GEPPO the haiku study-work journal of the

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

March-April 2009 Volume XXXIV:2 Members' Haiku for Study and Appreciation - Jean Hale, Editor pond frogs tuning up 7543 **7**550 shooting stars landing in the grass for a night of song a night of love we laugh 7544 cherry blossoms 7551 old friend on the 64th square: red tulips in clay pot checkmate green tea on back porch *7*545 ocean waves 7552 the door bell wakes me each curling under someone left the gate open the foam Who at this late hour? **754**6 day's jury *7*553 fingers move in rhythm on each fence post a crow knitting by the window cawing the sun up click clack, first spring rain 7547 smoking cigarettes 7554 in my childhood years outside the pulmonary clinic the holly hock, upside-down the nurses made Fair Lady skirts 7555 **7548** shrinking snow patch... a toddler bright yellow daffodils an empty goldfish bowl nudge winter aside ...loss 7549 daybreak... a leaping flea 7556 the bright red caught by thumb and forefinger

... I think of Issa

of birdsong

7557	on the other side of the two-lane road sunlight on the oaks	7567	Valentine's Day — a little too late the roses
7558	yellow daffodils bending at their waists with easemy jealous bones weep	7568	blue hills ahead in the rear view mirror winter sunset
7559	FREE KITTENS it read "how much for the fluffy one?"quarters tight in his fist	7569	wintry night — a plane flies down Orion's belt
7560	two years gone this Spring her Elm tree bends in honorEleanor's garden	7570	newly homeless his look of surprise scattershot of pigeons
7561	blown soap bubbles almost never break before crossing a fence	7571	The ocean sparkles and finch song fills the trees and yet Spring melancholy
7562	who does this baby take after? April Fools' Day	7572	Alzheimer's more surprised every year scarlet maple leaves
7563	whining near my ear in consultation room a spring mosquito	7573	Springtime regrets — an inquisition of starlings on the bank's red roof
7564	outside the Hokusai exhibit — cherry blossoms	7574	Young jacaranda beginning to blossom on the bomb-site rim
7565	man and dog limping the length of the hedge — lingering chill	7575	Loneliness the white egret watches the tide turn
7566	chewing a tulip — the heavy doe	7576	Hailstones bouncing across the pond albino frogs

7577	spring clouds - hurrying off in opposite directions	7587	spring storm the tide shuffles beach stone
7578	outdoor café- treating her doll to a piece of pie	7588	church bells wisteria fills the breeze
7579	daylight saving time- weary toddler hiding her face in dear mommy's skirt	7589	Lakshmi rising from the cosmic ocean holds a red lotus
7580	spring rain- green of the leaves greener still	7590	butterfly once a caterpillar – metamorphosis
7581	ninety day recovery- entering a caterpillar graduating a butterfly	7591	the lotus opens — she meditates on the universe
7582	early January – New Year's resolutions lost in the fog	7592	late afternoon grey cloud peaks grow higher a setting sun behind
7583	a skylark's tumbling high above the windbreak trees the sunlit fields	7593	kingfisher in the pond perched on top of the stick ready to make a dive
7584	slender reeds a sky without a cloud wrinkles on the lake	7594	calm morning – the bird's symphony starts early – daylight savings time
7585	old spider silk dripping at my cabin door— spring melancholy	7595	summer concert the picnic blanket's pulled threads
7586	egg hunt hail bounces on the lawn	7596	after spring rain colours merge on the pavement art

7597	both in water – the blue heron and its reflection	7607	birds are twittering blossoms in full bloom — renewal
7598	reading room threshold stopped momentarily by a spider's thread	7608	raindrops cling to a sideview mirror – spring rain
7599	lengthening days- artisan breadslices on the diagonal	7609	lent season — bunnies hop in cages – colored eggs in baskets
7600	carbon footprints one right after another- first fireflies	7610	midnight rustle , walking alone at UCSC a fawn
7601	a chain link fence and lilies of the valley edge of the forest	7611	midday wind pelicans skim the sea of clouds
7602	mourning dove nest made of morning glory vines Easter Day	7612	my old house a geranium explosion where I planted them
7603	tree leaves open — the neighbor's foreclosed house grows harder to watch	7613	how swiftly it flows through my finders the waterfall
7604	catching morning sun three plastic containers, white as the peonies	7614	a long afternoon of ceaseless swaying— wind-blown pines
7605	hills, spring green velvet undulating on the blue without a jacket	7615	so full so empty this breath
7606	wide open window nana sews the bassinette sunlight and birdsong	7616	abandoned farmhouse— moon in the only pane left unbroken

7617	Valentine's Day — a letter today for "Occupant"	7627	a rain-refreshed strea a shoal of minnows of in their shadows	
7618	chasing a stick into the cool lake the mongrel that won't take a bath	7628	magnolia unfolds will it survive this lat will our investments	te frost—
7619	the first day of spring — rearranging furniture in the living room	7629	plum blossoms tap on window— blessing or warning	
7620	morning moon cream at the top of the milk	7630	in my rock garden thumb high daffodils their horn — SURPR	
7621	spring snow the mallard preens its wings for another flight	7631	spring rain the path of one drop joins another	
7622	it turns its small neck! catching the change of the pitch of the first songbird	7632	morning haze the brief silhouette of kestrel	
7623	wind-sheened reservoir- all history is written by the amateurs		CHALLEN Vio by June Hop	let
7624	this goose at full strut! comes a short burst of its running into my haiku	firs	in Virginia t settlers trod on flowers and violets	Dave Bachelor
7625	Sun on the top skim of the tennis ball – the arc of my peaked cap	embro near h	randma's funeral nbroidered on a hankie ear her heart—violets Elinor Hugge olets lean	
7626	beneath vine leaves the lizard and I both dozing	to see	the sun over the roof	Neal Whitman

thrusting

through the ice crust

five violets

this wee purple violet crouching in greenness

Mimi Ahern

taken by surprise

at the base of the gravestone

violets in the grass

down the valley violets and poppies intermingling

a woodland surprise!

Majo Leavick

so proud standing tall violets – in old wood crevice

...grandpa's aching back

I wish mine were like hers windowsill violets

Deborah P. Kolodji

before the birds

have returned to the woods—bird-foot violets

.....

Jim Wilson

Toni Homan

nested in needle duff below the pine wild violets

Ruth Holzer of the transfer of a stage of the part of the part of the stage of the

Thanksgiving Day in the bride's hands a bouquet of violets

Barbara Campitelli

finding out too late

that violets were your favourite...

the seed packet's rattle

Michael Dylan Welch

late spring fog carrying away the violets carrying away the cow

Michael McClintock

violets in the snow bits of our conversation come to mind

Michele Root-Bernstein

crumpled violets fall to her lap a widow's tears

Joan Ward

violet daybreak: once in 28 years "Prayer for the Sun"

Zinovy Vayman

a violet

painted on porcelain gives no scent

Patricia Carragon

four inch doily cut glass creamer—ready when violets bloom

Christine Doreian-Michaels

living in Violetville

the violets sprout up everywhere,

such a welcome sight

Joan C. Sauer

from the country church Nearer my God to Thee

the violets

Patricia Machmiller

counting petals on the picked violet three-year old

Patricia Prime

violet hunting
I let my eyes
do the walking

Desiree McMurry

potion bottle the hand-painted violet suggests a cure

Judith Schallberger

purple in repose the Canada Violet holds its whiteness in

Jeanne Cook



MEMBERS' VOTES FOR JAN-FEB

Angelee Deodhar - 7484-6 7485-2 7486-2 Patricia Carragon - 7487-2 7488-2 7489-3 M. Root-Bernstein - 7490-13 7491-10 7492-2 Michael Sheffield - 7493-6 7494-5 7495-3 Patricia Prime - 7496-1 7497-6 7498-1 7499-2 7500-5 7501-2 Elinor Huggett - 7502-4 7503-1 7504-3 7505-6 7506-6 7507-8 Dave Bachelor - 7508-7 7509-1 7510-4 Janeth Ewald - 7511-2 7512-1 7513-6 Joan Sauer – 7514-0 7515-1 7516-2 Randy Homan - 7517-0 7518-1 7519-1 Zinovy Vayman - 7520-2 7521-3 7522-2 Jeanné Cook - 7523-2 7524-2 7525-2 Steve Cottingham - 7526-3 7527-4 7528-6 Joan Ward - 7529-4 7530-3 7531-6 Michael McClintock - 7532-2 7533-0 7534-4 Teruo Yamagata - 7535-2 7536-2 7537-3 Toni Homan - 7538-1 7539-2 Neal Whitman - 7540-0 7541-0 7542-0

JAN-FEB HAIKU VOTED BEST BY READERS OF GEPPO

falling snow in a world of one color wind chimes

Michele Root-Bernstein

winter evening chamomile blossoms in a teapot

Michele Root-Bernstein

winter sunset vibrant shades of auburn on the fox's fur

Elinor Huggett

ticking clocks even among them leaders and followers

Dave Bachelor

Valentine's Day he gives me a heart shaped blood pressure pill

Angelee Deodhar

the muffled strike of a wood-splitters ax morning mist

Michael Sheffield

winter seaits voice pours out on the sandy beach

Patricia Prime

sub zero the shivering of bare trees

Elinor Huggett

blizzard forecast... I fasten the lid tightly on the jar of white-out

Elinor Huggett

into my life this steaming cup of nori brings the world

Janeth Ewald

evening clouds hide the stars one at a time

Steven Cottingham

winter dusk Venus in the V of an oak

Joan Ward

around the tree roots compost of a century only inches deep

Michael Sheffield

frosty day
white rings of breath

break the runner's stride Patricia Prime

head cold... hot lemonade and honey in my daiquiri glass

Elinor Huggett

tall pines trembling
I thought they knew
the cold wind

Dave Bachelor

trees touching each other at the river

Steven Cottingham

leaving the cabin a full wolf moon the dog still missing

Joan Ward

rays of dawn lighting the dictator's tomb—chrysanthemums

Michael McClintock

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, weading, 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, izard, 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

Submission Guidelines for GEPPO

Deadline for next issue is June 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 next issue.

Send to:

DOJINS' CORNER January-February 2009 by Jerry Ball and Patricia Machmiller

jb: My choices for this Geppo: 7500, 01, 05*, 20, 24*, 26, 27, 28, 35*, 37.

pjm: And mine are: 7486, 98, 7505, 07, 24, 26, 30, 31*, 32, 34*, 36*, 37, 39.

7505 sub zero the shivering of bare trees jb: Shasei? The virtue of this haiku is its simplicity and its directness. One can interpret the word "shivering" in two ways, both a literal shaking in the wind kind of thing, and a figurative shiver in the eyes of the beholder. Interestingly, these meld for me and so the distinction between literal and figurative is moot. In any case, I think it's direct and, for me, there is an impact. Yes, they do shiver, and so do I. Hi Minnesota!

pim: Six words (subzero should be one word) to describe a world that we feel deep in our anatomy. It is this immediate injection of cold that gives this poem its primary impact. This is the minimalist's aesthetic. The danger with such spare writing is that the poem will not be substantial enough to support a second reading. Surprisingly this haiku is. And for reasons that are not readily apparent. This also is important—that its attraction is not immediately explicable. The poet has tied the poem together with the "zzz' and related "sh" sounds in "subzero," "shivering," and "trees." And we know how cold these sounds are because Emily Dickenson taught us to feel the cold of "zero at the bone."

7524 winter wild geese
cry when I come with food
cry when I leave

ib: No doubt about it, this haiku is a narrative and a nature sketch. There are three events: the arrival (either the geese arrive or the poet arrives); the geese cry on arrival; and the geese cry on departure. The verbs are present and functioning. The author might have used the noun form: "the cry when I arrive" and "the cry when I leave." That's the distinction between the event and the image. In either case there develops a relationship between the author and the geese. One must care to offer to feed them, and the geese must accept the offering. I have wild turkeys here in Rossmoor and I occasionally give them some nuts. Now that I think about it (vis-à-vis; haiku) there is a relation developed. I know who they are, and they know something about me.

pjm: The relationship between the human and the wild, and our thinking about it, is an ever evolving thing. The geese in this poem, for reasons we don't know, are trapped in a harsh winter environment. They are depending on humans for food. Helping where we can seems right. But is this dependence good? What is the right balance? The questioning within ourselves can be expanded to people in our own society in dire straits. What is our role? Can we help? How?

7531 winter dusk
Venus
in the V of an oak

pjm: The genius of this haiku is its form. Internal to the haiku is the form of a V

winter dusk Venus V of

I like the fact that it is embedded within the haiku, and yet is clearly discernible. In addition, the clarity of the image described is compatible with and enhances the feeling of coldness that is the essence of winter.

jb: In this haiku we have a precise description of phenomena. Venus, in the west, is the Evening Star, and we are lined up in such a way that our view of Venus is remarkable. For me, this haiku has an austere quality. If it seems thin, or slender, i.e. "hosomi" as Basho might have said, well, it is. The strength of this haiku, for me, lies is what is not said.

7534 rays of dawn lighting the dictator's tomb chrysanthemums

pjm: When I traveled to China I saw this—thousands and thousands of pots of chrysanthemums decorating the tomb of Mao in Tienamen Square. The phrase, "rays of dawn," echo the arrangement of the chrysanthemum petals in each flower and, in a way, the arrangement of the flowers around the tomb. Perhaps they also represent the effects of the dictator's power even after he or she is gone. Or, alternatively, the "rays of dawn" may be read as some ephemeral quality, such as freedom, that touches everything, even the dictator's tomb.

jb: So many questions: I'm wondering who's visiting a dictator's tomb at dawn? And why? Did the author stay up all night; or merely wake up early? I'd like to know the identity of the dictator, too. Again, I'm wondering what is not being said. What's this got to do with the kigo, "chrysanthemums"? There's plenty of room for speculation.

7535 unquestionably has its privileges cats in love

jb: This is probably a senryu, though, I think an effective one. Its strength is its ironic understatement. One can imagine someone (and I think either a man or woman) upon observing (or hearing!) "cats in love" to say with a wisp of a smile, "Unquestionably, has its advantages." Thank you very much.

pjm: A little light commentary on our favorite pet, the cat. What we like is that haughty I-cando-anything-I-want attitude which is successfully captured here. I think that it should either be written "has its privileges/cat in love" or "have their privileges/cats in love."

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

pjm: The tender feeling of spring, while unstated, is captured here. The grafting process involving the cutting and binding of the limbs of plants is, of necessity, harsh. We feel the sureness of these hands, wrinkled though they be, for in their touch is the compassion of the Buddha.

jb: This haiku is a simile based on a narrative. That is, "his hands" are like "Buddha's hands" when grafting plants. So, I take it that there's something important about the act of grafting. And, of course, there is. Grafting is a creative action. We combine the influences of two similar DNA's to produce a superior (hopefully) offspring as when cabbage and kale produce broccoli. Sound's mundane? Well, maybe it is, but according to the Buddha we should be grateful for the miracle of the mundane. According to Wittgenstein, it's not how the world is, or why it is, but that it is.

Prepublication discount!

Autumn Loneliness: The Letters of Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi, July-December, 1967, translated by Tei Scott Matsushita and Patricia J. Machmiller, will be published this September. The book contains the 300 letters exchanged between Kiyoshi and Kiyoko during a very difficult period in their lives. In 1967 Kiyoshi had just lost his hearing due to medication he was taking for tuberculosis. He traveled to Japan for a long hospital stay to undergo treatment that would attempt to recover his hearing. Kiyoko remained in the U.S. in San Jose's Japantown with their 10-year-old daughter, Yukiko.

The letters reveal their deeply respectful and loving relationship, how they dealt with grief and disappointment—individually and together—and the empathetic and steadfast way they supported each other during difficult times. The reader will gain insight into the character and thinking of the couple who would become leaders in the English haiku world. The 360 page book has a selection of pictures of the Tokutomis in their early years. After publication, this soft-cover volume will sell for \$27.50. We are offering the book at the prepublication price of \$21.50 plus \$5 shipping.

Please send your check, made out to Yuki Teikei Haiku Society, to Jean Hale, and specify the number of books you wish to buy. This prepublication offer is good through September 1, 2009.

The humble MELON Challenge kigo for summer by June Hymas

Melon, uri, is a late summer kigo. According to David Barnhill, it is often associated with coolness. This type of melon is a muskmelon, similar to the type we call cantaloupe. Melon blossom, though, is an early summer kigo, which makes sense! Basho used melon as a kigo many, many times. Most of the examples here are his.

Listening to my grandchild's love story

Mitsu Suzuki, Temple Dusk; Zen Haiku, p.141 [Mitsu Suzuki, born in Japan in 1914, is a poet and tea ceremony teacher. She is also the wife of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi who is associated with both the San Francisco and Tassajara Zen Centers. The haiku in the book are very special: deep, intense and rich.]

mountain cove

I would nourish my body with this field of melons

yamakage ya | mi o yasinawan | uribatake Basho's Haiku; selected poems of Matsuo Basho Translated by David Barnhill, no.305

children!

moonflowers have bloomed and I'll peel a melon

Kodomora yo / hirugao sakinu / uri mukan Basho's Haiku, No. 634

in morning dew,
dirty and cool,
a mud-smeared melon

asatsuyu ni / yogorete suzushi / uri no tsuchi Basho's Haiku, No. 689

produce stand the pregnant girl thumps a melon

Kenneth C. Hurm, in Haiku World; an international poetry almanac, p.170

Calendar

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 directions.

SEPT No Meeting.

MAY9-

OCT 1 – 4 Asilomar Retreat (See details within this Geppo.)

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 –

EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you to everyone who responded to my dues reminder in last issue. This is reminder No. 2. Remember I can tell you when you last paid if you are in doubt.

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

sponsors the annual

Kiyoko & Kiyoshi Tokutomi Memorial Haiku Contest

In-hand Deadline: May 31, 2008 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

2009 Contest Kigo List

New Year: first dream

Spring: fledgling, spring melancholy Summer: sunflower, thunderstorm Autumn: cricket, jack-o-lantern

Winter: sleeping mountain, wolf moon

*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 81/2 X 11 paper.

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

^{*}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.