

# G E P P O

*the haiku study-work journal  
of the*

## *Yuki Teikei Haiku Society*

*Volume XXXIV:1*

*January-February 2009*

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

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 7484 | Valentine's Day<br>he gives me a heart shaped<br>blood pressure pill      | 7493 | the muffled strike<br>of a wood-splitters ax –<br>morning mist             |
| 7485 | muddy road -<br>oil-water rainbows<br>in every puddle                     | 7494 | around the tree roots<br>compost of a century<br>only inches deep          |
| 7486 | flooded stream –<br>the late afternoon light<br>speckles the bamboo grove | 7495 | last morning glory<br>still opening a fresh face<br>amidst withered leaves |
| 7487 | in v formation<br>pigeons fly over city –<br>cat jumps off wing chair     | 7496 | watching her red lips<br>speak the words of winter -<br>kigo divine        |
| 7488 | butterfly in flight –<br>empty cocoon<br>left on leaf                     | 7497 | winter sea-<br>its voice pours out<br>on the sandy beach                   |
| 7489 | a quiet pond -<br>water lily opens<br>for pollination                     | 7498 | what stories pass<br>over the worn boardwalk...<br>winter seclusion        |
| 7490 | falling snow<br>in a world of one color<br>wind chimes                    | 7499 | wild birds' return —<br>anticipating spring<br>they fling wild notes       |
| 7491 | winter evening<br>chamomile blossoms<br>in the teapot                     | 7500 | frosty day<br>white rings of breath<br>break the runner's stride           |
| 7492 | painting dreams<br>in miniature ?<br>winter light                         | 7501 | lengthening days<br>children hunt for crabs<br>in a rock pool              |
-

- |      |   |      |  |
|------|---|------|--|
| 7502 | head cold . . .<br>hot lemonade and honey<br>in my daiquiri glass             | 7515 | Valentine's Day<br>the bright spot in the cold day<br>yummy chocolates               |
| 7503 | first hard freeze<br>a blue jay heads for birdbath<br>surprise landing ahead! | 7516 | outside winter winds howl<br>and hail beats the window –<br>thinking of the homeless |
| 7504 | winter garden . . .<br>leaning on his snow shovel<br>the scarecrow            | 7517 | beautiful noise<br>night winter rain pounding on<br>patio cover                      |
| 7505 | sub zero<br>the shivering<br>of bare trees                                    | 7518 | morning frost goosebumps<br>short sleeves in winter afternoon<br>global warming      |
| 7506 | blizzard forecast...<br>I fasten the lid tightly<br>on the jar of white-out   | 7519 | winter rain clears<br>morning sun warms the land<br>a pink rose smiles               |
| 7507 | winter sunset<br>vibrant shades of auburn<br>on the fox's fur                 | 7520 | I think, I think<br>we have to rethink it a lot...<br>winter desolation              |
| 7508 | ticking clocks<br>even among them<br>leaders and followers                    | 7521 | wild birds' return-<br>foreclosures are expensive<br>houses are cheap                |
| 7509 | up and down<br>this yo-yo life<br>down. . .                                   | 7522 | sunless bedroom<br>for a sec my wife looks<br>very very young                        |
| 7510 | tall pines trembling<br>I thought they knew<br>the cold wind                  | 7523 | since Valentine's Day —<br>the mallards paddle in pairs<br>my foot cracks a stick    |
| 7511 | lightning hits the boat<br>at Lake Winnepasokee<br>amusement park             | 7524 | winter wild geese<br>cry when I come with food<br>cry when I leave                   |
| 7512 | winter stream<br>dry gulch through all the drought<br>a foot-high torrent     | 7525 | wind remembers –<br>snow circles the last inch<br>of bird bath                       |
| 7513 | into my life<br>this steaming cup of nori<br>brings the world                 | 7526 | end of winter<br>covering the first row<br>of razor wire                             |
| 7514 | these winter months<br>not prepared for the cold –<br>off to the mall         | 7527 | trees<br>touching each other<br>at the river   |

7528 evening  
clouds hide the stars  
one at a time

7529 leaving the cabin  
a full wolf moon  
the dog still missing

7530 gale wind-  
the Christmas sign  
bangs at the door

7531 winter dusk  
Venus  
in the V of an oak

7532 black birches . . .  
the flavor of wintergreen  
following a stream

7533 spring frost. . .  
the manger for horses  
warm in the sun

7534 rays of dawn  
lighting the dictator's tomb —  
chrysanthemums

7535 unquestionably  
has its privileges  
cats in love

7536 his wrinkled hands  
seem to be Buddha's hands  
when grafting plants

7537 he set out again  
on a wandering journey  
spring twilight

7538 screams echo through walls  
as hail raps on windows  
teenage first pimple

7539 winter rain so soft  
silently soothing my aches  
his ship, gone again

7540 dark sky gusting wind  
we taste salt spray on our lips  
sudden hail storm, run

7541 short day underway  
five cormorants riding low—  
wings tip top of waves

7542 stack two pillows —  
cinnamon toast and coffee  
time to read in bed

**CHALLENGE KIGO**  
**Haze or Mist**  
by June Hopper Hymas

nets of mist  
wrap around silver oaks  
on this sepia morning

Angelee Deodhar

spring haze  
the last of the snow falling  
back up

Michele Root-Bernstein

mysteriously  
through morning mist  
the arrival of spring

Michael Sheffield

deserted road  
scattered peaks  
break through morning mist

Patricia Prime

stealthily creeping  
across a crest of packed snow  
a doe in the mist

Elinor Huggett

as Little Iz sings\*  
bluebirds rise through the mist  
wish upon a star

\*deceased Hawaiian singer, Israel  
Kamakawiwoole singing "Over the Rainbow."  
Dave Bachelor

the mountain top  
wearing a shawl of mist  
bares a white shoulder

Janeth Hackett Ewald

the backyard  
lost in this morning's haze  
children's voices echo

Joan C. Sauer

morning haze eastward  
land of the rising sun  
ship's rise and fall

Randy Homan

forecastle watch  
bow slams into swells  
night mist enshrouds me

Randy Homan

haze of the thaw:  
in their glass coops  
developers dimensionalize

Zinoviy Vayman

Afghanistan  
mist covers up the mountain's  
treelessness

Patricia J. Machmiller

mourning in mist  
I walk through half-seen trees  
and listen to trains cry

Jeanne Cook

a small boat—  
how much mist can it carry  
across the lake?

Michael McClintock

off my boat through mist  
Humpback breaches toward heaven  
saltwater bath time

Toni Homan

Mendocino mist  
settles in the soft harbor  
surf sounding gentle

Neal Whitman

**DUES ARE DUE!**

Succinct but true. If you haven't paid membership dues for 2009, please accept this reminder. If you need to know when you last paid, I have that information and am happy to share it with you.

In the meanwhile, thank you for all the kind words I receive along with your haiku.

Happy Spring to all! Jean

**Submission Guidelines  
for GEPP0**

Deadline for 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 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:

The annual membership fee for the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society in the U.S. and Canada is \$26.00. For international members the fee is \$31.00. Membership entitles you to six issues of *Geppo* per year and the annual anthology.

**SEASON WORDS**

**for late spring /early summer**

*selected from the lists In the Members' Anthology*

**Season:** *May, June: spring dream, spring dusk, ~ melancholy, tranquility, beginning of summer, long day, slow day, short night.=*

**Sky and Elements:** *bright, haze or thin mist, spring rain, spring rainbow, spring sunbeam, summer dew, calm morning/evening, cumulus/billowing cloud, cloud peaks, sea of clouds, ocean fog, thunder, lightning, sudden shower, rainbow, heat, coolness.*

**Landscape:** *spring or summer hills, lake, sea, or river, waterfall, clear water, summer grove, deep tree shade.*

**Human Affairs:** *awning, parasol, perfume, summer concert, ice water, iced tea, nakedness, bare feet, swimming, sunglasses, wind chimes, mowing grass, weeding, Mothers' day, Memorial Day*  
**Animals:** *abalone, bee, baby animals (nestlings, fledglings,*

*calf, colt, kitten, puppy, fawn, lamb, etc.), cats in love, crane, flying squirrel, frog, lizard, pheasant, robin, mud snail, soaring skylark, stork, swallow, tadpole, nightingale, 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, water beetle.*

Plants: blossoms or leaf buds of trees and shrubs (almond, apple, apricot, cherry, plum, etc.), forget-me-not, grass sprouts, hyacinth, mustard, parsley, California poppy, primrose, seaweed, violet, amaryllis, bamboo sprouts, carnation, cactus flower, dahlia, dill flower, foxglove, fuchsia, gardenia, geranium, gladiolus, summer or rank grasses, hibiscus, hollyhock, honeysuckle, hydrangea, iris, lily, lotus, marigold, mold (mildew), moss grown (mossy), oxalis, peony, rose, salvia, sunflower, summer thistle, leafy willow, yucca

**MEMBERS' VOTES FOR NOV-DEC 08**

- Laurabell - 7423-1 7424-0 7425-4
- Joan Zimmerman - 7426-1 7427-2 7428-6
- Neal Whitman - 7429-0 7430-3 7431-4
- Janeth Ewald - 7432-2 7433-0 7434-4
- Ruth Holzer - 7435-2 7436-5 7437-4
- Michael McClintock - 7438-4 7439-2
- Dave Bachelor - 7440-0 7441-1 7442-0
- Paul Williams - 7443-1 7444-2 7445-3
- Patricia Prime - 7446-0 7447-0 7448-3
- Janis Lukstein - 7449-1 7450-2 7451-0
- Judith Schallberger - 7452-1 7453-2 7454-2
- Zinoviy Vayman - 7455-0 7456-2 7457-0
- June Hymas - 7458-4 7459-3 7460-1
- Majo Leavick - 7461-0 7462-0 7463-4
- Michael Sheffield - 7464-3 7465-2 7466-2
- M. Dylan Welch - 7467-2 7468-0 7469-5
- M. Root-Bernstein - 7470-1 7471-4 7472-9
- Gloria Jaguden - 7473-1
- Desiree McMurry - 7474-7 7475-3
- Y. Hardenbrook - 7476-5 7477-0 7478-5
- Teruo Yamagata - 7479-1 7480-1 7481-3
- Alison Woolpert - 7482-3 7483-0

**NOV-DEC HAIKU VOTED BEST BY READERS OF GEPP0**

winter sparrows  
the women knit gossip  
into their socks

Michele Root-Bernstein

the slow release of her curls  
through my fingers-  
departing autumn

Desiree McMurry

Momentary peace  
snowdrops among the gravestones  
in this war's sixth year

Joan Zimmerman

Christmas Eve —  
a fresh wreath  
on the roadside cross

Ruth Holzer

opening the cabin . . .  
last year's calendar  
set to September

Michael Dylan Welch

wind gusts  
one dry oak leaf gets in  
the door before me

Yvonne Hardenbrook

new morning  
yesterday's footprints  
fringed with ice

Yvonne Hardenbrook

a plastic bag  
wings its way  
into the sunset

Laurabell

ship horn and seal bark—  
sounds from the winter sea fog  
tell me who is there

Neal Whitman

on one leg  
a stork in the stubble field  
listening

Janeth Ewald

one by one  
a pound of bonbons —  
winter isolation

Ruth Holzer

stitching the gap  
between towering clouds  
a skein of geese

Michael McClintock

NO DOGS ALLOWED  
the sign says, but this one  
can't read

June Hopper Hymas

bird's nest  
sits atop a tree —  
a baby raccoon

Majo Leavick

waning light  
I shape the bread dough  
with Mom's hands

Michele Root-Bernstein

**DOJINS' CORNER**  
**November-December 2008**  
**by Patricia Machmiller and Jerry Ball**

We would like to begin with a note from Elinor Pihl Hugget. She offered this additional insight on poem 7363 by Zinovy Vayman from our last column.

7363 Yom Kippur Eve—  
by the church turned a mosque  
an ice cream truck's music

Elinor says: The fact that there are three religions involved indicates to me that we are in a part of the world that allows different religions to flourish, and to flourish peacefully, since the former Christian owners of the church were willing to sell their building to a different religion. In spite of the differences in cultural background and theology, the world's religions here seem to be making an attempt to at least tolerate each other and cooperate with each other. What could bring the people following these different religions closer together and yet remain true to their beliefs? Something is needed that won't compromise their heritage and spiritual belief. How about something that every person in these various religions is deeply fond of—ice cream!!

Thank you, Elinor, for entering the dialogue. We welcome all our readers to join in the discussion of this or any other haiku we comment on.

And from this GEPPO,

pjm: I selected 7433\*, 7467, 7472\*, 7473, 7475, 7476\*, 7477, 7478, and 7480

jb: My choices are: 7425, 26, 27, 36, 37, 38\*, 44, 69, 70, 71\*, 72\*, 74, 75, 78, and 80

The starred haiku are our choices for commentary.

7433 miniature reindeer  
in a dark storefront window  
going round and round

pjm: This haiku operates on two levels—first, the surface image shows a shop, after hours, during the Christmas holidays. In the dim light we see mechanical reindeer endlessly circling and are filled with a sense of sadness for the futility of it. Sinking deeper into the haiku, we realize the emptiness we feel parallels the same feeling that we experience from the mindless rush of holiday activities—a seemingly endless round of shopping and manic decorating that undercut the real meaning and spirit of the holiday.

And I am especially happy to see such an accomplished use of the seventeen syllable form. I know how difficult this is. Kudos to the poet!

jb: Here we have a shasei haiku (nature sketch) in which we simply make a list of the phenomena that command our attention. This is similar to T.S. Eliot's "objective correlative" which he discussed in his article on the "problems with Hamlet." The theory is that if the author makes the correct list it will convey an emotional content. That's what we have in this haiku: something about the artificiality and boundedness of a "miniature reindeer" in a *dark* storefront window. Do you get a trapped feeling?

7438 stitching the gap  
between towering clouds  
a skein of geese

jb: This is a metaphor, but a natural one. It's the kind that someone would tell a grandchild to invoke family memories. For me this is effective. The word "skein" is an old word and a word of honor. Not used very often these days. I am happy to see it in this haiku.

pjm: Metaphor in haiku is a tricky business. The metaphorical language here doesn't work as well for me as it does for Jerry. It seems to get in the way of my being able to see the image directly. The word "stitching" makes me want to see a thread or a line moving into and out of the clouds across the gap. This weaving motion doesn't quite jibe with my memory of geese flying in their distinctive V-like formation. I'd like to suggest that the metaphor be dropped and the haiku be written with direct language:

crossing the gap  
between towering clouds  
a V of geese

In addition to being a more direct perception, the replacement of "skein" with "V" increases the music of the verse; the long e sounds of "between," "V," and "geese" give us the sound of the geese (at least some varieties) themselves.

crossing the gap  
between towering clouds  
a V of geese

In addition to being a more direct perception, the replacement of "skein" with "V" increases the music of the verse; the long e sounds of "between," "V," and "geese" give us the sound of the geese (at least some varieties) themselves.

7471 waning light  
I shape the bread dough  
through Mom's hands

jb: I see two interpretations for this haiku. It's a narrative and either portrays the "shaping" of the bread dough actually "through Mom's hands," or possibly in memory. The two are strongly connected, and either way evokes a strong response. The months of November and December seem to evoke images of family ... don't they?

pjm: A feeling of *déjà vu*. A similar feeling is expressed in Carol Steele's haiku:

fluting the pie-crust  
Mother's hands—no my hands—  
autumn approaches

7472 winter sparrows  
the women knit gossip  
into their socks

jb: Nicely crafted! This metaphor conveys an image of winter, family, and friendship. In times of economic hardship (I remember the depression of the 1930's) the women bear the brunt of staying within the family budget by knitting socks. (By the way, when is the last time you have *darned socks*? ... or seen them darned, for that matter?) Not only do they knit and darn socks, but also they knit stories (gossip) which they share, darn it! What else is there to share?

pjm: I was charmed by this haiku. One of winter's pleasures is being indoors gathered with friends. The sound of the knitters' chit-chat and their clicking needles has an echo in a flock of chattering sparrows—each a community knit together by a need for warmth and camaraderie. We are more acutely aware of these needs in winter so the season enhances the poignancy and vibrancy of this image.

7476 wind gusts  
 one dry oak leaf gets in  
 the door before me

pjm: A blustery day. The poet is trying to manage the door in an unpredictable wind, trying to reach shelter without letting in other unwanted elements. But one slipped in any way ahead of him/her. It makes me think of our present economic predicament. The collapse of the housing market has caused the government to try to prevent some, but not all, home foreclosures. Those who have reached safety from the "wind gusts" are a little chagrined that some "dry leaves" have been blown inside as well. This haiku gives us a place to start the process of acceptance and even appreciation of that which we didn't choose, but which we have to live with.

jb: In this race against time, one never knows who our competitors might be. In this race (the race to get out of the "wind gusts") we suddenly discover that we have a competitor: one dry oak leaf. Funny, I didn't realize I was racing. Isn't that what "wind gusts" are all about? Transience maybe?

Jerry and Patricia invite your comments.

**Editor's Correction:**

The challenge haiku:

first sunrise —  
 the thin tingling  
 of a wind chime

was submitted by Linda Galloway,  
 not Linda Gallagher. Apologies, Linda.

We invite your comments at

**CHALLENGE KIGO  
 Violets**

Here's a small springtime anthology!

Coming along the mountain path,  
 There is something touching  
 About these violets

Basho

Haiku; Vol.2 Spring by R.H. Blyth, p. 638  
 Blyth explains that the language of this haiku in Japanese suggests that Basho is really reluctant to stop and write about the violets, but finds they compel him to notice them.

Getting off the boat  
 That had grounded  
 The violets!

Buson

Haiku; Vol.2 Spring by R.H. Blyth, p. 638  
 Blyth says that Buson is often more objective than Basho. I think it seems true that Buson sees as much with the eye as with the heart and that Basho is more emotional or heart-oriented. I would be interested in hearing your thoughts.

violets here and there  
 in the ruins  
 of my burnt house

Shokyu-ni (1713-1781)

She was one of the well-known women poets of the Edo Period. "On my return from Tsukushi at the close of March, I found that my hut had been destroyed by fire. Looking at the ruins, I composed this verse."

Haiku Mind; 108 poems to Cultivate Awareness & Open Your Heart, Patricia Donegan, p. 13-14



lost in the wood  
I follow my shadow  
yellow violets!

June Hopper Hymas

long ago  
I would have picked  
these violets

Sylvia Forges-Ryan

Haiku World; an international poetry  
Almanac, by W. J. Higginson, p. 99

Fallen oak grove  
already new violets  
finding old sunlight

Graham High

Spring Sky; YT Membership Anthology  
2001, p. 6

Violets is of course a spring kigo—one that would be recognized as such in many parts of the world, where they bloom in neglected and cultivated gardens, along streamsides and at woodland edges in springtime. Violets have been used as symbols for shyness, modesty, humility and devotion. We're not talking the plushy overbred African Violet here, but the low-to-the-ground kind, which can manage for themselves.

The violets which carpet many of the beds in my California yard are all descended from two plants which were given to me in 1971. They were started in halved beer cans, with drainage holes punched in the bottom. They came from the yard of Esther's mother, who was then a bed-bound woman in her nineties. They have made themselves happy in my yard, producing hundreds of tiny purplish-blue blooms every spring. Think about the delicate persistence of the humble violet.

*Calendar*

- MAR 14 1:00-5:00 PM Haiga Workshop at Chase Studio  
Contact donnalynn for directions
  
- APR 4 10:00 AM Coyote Ridge Hike and haiku writing. For hardy hikers. There is elevation, no facilities, no water and no vehicles. Call Roger Abe for information
  
- APR 11 - 1:30-5:00 PM Wildflower walk at Alum Rock Park  
led by Roger Abe -
  
- MAY 9 - 10:00 AM-4:30 PM – Annual Teahouse Reading at San Jose Friendship Garden. There will be a workshop at 10am which includes haiku instruction and walking in the garden to compose haiku. At 1:00pm the featured readers Roger Abe, Ebba Story, Rich Krivcher and Linda Galloway will each read. This will be followed by an haiku open mic.
  
- JUNE 13 - 1:30-5:00 Hakone Gardens in Saratoga., Ginko and Sharing.
  
- JULY Date and time to be announced. Tanabata Celebration at Anne Homan's house,  
  
For more information, call Ann at
  
- AUG 8 6:00 PM Moonviewing Party at Patricia Machmiller's house. Call for directions.
  
- SEPT No Meeting.
  
- OCT 1 - 4 Asilomar Retreat
  
- NOV 4 - 7:00 PM Yuki Teikei Planning Meeting at Carol Steele's house.
  
- NOV 14 1:30-4:40 PM Markham House meeting led by Patrick Gallagher.
  
- DEC 12 - Yuki Teikei Holiday Party at Alison Woolpert's house. Call Alison -

# ***Yuki Teikei Haiku Society***

*sponsors the annual*

## ***Kiyoko & Kiyoshi Tokutomi Memorial Haiku Contest***

**In-hand Deadline: May 31, 2009**

**Prizes: \$100 \$50 \$25**

### **CONTEST RULES:**

- Haiku in English of 17 syllables, in a5-7-5 pattern
- Each haiku must use one kigo, and only one kigo, taken from the contest list
- Haiku with more than one recognized kigo will be disqualified

### **2008 Contest Kigo List**

**New Year: first raven**

**Spring: equinox, gathering seashells**

**Summer: damselfly, ice cream**

**Autumn: morning glory, cry of the deer**

**Winter: codfish, icicle**

\*Entry fee \$7.00 per page of three haiku. No limit on entries. Entries will not be returned.

\*Submit 4 copies of each page, with your name and address on only one copy, typed on 8 1/2 X 11 paper.

\*Make checks or money orders payable to "Yuki Teikei Haiku Society". Overseas entrants please use International Postal Money Order, in U.S. Currency only. For results list, send an SASE marked "CONTEST WINNERS".

\*Entries must be original, unpublished, and not under consideration elsewhere. No previous winning haiku are eligible.

**This contest is open to anyone, except for the YT President and Contest Chair.**

\*Final selection will be made by a distinguished haiku poet. The Society may print winning poems and commentary in its newsletter, annual anthology, and current brochures.

\*Send entries to:  
**"Tokutomi Contest"**  
**Jean Hale, Secretary**  
**Yuki Teikei Haiku Society**

For more YT info. - [www.youngleaves.org](http://www.youngleaves.org)

## DEEPER INTO THE SEASONS: *Four Haiku Workshops* by Patricia Machmiller

I am planning to offer a day-long haiku workshop, one day in each season. These workshops are for haiku writers who wish to deepen their haiku practice and gain insight into how the kigo, the seasonal reference, enhances the haiku. The workshop process will start with a discussion of relevant, local kigo. The workshop is designed help participants delve into their experiences of the season(s) and reveal unconscious associations which they may have. Through group discussions we will examine how these often hidden associations can help us communicate the haiku experience in our writing. There will be walks and writing sessions both in the morning and the afternoon to supplement the discussions. And finally there will be discussions based on the new writing.

The workshops will be:

Winter: Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009

Spring: Sunday, April 19, 2009

Summer: Saturday, June 20, 2009

Autumn: Sunday, November 1, 2009

They will be held at my beach house on Monterey Bay near Moss Landing. They will begin at 9:30 am and end at 4:30 PM. with a one-hour lunch break. Participants should plan to bring a bag lunch. I will provide beverages. The cost will be \$60 per day. Sign up for all four sessions for \$200. These workshops are part of the fund-raising activities of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society to pay for the publishing of *Autumn Loneliness: The Letters of Kiyoko and Kiyoshi Tokutomi, July-December, 1967*. All of the proceeds of the workshops will go toward the book. I am donating my time, my house, materials, and beverages.

If you are interested in attending any of these sessions, please contact me at



slopes of slush snow...  
shortcut to my hometown  
blocked until spring



VAYMAN

(drawing by Keiko Vayman)