry pointed out. Unfortunately, my mind cannot resolve the conflict and I am left unsatisfied. It might be useful to note that "ocean fog" is a summer kigo; use of this kigo would resolve at least the seasonal difficulty.

3799 August sails the halyards slap against the mast

jb: This is definitely a shasei. It's a simple "nature sketch" where everything in the haiku is the correlative of some emotion. "August sails" suggests a journey later in life, and the "halyards slap against the mast" suggests a retreat from the world of drive and ambition. This is a restful haiku. The language is simple and direct and reads well.

pjm: I like Jerry's interpretation of this haiku. I would only add that this seems to me to be two good lines in search of a third. Another haiku in the GEPPO this time that I thought had two worthy lines in need of a third was 3821.

3801 summer dusk under a heron's wing the slow flap of air

jb: I seem to have an affinity for herons in this group of haiku, and also an affinity for the nature sketch. While that may be true for this particular group of GEPPO haiku, these are well done in that tradition. This haiku has many of the same qualities as 3799. They are both lyrical. There is no great enlightenment to be found. Whatever enlightenment is small and that may be the best kind. The phrase, "the slow flap of air" is restful and slender. One can be drawn into this scene.

pjm: Since heron is a summer kigo, the word "summer" in this haiku is redundant. One can imagine that the second line could be rewritten as "at dusk under a heron's wing," and again we have two worthy lines waiting for a third. It may be that with the third line will come the enlightenment that Jerry was looking for.

3803 ocean fog somewhere the beach somewhere me

pjm: In this haiku the external fog has become, by the third line, an internal fog —that feeling of being lost in a landscape is compared to the feeling of being lost in the self. "Ocean fog" is a summer kigo and, perhaps, the poet is right to choose a summer kigo as it is in the summer of life when we are looking for ourselves. I suppose we are always looking for ourselves, but maybe we feel more lost in the summer of our lives. What do you think?

jb: I like the idea of this haiku very much. It is an idea of self discovery, certainly central to haiku moments. I don't think the repetition of "somewhere" works to the poem's advantage. If I were writing this I would do something like: ocean fog/I find myself/along the beach. Please pardon me, author, for tinkering. In one of my chat groups we've been discussing this same question: the idea of repetition in haiku. It seems to be difficult to make it work. For example: with the tide out/once again the moon/is the moon. However, I do like the thrust of this verse and want to commend the author for attending to a haiku moment.

pjm: Sorry, Jerry, but I think the repetition does work: "... somewhere... somewhere..." gives the sense of groping in the fog, a linguistic tapping in the search to find where, and by comparison, who we are.

3810 evening light—
a bat flies up from the wash
its gray underbelly

pjm: A simple image of summer—a bat suddenly flying up, its belly catching the dying light in the evening sky. The tone of the poem catches the mood of the moment—quiet, subdued, subtle—the color of evening light.

jb: This is a haiku moment: the awareness of a very simple thing, the "underbelly" of a bat. In the flow of the world it's not much of an event, but at this moment it is universal. We revere the sanctity of life by the simple act of recognition of another life.

3836 walking at twilight daily worries sift settle fireflies light the way

pjm: The poet's internal landscape of small worries is echoed in the glimmer of the fireflies—the motion of their lights coming and going at random have a rhythm similar to the "sift" and "settle" motion of "daily worries." The phrase "light the way" detracts, I think, from this comparison and closes down the reader's thought process. If the last line were just "the fireflies," the haiku would be more open and the reader would have more liberty to ruminate on the comings and goings of fireflies, worries, and the dailiness of life.

jb: This is another haiku of a self awareness. On a twilight walk the "daily worries" seem to attain a truer perspective with the appearance of "fireflies." Our worries are, indeed, like "fireflies," as our author reminds us. I think I would want to work a little on the craft of this haiku. In my opinion it has the sense of being a little padded. The line: "fireflies light the way" seems a little explanatory or documentary. For example, consider: a walk at twilight/my daily worries settle/into the fireflies. This has the 5-7-5 pattern without the sense of being an explanation. However, my commendation to the author for recognition of a true haiku moment.

Your responses are invited. Please write us at Geppo or email

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Against the backdrop of the recent dramatic events in Yugoslavia, we offer this report by **Fay Aoyagi** of a Haiku gathering in Slovenia

I attended The World Haiku Association Inaugural Meeting in Tolmin, Slovenia on September 1 - 3, 2000 as an interpreter for the Japanese delegation. This is a short report of my experience in a small, but beautiful town in the former Yugoslavia.

When we arrived at the airport in Ljubljana (the capital of Slovenia), I was at the head of the group. A young blond officer asked me, "what's going on?" I told him that we came to attend the poetry meeting. "Poetry? That's a change!" With a grin, he stamped my passport.

On the way to Tolmin, we enjoyed a day at Lake Bled. We admired the calm, emerald green water. Our tour guide told us that this area has been popular as a ski resort among Europeans. We visited a church built in the seventh century, then warmed ourselves with pear brandy, followed by the excellent food.

We arrived at Tolmin late afternoon on Friday, September 1. Dimitar Anakiev, one of the founders of The World Haiku Association and a resident of Tolmin brought us to the River Tolminka. Tolmin is surrounded by the Alps and very close to the Italian border. The river water is very pure and tasted great. Dimitar told us Dante wrote the Divine Comedy there and up in the mountain there is a cave with his name, Dante's Jama.

The reception started with a greeting from the deputy mayor and we enjoyed a performance of the folk music group. After the official speeches, all the participants introduced themselves reading one haiku each. In addition to Japanese haiku poets, a crew of NHK (a broadcasting company in Japan) was in town to film the event, as a part of their documentary program on Balkan Haiku. It might be the first time Tolmin had seen that many Asian faces.

During the next two days, we listened to the presentations, exchanged the views on haiku. It was refreshing to listen to so many Europeans and to know that haiku is very popular in Europe. Thanks to Ion Codrescu, many of us have become familiar with Romanian haiku, but I did not know that Croatia has two haiku associations!

As you might have known through Knots, the anthology of South Eastern European poets edited and distributed by Jim Kacian, many Balkan poets wrote about their recent experiences during the civil war.

young grasses—
the mountains bleed from a helmet
full of dreams

Dimitar Anakiev

Before the lecture, Dimitar had invited Ban'ya Natsuishi, a Japanese poet and editor of Ginyu Magazine, to the place where he composed this haiku. Ban'ya responded with the following:

behind a rock on the green slope dead soldiers' spirits

Ban'ya Natsuishi

(translated from Japanese by Fay Aoyagi)

Attendance at the conference was not huge (about 50 people), but it was an intimate gathering with enough haiku sharing. The

words of Vladimir Devide, a Croatian haiku poet and a father figure for Balkan haiku still echo in my ear: "Haiku is a kiss to nature."



The Kiyoshi TokutomiMemorial Haiku Contest 2000

<u>First Prize</u> – Margaret Chula

on Easter morning the bread dough breathes and rises under its damp cloth

Second Prize - Margaret Chula

blowing soap bubbles on her eightieth birthday the years glide away

Third Prize - Yvonne Hardenbrook

the morning paper a black ant punctuating the big black headline

Honorable Mentions

the cat comes indoors to sit on the window sill night of shooting stars

Helen Shaffer

after arguing white magnolia blossom cool against my cheek

Michael Dylan Welch

the winters first freeze an empty cobweb sparkles in the morning light

Gary Barnes

cool sunless seashore chair on a wet patio still rocking empty

Nina Wicker

the beginning of autumn in the garden, grandparents asleep in deck chairs

Patricia Prime

Walking in bare feet she moves with easy grace across the tiled floor

Robert Major

On the horizon, attended by one bright star. . . a sliver of moon

Robert Major

Smoky moon rising little boys eat marshmallows cooked at the campfire

Jan McMillan

tulip festival—
the colours of all the cars
in the parking lot

Michael Dylan Welch

Star Festival eve in the mail box a letter from an old lover

Margaret Chula

Calendar

November 11 – Meeting 1:30 PM, East Valley Health Center, 1993 McKee Road, San Jose At this meeting there will be a discussion, led by Patrick Gallagher, of local writers and their influence on haiku composition. Participants are encouraged to share their favorite local writers.

December 9 – Winter Holiday Potluck and Haiku Exchange at Jean Hale's house,

Directions: I live in a Condo complex very near Rt. 85. Going north on 85, exit at De Anza Blvd. (also called Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd.)
Turn left on De Anza to Rainbow Drive (first right after 85), follow Rainbow to Gardenside Lane, turn right, then take first left to turn right and my house is on the

From Rts. 280 and 101 going south, you may pick up Route 85, exit at De Anza and turn right to Rainbow, then follow directions above. On Rt. 280 going north, exit at De Anza

blvd..turn left to Rainbow and follow directions

above.

left at next corner.

The complex is made up of three short streets and there are parking places on all of them. If these are all taken, you may park on Gardenside Lane.

Web Address: www.yukiteikei.org