GEPPO

the haiku study-work journal of the

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Volume XXIV: 3

<u> May June 2001</u>

Members' Haiku for Study and Appreciation – Jean Hale, Editor

4130 summer picnic 4138 so many paths on the bee's hairy legs crisscrossing the hillside fois gras to the spring creek 4131 the larger the blossoms 4139 A-Bomb Day again the meaner the thorns awaiting her breast x-ray "Peace" rose cancer survivor 4132 blue Monday 4140 such delicacy the skylark's call the old woman her small bare feet chirr-up chirr-up 4133 North on I-5 at the rodeo 4141 farmworkers suddenly proud crowd the truck of his bow legs 4134 boarding the bus 4142 now silent landslide still blocking the country road The Mexican maids innumerable transfers summer butterfly the pebble boy throw 4135 hundred of gulls 4143 above the fish restaurant skipped along the water surface back and forth summer vacation 4144 the dry ground 4136 upon her mantel absorbed the water at once behind yellowed photographs spider threads daylight saving time 4137 prancing foal spring dream 4145 its tail held high on a run school children crowd across the pasture the congested streets

4146	spring dream school children leave concert hall echoes of singing	4157	breeze through the window it's too early to put away the extra blankets
4147	band shell a summer concert in park a distant dream	4158	just a trim - spring rain drapes my still damp hair
4148	Memorial Day the purple rose she always wore	4159	during my run, pausing to count the camouflaged ducklings
4149	first picking a small ant follows spinach to the pot	4160	feline cries of passion old couple roused fall asleep again
4150	lingering dusk— the reverence in her lined face	4161	beach path bordered by sunflowers ends at vending machine
4151	trying to focus through a streaky old window— distant circling crows	4162	rival's book reviewed seeking humility I read it
4152	almost stepped on it, belly-up bumblebee so still on the sidewalk	4163	white azaleas make this afternoon seem cooler
4153	a squirrel peering into my roomas I freeze he scurries away	4164	honeylocust— white flags waving: take notice
4154	just past the bend in the woodland trail violets	4165	after rain— striking the oriole's breast a sunbeam!
4155	spring rain seeping into everything the scent of grass	4166	no mail today even the windbells empty
4156	departing spring just one plum blossom left on each tree	4167	Venus hanging from the new moon's horn spring twilight

4168	something slams the gate a swirl of dry leaves resettles	4179	cherry blossoms – a bumble bee is crawling upon a candy wrapper
4169	in silence he cuts flowers from his own garden Memorial Day	4180	he asks, "no ice" the waiter brings water with no lime either
4170	on the stylist's shelf— one stalk of purple iris in a clear glass vase	4181	billowing cloud spreads dark blue shadows the landscape couple in silence
4171	late evening light— a baby rabbit returns to the hedge shadows	4182	flaunting their feathers oil-slick grackles rasp in yard shed door's rusty hinge
4172	grapes in the arbor— your hand touches mine as we pick	4183	edged with d'oiley frill forget-me-nots fill posy old friend's grateful smile
4173	summer dew the park bench dry at one end	4184	Tipping up beside the dredging bucket — a duck's tail.
4174	mountain shadows— we move our lawn chairs along with the sun	4185	Meadow rivulet – bankside bee gurgles in a foxglove
4175	almost invisible in the flowing water – bare feet	4186	A stirring breeze – reflected chains of moored boats breaking in ripples
4176	over summer hills a hot-air balloon – its sudden flare	4187	pausing at twilight to watch bats scoop the air
4177	broken stem a caterpillar probes beyond	4188	under the birdfeeder— a displaced turkey dines with a chipmunk
4178	Judean hillside between the barbed wire barbs a swinging sparrow	4189	Mother's Day planting dahlias she watches from her wheelchair

4190 Oil baron's villa; 4201 flowers gone sparrows feather their nest the trees make do under the roof tiles with leaves and style 4191 Her-high school yearbook ... 4202 in my cubicle, each face stares at a future leaving some of her perfume beyond the camera and some of her work 4192 Shadows sweep the grass; 4203 fawns frolic headstones stand as gnomons around a rusted of unmarked sundials Edsel 4193 splashes of scarlet -4204 bones in the meadow frail pond reeds bend in the wind the boys have mating of dragonflies a sword fight 4194 behold Orion rise -4205 the music chill off the frozen mountain of Niagara Falls long owl lit nights a Canadian folk tune 4195 the pier, a memory 4206 two kittens white gulls philister one ball of yarn blackened pilings ...détente 4196 scent of acacia 4207 cloudbreak... on gold yellow blossoms sent the rain-sopped dog sneezing to the sky scatters rainbows 4197 moon catches her glow 4208 sun through colored glass as she makes horizon blush shines rainbow on the floor soon he turns sky white grandsons snatch at it 4198 blue dragonfly rests Before the storm comes 4209 on top of two blades of grass the windchimes start to tinkle while me on thousands louder and louder 4199 orange dragon flies 4210 Rocking on the porch high on the mountainside the song of the nightingale a maiden's laughter fills the still evening 4200 a bench in shade 4211 ocean fogold folks plotting I can't recall the name

of my first lover

their next move

4212 thin dust
on her piano—
a cicada's born

4213 Angel island—
fragment of the summer
I share with the wind

Challenge Kigo Vernal Pool

intent children seeking the last fairy shrimp in a vernal pool

Anne Homan

after the thunderstorm reflections of sky and clouds in vernal pool

Eve Jeanette Blohm

Vernal pool something breaks the surface my fading lifeline

Gloria Procsal

from the vernal pool behind the old stone wall, a single black fly

Richard St. Clair

vernal pool adrift on its surface a few loose clouds

Linda Robeck

endangered species keeping the bulldozers away from these vernal pools

Ruth Holzer

blossoms reflected in the garden's vernal pool ...chickadee too

Yvonne Hardenbrook

holding onto the moon vernal pool

Carolyn Thomas

vernal pool the shapes of the past

Michael Dylan Welch

this clear evening many more stars in the vernal pool

Patricia Prime

Spring pond in the field . . . migrating ducks settle down to rest for the night

Robert Major

rings of wild flowers the ages of a vernal pond here, feel the dampness

Ross Figgins

pink at dawn the vernal pond maps the contours of the land

Patrick Gallagher

vernal pool on the mountaintop we take our rest

John Stevenson

long winter but lives thrive. . . vernal pool

Giovanni Malito

a photoof her secret loververnal pools

Fay Aoyagi

Members' Votes for March April

Carolyn Hall -4067-1 4068-5 4069-9 Yvonne Hardenbrook -4070-4 4071-1 4072-10 Eve J. Blohm - 4073-0 4074-0 4075-1 Teruo Yamagata – 4076—1 4077-5 4078-2 Anne Homan - 4079-1 4080-7 4081-2 Joan Ward - 4082-6 4083-4 4084-0 Gloria Procsal – 4085-6 4086-1 4087-1 Carolyn Thomas - 4088-7 4089-4 4090-0 Ross Figgins - 4091-3 4092-1 4093-1 Richard St. Clair - 4094-6 4095-6 4096-2 Ruth Holzer - 4097-0 4098-3 4099-1 Michael Welch - 4100-5 4101-2 4102-0 Pat Prime - 4103-01 4104-0 4105-3 Kat Avila - 4106-2 4107-3 4108-6 John Stevenson - 4109-3 4110-3 4111-9 Dave Bachelor - 4112-2 4113-7 4114-10 Zinovy Vayman - 4115-0 4116-0 4117-0 Fay Aoyagi - 4118-2 4119-3 4120-0 Giovanni Malito - 4121-0 4122-3 4123-1 Kay Grimnes - 4124-3 4125-5 4126-2 Claire Gallagher - 4127-2 4128-2 4129-4

Editor's Note:

Attribution was omitted in Members' Votes of the last issue for Poem Nos. 4064-5, 4065-3 and 4066-1 of Michael Dylan Welch

March-April Haiku Voted Best by Readers of Geppo

powwow twilight
the Fancy Dancer removes
his shades

Yvonne Hardenbrook

frontier cemetery so close together the dates

Dave Bachelor

Home for the Aged rose petals curled beside a crystal vase

Carolyn Hall

no reservations the drama begins at the box office

John Stevenson

spring wind wild oats restlessly surging in waves up the hill

Anne Homan

first day of spring the anthill that wasn't there yesterday

Carolyn Thomas

ticking clock in a cold moonbeam settling dust motes

Dave Bachelor

Easter shut in alone—saying the rosary

Joan Ward

upset by something
I cannot name—
the mock rose blooms

Gloria Procsal

out for a Spring walk caught behind a caravan of baby strollers

Richard St. Clair

. . .on a park bench gazing out at the melting snow his writing hand still

Richard St. Clair

the flowers from two weeks ago at someone else's grave

Kat Avila

hurricane season—
a brown leaf twirls
at the end of spider silk

Carolyn Hall

naked light bulb hanging from an old tree spring thunder

Teruo Yamagata

passing cloud the bush wren tips to water in a hoofprint

Michel Dylan Welch

flooded marshland the swoop of swallows low over the water

Kay Grimnes

Submission Guidelines for GEPPO

Deadline for the next issue is August 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 poem will receive 1 point Poems with the most votes are reprinted with the author's name in the next issue.
 Send to:

Jean Hale

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 *Geppo* per year

SEASON WORDS

for summer

selected from the lists in the 1994 Members' Anthology

Season: June, July, August: beginning of summer, midsummer, end of summer, summer solstice, long day, slow day, short night:

Sky and Elements: summer dew, ~ fog, ~ rain, ~ sky, ~ sun, ~ wind, south wind, scented breeze, scorching/blazing sun, calm morning/evening, cumulus/billowing cloud, cloud peaks, sea of clouds, ocean fog, thunder, lightning, sudden shower, rainbow, heat, hot, drought, coolness.

Landscape: summer hills, ~ lake, ~ moor, ~ mountains, ~ sea, ~ river, waterfall, clear water, summer grove, deep tree shade.

Human Affairs: awning, fan, beach umbrella, parasol, perfume, camp, fly swatter, fireworks, fountain, summer hat, summer house, summer vacation, summer concert/opera, ice house, ice water, iced tea, nakedness, bare feet, mosquito net, midday nap, swimming, swimming pool, sunburn, sweat, sunglasses, sundress, rattan chair, reed, wind chimes, prayers for rain, cooling oneself, mowing grass, weeding, Fathers' day, Fourth of July (Independence Day), Armed Forces Day, Tanabata (Festival of the Weaver, or Star festival - traditionally, an autumn kigo).

Animals: ant, bat, caterpillar, cicada, crab, cormorant, firefly, flea, louse, house fly, goldfish, blue/white/grey heron, kingfisher, moor hen or coot, mosquito, mosquito larvae, moth, silverfish, slug, (garden) snail, snake, spider, summer butterfly, termite, toad, tree frog, trout, silkworm, water beetle.

Plants: amaryllis, barley, summer bracken, bamboo sprouts, carnation, cactus flower, dahlia, dill flower, foxglove, fuchsia, gardenia, geranium, gladiolus, summer or rank grasses, summer weeds, hibiscus, hollyhock, honeysuckle, hydrangea, iris, calla lily, daylily, lotus, marguerite, marigold, mold (mildew), moss grown (mossy), oxalis, peony, phlox, pinks, rose, salvia, silk tree (mimosa), snapdragon, sunflower, summer thistle, leafy willow, yucca, zinnia, summer fruits and vegetables (banana, blackberry, cucumber, cherry, eggplant, green grapes, green(unripe) apple, green walnut, green peas, apricot, melon (honeydew, cantaloupe, watermelon, etc), pineapple, potato, raspberry, strawberry, tomato, zucchini

Dojins Corner by Patricia Machmiller and Jerry Ball

From the March-April issue of GEPPO, Jerry chose 4086, 4110, and 4111. Patricia chose 4076, 4095, and 4119. They each had a few comments about their process of choosing.

pjm: On my first read-through of the haiku in the March-April issue, I compiled, as is my practice, two lists. The first is the list of haiku with the most striking first impression and the second are those, while flawed, have a glimmer of something interesting in language or image or heart. The haiku on my first list were: 4071, 4072, 4076, 4081, 4082, 4088, 4092, and 4119. The second list consisted of 4069, 4070, 4073, 4074, 4083, 4085, 4094, 4095, 4104, 4124, and 4127. After making these choices, I then let them be for several days to see if any of the images or words surface without prompting. But nothing spoke up during that gestation period so I was back rereading the poems. The one poem from the first list that survived the second (and more critical) reading was 4076.

I then turned to the second list. Upon studying this list again, I decided that 4095 had the kind of resonance that I look for in a haiku. There are others in this list that have some excellent lines. Consider, for example, "overalls hang limp on the line/ the sky yellow" from 4070. This wonderful description of an impending storm is undercut by the first line, "tornado weather." The poet could consider interchanging the first and third line and maybe change the flat, explanatory phrase "tornado weather" to something that evokes the apprehension in this moment before the storm by using a question like "tornado coming?" or a phrase such as "tornado alert!"

I learned something from 4104 (that a kauri is a New Zealand conifer), but the additional information didn't deepen the haiku for me. So I returned to the first list and chose 4119. I resisted this haiku as long as I could being always skeptical of haiku written about graves and cemeteries, words heavily freighted with emotional connotations so they attract the heart often beyond the merit of the poem.

jb: I appreciate many of the haiku (and senryu!) written. My long list included 4085, 4088, 4101, 4102, 4119, and 4126. My final three are: 4089, 4100, and 4125. I feel I should also point out that 4086, 4110, and 4111 seem to me to be clever and interesting senryu, but not haiku. There's more to haiku than bright ideas.

4076: the spire of the church can be seen from afar remaining snow

pim: I imagine this church to be like the church I attended as a child, a white, wooden frame building with a single spire. It stood on a hilltop and in winter it was the only structure that stood out in the snow-covered landscape. The view in the haiku is from afar—representing a distance, perhaps, in geography, perhaps in age, or both. Perhaps the view is now a memory only, an image in our mind's eye seen years afterward, or it is an image from childhood now being reassessed as an adult. Another reading might be that the distant church represents the religion of one's youth being looked at with the perspective of age, the "remaining snow" being the spirituality that remains and is deepened after being tested in the trials of daily living.

Or the poem could speak to the dying prairie towns with their declining populations. As fewer and fewer people make their living by farming so, too, congregations dwindle like the "remaining snow."

Or the poem could be read as a social commentary on the morality of our current society, the spire of the church representing the values of a different and older generation and the "remaining snow" the pockets of purity and spiritual strength that seem to be ever-shrinking.

The many readings and perspectives offered by this haiku are its source of appeal and enjoyment.

jb: I agree with Patricia that this is a fine haiku. I feel remiss in not including it on my list. It is a shasei—a nature sketch—and the parts work well together. The image fits well with the kigo and together they produce a strong emotional response.

4089: vernal equinox –
footprints in the creek bed
parting the snow

jb: There is a sense in which holding onto, or clinging to, things too long is like winter. Winter is a time of inhibition, and to separate from winter (sometimes grudgingly) seems to need a demarcation. Part of life is to be accustomed to the cold and to know its certainties. Part of life is to cling to such certainties. Here we have the parallel of the "vernal equinox" and the "footprints" that "part the snow." Even the snow itself is tenuous in that it can be parted. It is the end of the snow, the remaining snow. How often do we cling to those things or memories that signal a time of cold? There is a time for letting go. That's how I read this haiku.

pjm: The interplay between "parting" and "equinox" is overpowered for me by the chasm between the opening reference to "vernal equinox" which squarely places the poem in the middle of spring only to be jarringly wrenched into winter by the final, unmodified reference to "snow." In Jerry's reading he actually put in the notion of "remaining snow." If the poem used this kigo, it would help. Other kigo to consider might be "spring snow" or "melting snow."

4095: ... on a park bench
gazing out at the melting snow
his writing hand still

pjm: The human process of writing is interrupted, but the natural process of the melting of the snow goes on as does the time that it represents, and we all watch with the writer as time and our lives move inexorably on toward a certain and unalterable end.

jb: I like this haiku as well with a proviso or two. First I think there's too much going on. The author hasn't decided if this is a narrative (i.e. a story about a writer) or a picture (the image of a lonely person on a park bench). Second, both of these images are already well documented. That's not to say they can't be done again, but – for me – it will take something special to make the poem work.

4100: passing cloud –
the bush wren tips
to water in a hoof print

jb: In this haiku we have a tiny event that speaks to us of transition. Clearly the passing cloud and the bush wren tell us that the time is that of spring rains. The ground is soft enough for "hoof prints." As observers we are making our own marks in the earth, we cannot avoid it. Then, a "passing cloud," and we watch a "bush wren" "tip" to the "water in the hoof print." The author of this verse seems to me to have a very good eye. I wonder if I would have seen this tiny event that tells me I must "get on with life." I'm happy this event was seen and recorded.

pim: The integration and complexity of nature are hinted at here. The cycle of water in all its phases and the dependence of all of us—large animal, small bird, human observer—on it is in this sketch. Jerry believes that he can see that it is spring in this haiku. If this is so, the indications are a bit too subtle for me. I think the haiku could benefit from use of a specific kigo. By mentioning one season, the poet brings in the suggestion of the cycle of seasons. And by avoiding the specific mention of a season, the seasonal aspect of this complex world is lost. How do you think the poem would work if the passing cloud were a spring cloud (light and fluffy with an air of changeableness)? A summer or billowing cloud (large towering cumulus)? An autumn cloud (heavy, gray rain cloud)? A sardine cloud (an autumn cloud formation made of small, cirrus-like clouds arranged like fish scales; it is considered to be a harbinger of rain)? Or a winter cloud (swiftly moving clouds presaging a snowstorm or blizzard)? My personal favorites are "spring cloud" and "sardine cloud" for this haiku; I would have to spend more time reflecting on them to determine which would be my final choice

4119 looking down at soldiers' graves white magnolia pjm: Magnolias are so solemn and regal; this poem uses that sense of the towering presence of the trees to honor the soldiers. The poem leaves unstated the fact that in most cemeteries in which veterans are buried the markers are simple crosses or headstones and are often white. White comes into the poem through the simple description of the magnolia blossoms and gives us the hint we need to fill in the image with white rows of markers marching across the hills under the great trees. A simple and eloquent tribute to the fallen.

jb: I also like this haiku. This is an image appropriate to Memorial Day which gains its strength from the memories of friends and family gone. I thought quite a bit about this verse, but decided not to include it in my top three for two reasons: (1) it depends on the grammatical inversion for some of its effect. The substance of this haiku is simply the sentence: The white magnolia ... looking down at the soldiers' graves. I'm not sure from the text if it's the author looking down, or the white magnolia. It seems to me that's a good image, one worth keeping. In the language of fishing: "It's a keeper!" However, I resist the grammatical inversion as a trick. If an image is worthwhile, one needn't invert the grammar to make it work. It will work anyway. (2) Isn't it enough to say "magnolia"? Aren't all magnolias white? I'm not sure of the answer to this, since I like the sound of the expression "white magnolia" very much.

pjm: That is a good question, Jerry, and it is the one I was asking myself when I realized that it is the word that triggers the image of rows of white crosses or white headstones. So I believe this is justification enough to keep white in the poem.

4125: flooded marshland the swoop of swallows low over the water

jb: Like both of my other choices, this is a shasei (a nature sketch.) The author presents us with a glimpse of an instant in time. Also note, that it's not the "swallows" that are the central image but "the swoop of swallows." Notice, then, that this is not an action, but the image of a peak of action. For me, it's useful to think of the different ways this haiku might have been written: flooded marshland/

swallows swoop low/over the water. The central image here is the "swallows" and not their "swoop."

OK, so what's the import of the image? Swallows feed on the wing. They snatch insects from the air. That's their way of life so they are dependent on their "swoop" for their existence. This haiku is about "right effort." In Zen, sometimes, it's said, "Chop wood. Carry water." For the swallow, it might be said, "Swoop low, over the water."

pjm: I'm glad Jerry described the swallows' flight in greater detail because I would like you to see that their flight at the macro level is reflected in the text of the poem at a micro level—right down to the letters used in the words. Look at the letters "v" and "w." What shapes do they suggest? Wings? Pointed swallow wings. The forked swallow tail? The flight of the swallows (two "w"s) as they swoop (one "w") over (one-half a "w") the water (one "w")—each swallow is a flying "w" joined with a "v." The shape of the letters in the language evoke the very shape of the swallow image in our mind—it's as though the letters on the page are about to take flight like darting swallows feeding over a marsh!

Patricia and Jerry welcome your comments. They can be reached at

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Challenge Kigo

Common elder: Sambucus canadensis
(easternUSA)
Elderberry, Blue Elderberry: Sambucus mexicana
(western USA)
by D. Claire Gallagher

Flat-topped clusters of white elderberry blossoms gently usher in summer. Although large, the lace-like clusters seem dainty. The flowers are borne on a large shrub among toothed oval leaflets. Look for it along streams and country roads as well as in fields and tucked into a corner of the spacious gardens of old homes. Or look in your memory for the rangy elderberry that grew perhaps in your parent's or grandparent's garden, or along the route of the family Sunday drive of childhood.

The white pith center of elderberry stems can be easily removed—thus, giving us the old English name bore-wood. The hollow tubes were used both to make whistles and to blow alive coals for a fire. Some California Indians called elderberry the "tree of music" for the flutes they made from the stems.

This charming herald of summer brings the promise of berries to come. Do not be tempted by the species or elderberry near the Pacific shore which bears inedible red berries.

The smooth hollow of this bedrock mortar-elderberry flowers

D. Claire Gallagher

Are you Interested in Journal Writing?
Workshops are offered in San Jose on July 24
and September 6. Call Donnalynn Chase at
for details.

From your editor:

I would like to extend a welcome to some new 2001 members of Yuki Teikei H aiku Society –

Kathy Chamberlin
Elaine Cleveland
Trice Cunningham
Graham High
Quintin J. McMahon
M. Jean Purmal
Linda Robeck
Joan C. Sauer
Akira Tao
Alison Woolpert

I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. Happy reading and writing to you all!



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 Society

2000-2002 Officers Roger Abe, President, Anne Homan,, Vice President Patricia Machmiller, Treasurer, Jean Hale-Secretary Kiyoko Tokutomi, Patrick Gallagher – Board Members at Large

Calendar

July 14 - Tanabata Celebration (Party), 6:00 p.m , Livermore Call Anne Homan –

August 11 - Meeting 1:30 p.m., East Valley Health Center, 1995 McKee Rd., San Jose

September 30 - Moon-Viewing Party, 6:00 p.m., Sunnyvale

October 13 - Autumn Haiku Workshop, 1:30 p.m. Japanese Friendship Garden, Kelly Park, 1300 Senter Rd., San Jose

November 10 - Kukai (haiku review, submit poems in advance),1:30 p.m., East Valley Health Center, 1995 McKee Rd., San Jose

December 8 - Holiday Potluck, 6:00 p.m., in Cupertino,

Note: The next Yuki Teikei Haiku Retreat at Asilomar will be held on January 11-14, 2002.

Website: www.yukiteikei.org

The Southern California Haiku Study Group

...meets the third Saturday of every month at Borders Bookstore on Bellflower Boulevard in Long Beach from 200 to 400 PM.

The group has just published its first anthology, The Southern California Haiku Study Group 2001 Anthology, edited by Jerry Ball. In addition to Jerry, David Priebe, Greg Kunz, Judy Sunderland, Naia, Peggy Hehman-Smith, Tom Bilicke and Wendy Wright participated. The anthology is available for \$5.00. Order from Jerry Ball.

Also available, a chapbook by Peggy Hehman-Smith titled, *Dedicated to Abandoned Animals*. The book includes haiku poems and illustrations (by the author and Wendy Wright) of animals she has rescued.