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the haiku study-work journal of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Volume XXXIV:3

May-June 2009

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

			•
7633	cicada	7640	garden party
•	on the iron railing -		ants
	its shrill cry		in the punch
7634	the nightingale sings	7641	at the dead end
	I too wish to sing		right or left? he thinks again
	this bright day		inch worm
7635	on a book	7642	thunder shower
	covered with dots of Braille		of a hexagonal building
	a sunbeam		four faces drenched
7636	from dusk until dawn	7643	shade extending
	the monotonous spring rain -		into former sunny place
	memories of you		cools baby in hammock
763 7	after the short night	7644	spring migration-
	into the rising sun		graduating from parole
	five blackbirds in flight		to a free life
7638	one red tulip	7645	macadam, macadam-
	its cup open		for that dandelion
	to the mist		not a chance
7639	laundry day -	7646	spring rain-
	spring comes in		all the world's tears
	on the sheets		where do they go?
			2 0

7647 7648	at eighty-fiveshe weighs all invitationslate blooming amaryllis the blossom's deep cup havoc for a bumblebee- pyramid schemes	7657 7658	black ice — the wiper still going on the overturned SUV rain dripping from the red-and-white awning I catch your yawn
7649	open beach poppy- yet the stamens reveal shadows	7659	my cane weakened by a friend's carved initials
7650	taking a dip in the glacial lake — wild white orchids	7660	hospital window the curtain opens to a grey dawn
7651	he describes the flooded rice-paddies — long distance call	7661	respiratory clinic the aids smoking
7652	a blue shell spills its yolk — the going of spring	7662	in the lightning flash a long row of scarecrows waving black empty sleeves
7653	in the garden wind chimes play music with the breeze	7663	Memorial Day the steady beat of flagging feet
7654	Memorial Day — mosquitoes in my iced tea	7664	in a summer grove I know where the wild rose blooms and its attar fragrance
7655	outdoor litter box kittens spread fertilizer rose bushes thrive	7665	the spring rain every other day puddles become pools
7656	trailered boat in the storage yard collecting rain	7666	ocean fog hides the crashing waves – unseen buoy bell rings

7667	Memorial Day old veterans stand at attention the parade passes by	7677	at dusk I hear worry in my neighbor's voice cats in love
7668	Blustery morning probing every chink new dental hygienist	7678	sudden shower a homeless man wearing my old sweatshirt
7669	Bonaparte's gull marshalling his forces above the dead seal	7679	slow day waiting while the sow bug crosses the path
7670	Beads of sweat tickle	7680	abalone shells in line by size — dip my pen in ink
7671	golden poppies open to warmth— Mother's Day	7681	ash-slat boardwalk leads to the bay — fogwild
7672	wild flowers moved before mowing grass — spring garden	7682	art museum stroll — antique bamboo basket holds thought of blossoms
7673	robin pulling worm out of White House lawn— tourists against fence	7683	iris don't look over walls, we know: this one is
7674	strewn on the beach arts of the samurai sea of clouds	7684	just met — but this baby coot thinks me its mother
7675	far away voice Eisenhower to the troops on Memorial Day	7685	the swelling apples: so far house finches' breasts redder than they
7676	teeth-brushing, then story time— a night of spring rain	7686	15 little ants running round the peony afternoon recess

7687	blue forget-me-nots fill the crystal cream pitcher I drink black coffee	7697	midday – heat shimmers across the discarded kimono
7688	mountain waterfall streaming into calm green pool patient, her teaching	7698	children-sized splashes across the waterfall pool a water strider
7689	sleepy Derbian town: singing children enter the graffitied building	7699	weeping willow branch the song of the bird I cannot name
7690 ⁻	park bench DO AS LOCALS DO! the backrest becomes a table	7700	wearing white lace as if innocent hemlock
7691	Masao's Kitchen not a macro item is free white bread	7701	cattails early morning sun cards the mist
7692	on one leg reading a book on yoga	7702	heat lightning a hidden cardinal calls in the twilit quiet
7693	in the diner a solitary hunter stalking a poem	7703	summer dusk the crust-crackle of bread just out of the oven
7694	excited by the sights I run for my notebook	7704	behind the beauty of his words wild thistle
7695	summer rain – the jacaranda bleeds purple at its feet	7705	a mangled mess — this mouse the cat puked up
7696	a terrier frolics under the sprinkler - first firefly	7706	this rattling of swords— the men and their lust for blood

7707 quiet trails 7717 setting sun... through pine forests: a crow's shadow drifts cherry blossoms! across a headstone 7708 evening rain 7718 windswept prairie... three Swedish crosses colours of the day on a small wale washed away 7709 only a breeze: **CHALLENGE KIGO – MELON** midsummer's slicing the melon whispering forest into bite-sized pieces cancer patient *77*10 last night's catkin Patricia Prime brought in to identify the ultra-tight blouse leaning over the melons morning cotton at the small fruit stand Jim Wilson *77*11 with scents morning light the black locust stops the ripeness of a melon our talk Joan H. Ward pot luck lunch-7712 a bad roof waiting for the taste all the fun drained and coolness of melon Barbara Campitelli from thunder the petite plate melon slices draped with *77*13 late spring smoked prosciutto two bluejays Judith Schallberger picking on Buddha's head bad luck cutting the melon into four 7714 twilight — **Ruth Holzer** on a cherry stump a coiling breeze flock of sparrows melon balls in the salad for our anniversary Michael Dylan Welch *77*15 giving a dog a ride a melon's scent man on wheelchair sweet and ripe enough crossing the street to eat Patricia Carragon 7716 roadside... neighbor's melon field I pick the big one two bob-whites herd the weeds — moonlight around the last chick Laurabell

field of melons growing in rows "pick your own"

Joan C. Sauer

umbilical cord nourishes the melon— Fourth of July

Janis Lukstein

tropic evening a first slice cut large from the small melon

Michael McClintock

at the track meet watermelon juice running down my chin

Paul Williams

melon abundance vines over late afternoon some ripe, some rotten

Mimi Ahern

night fields we break watermelons over each other's head

Zinovy Vayman

melon seeds she purses her lips granddaughter wins again

Dave Bachelor

almost duskthe fruit vender's child hugs an unsold melon

Angelee Deodhar

art gallery a woman from another world selling melons

Michele Root-Bernstein

slide of melon... a small seed burrows into soft flesh

Elinor Huggett

looking longingly for the melons unplanted garden

Michael Sheffield

summertime — cut up melons disappear in a wink of an eye

Majo Leavick

EDITOR'S CORRECTION

The following haiku were written by Judith Schallberger and not Patricia Prime as stated in the Mar-Apr 09 Geppo.

7496 watching her red lips speak the words of winter – kigo divine

7497 winter sea its voice pours out on a sandy beach

7498 what stories pass
sover the worn boardwalk...
winter seclusion

My apologies to Judith for this error. JMH

CORRECTED VOTE COUNT FOR HAIKU IN JAN-FEB GEPPO

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 Judith Schallbeger - 7496-1 7497-6 7498-1 Patricia Prime -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 Jeanne Cook - 7523-2 7524-2 7525-2 Steve Cottingham - 7526-3 7527-4 7528-6 Ioan 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

MEMBERS' VOTES FOR MAR-APR 09

Steven Cottingham - 7543-3 7544-2 Dave Bachelor - 7545-6 7546-0 7547-6 Elinor Huggett – 7548-4 7549-6 7550-2 Neal Whitman - 7551-0 7552-0 7553-0 Janeth Ewald - 7554-3 7555-1 7556-4 Jim Wilson – 7557-2 Toni Homan – 7558-1 7559-2 7560-0 Teruo Yamagata - 7561-0 7562-1 7563-1 Ruth Holzer – 7564-1 7565-4 7566-2 7567 -6 7568-1 7569-5 Gloria Jaguden – 7570-0 Joan Zimmerman – 7571-0 7572-5 7573-2 7574-2 7575-8 7576-0 Barbara Campitelli - 7577-3 7578-4 7579-1 7580-5 7581-1 7582-2 Michael McClintock - 7583-1 7584-2 7585-6 Joan Ward - 7586-1 7587-3 7588-4 Patricia Carragon – 7589-0 7590-0 7591-5 Joan Sauer – 7592-1 7593-1 7594-2 Patricia Prime - 7595-7 7596-5 7597-5 Judith Schallberger – 7598-2 7599-1 7600-1 Jeanne Cook - 7601-1 7602-2 7603-4 Mimi Ahem - 7604-1 7605-0 7606-2 Majo Leavick – 7607-0 7608-0 7609-0 Deborah Kolodji - 7610-1 7611-6 7612-3 Michael Sheffield - 7613-1 7614-3 7615-3 Michael Welch - 7616-8 7617-5 7618-2 M. Root-Bernstein – 7619-2 7620-6 7621-0 Zinovy Vayman - 7622-0 7623-0 7624-2 Graham High – 7625-0 7626-5 7627-0 C. Doreian-Michaels 7628-1 7629-1 7630-1 Desiree McMurry – 7631-10 7632-2

MAR-APR HAIKU VOTED BEST BY READERS OF GEPPO

spring rain the path of one drop joins another

Desiree McMurry

Loneliness
the white egret watches
the tide turn

Joan Zimmerman

abandoned farmhouse moon in the only pane left unbroken

Michael Dylan Welch

summer concert the picnic blanket's pulled threads

Patricia Prime

ocean waves each curling under the foam

Dave Bachelor

smoking cigarettes outside the pulmonary clinic the nurses

Dzve Bachelor

daybreak... the bright red of birdsong

Elinor Huggett

Valentine's Day — a little too late the roses

Ruth Holzer

old spider silk dripping at my cabin door spring melancholy

Michael McClintock

midday wind pelicans skim the sea of clouds

Deborah P. Kolodji

morning moon cream at the top of the milk

Michele Root-Bernstein

wintry night —
a plane flies down
Orion's belt

Ruth Holzer

Alzheimer's more surprised every year scarlet maple leaves

Joan Zimmerman

spring raingreen of the leaves greener still

Barbara Campitelli

the lotus opens she meditates on the universe

Patricia Carragon

after spring rain colours merge on the pavement art

Patricia Prime

both in water – the blue heron and its reflection

Patricia Prime

Valentine's Day a letter today for "Occupant"

Michael Dylan Welch

beneath vine leaves the lizard and I both dozing

Graham High

CHALLENGE KIGO FOR NEXT ISSUE Tanabata or Star Festival by June Hymas

A simplified account of this evening festival is that Tanabata is the Japanese for "evening of the seventh" that is celebrated on July 7th. This practice was derived from the Chinese Star Festival. Folklore has it that the Weaving

Princess and the Herdboy were placed on opposite sides of the Milky Way (so they would attend to the duties they had neglected after they were wed) by her father, the Sky King, and are reunited only once a year, when magpies or ravens form a bridge for the lovers across the River of Stars so they can be together. The bright stars near the Milky Way known as Vega and Altair symbolize the young couple.

I cannot now remember when the local group of the Yuki Teikei Society first held a Tanabata celebration in early July, but it was certainly more than 25 years ago. Kiyoko Tokutomi taught us a little more every year. We learned to write our wishes or haiku on narrow slips of paper called *tanzaku* and hang them on bamboo. We often had our Tanabata at Mary Hill's house and hung them in the beautiful grove of black bamboo she cultivated in her yard. Or someone would bring large cut bamboo branches and we would use those. And, naturally, everyone brought food.

Kiyoko taught us about hanging small paper kimonos on the bamboo. These were left open on the sides to symbolize the unfinished work of the Princess, and to bring good health and protection from accidents. In years past, Kiyoko, Mary and Pat Shelley would gather early to cut and fold paper kimonos from patterned paper for us. Since all three of them are gone now, I cannot help but think of them whenever I see a paper kimono, or think about Tanabata.

We had a lot of fun at these gatherings, and many fine haiku were written. Sometimes, the evening would be overcast and we never even saw the Milky Way! Nevertheless, we wrote some good haiku. The haiku below are all products of one of these celebrations.

he waits to greet her she crosses the Milky Way her feet on feathers

J. H. Hymas

Tanabata vigil the sound of a shuttle in the fog

Claire Gallagher

Tanabata night
horses across the fence
breathe in darkness
Patrick Gallagher

bright river of stars! if he must leave us ease his heaven-passage J. H. Hymas

Haiku from the Gallaghers appeared in Spring Sky, the 2001 Membership Anthology.

Note: In Japanese many phenomena of July and August are traditionally considered autumnal, most probably because of the changes in calendars over time. Following tradition, as we understand it, Tanabata (in early July), Obon (in early august), the Milky Way, and Morning Glory are all autumn kigo.

In your haiku response to this challenge, you could use Tanabata, river of stars, River of Heaven, heavenly river, Milky Way or a clear allusion to the story of the separated lovers.

DOJINS' CORNER March-April 2009 by Patricia Machmiller and Jerry Ball

pjm: I would like to recognize the large number of haiku that caught my attention in this last issue of GEPPO. Each of these haiku invited a second read: 7543, 7544, 7546, 7549, 7550, 7553, 7554, 7557*, 7559*, 7560, 7561, 7569, 7571*, 7572, 7573**, 7575*, 7577, 7578, 7583, 7584, 7588, 7595*, 7599, 7600, 7601, 7602**, 7603, 7604, 7610**, 7616*, 7617*, 7618, 7619, 7620, 7623**, 7626, and 7631. The starred haiku I felt rewarded a second reading; the double-starred haiku are those that I've selected to write about.

jb: My choices are: 7543, 44, 48, 49*, 51, 66, 77, 78*, 80, 86, 88, 91, 2601, 03, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21*

7549 daybreak ... the bright red of bird song

jb: This is clearly a metaphor: the birdsong is bright red. Of course, it isn't bright red, but it is what "bright red" symbolizes in the readers mind. This is a wake-up verse. I am waking in

(I say "in" not "on") a summer morning since I'm immersed in it. How can it be otherwise since it's "bright red"? This is a haiku of the type that Ishihara sensei wrote which he characterized as "introspective shaping." Ishihara sensei said: "Some haiku says something false as if it were truth, but I believe it's crucial for a haiku to tell the truth as if it were false. This is the essential quality of haiku."

pjm: This haiku has the cheerfulness and exuberance of spring. The season is suggested by the birdsong which the poet has described as red, a novel match with red of spring dawn. (Jerry has suggested that his feeling from the haiku is of a summer dawn; the classical Japanese category for birdsong spring. Whether it is technically a spring or a summer dawn is of little matter, and different experiences can lead to differences of opinion on this—it is ultimately whether the haiku moves the reader or not.)

7573 Springtime regrets an inquisition of starling on the bank's red roof

pjm: Spring is vibrant, lusty, and exuberant no matter what is happening in the human world. Wall Street can collapse, GM can go bankrupt, foreclosures can sky-rocket, but still Spring comes with its expression of rebirth and vitality. It is this contrast that makes the human emotions of sadness and regret all the more sharply felt. The poet's dark mood even colors his or her view of nature seeing the starlings as black-robed inquisitors demanding an accounting of some investments gone awry.

jb: Here's that "red" again! In this case it seems to be the red of inquisition and heat. What creature better for an inquisition than starlings, and what is better for "springtime regrets" than an inquisition? Now seems to be the economic time for an *inquisition* of starlings, and on a red roof, at that. You can bank on that.

7578 outdoor café – treating her doll to a piece of pie jb: From this haiku I am reminded of the power of fiction in play. And, who's to be a companion unless there's someone to play with? Well, there's always a doll, and that's what give this haiku its quality of sadness. This haiku would be classified as "sabi." Consider how different the meaning if the author had written: "treating her *friend* to a piece of pie." It wouldn't be worth the italics would it?

pjm: A simple scene—a child at play on a summer day creating a make-believe world. We are entranced watching her develop an inner landscape within the outer landscape of the outdoor café.

7602 mourning dove nest made of morning glory vines Easter Day

pjm: I chose to write about this haiku because it manages to break all the "rules" for haikuwriting and create a moment of surpassing beauty and depth. I think it would be worthwhile to examine the writing carefully as a way of understanding more fully the reason for the "rules" and their limitations.

This haiku has two spring kigo: "nest" and "Easter Day." The reason for the one-kigo-per-haiku rule is that kigo are so strong that each becomes a focal point in the haiku introducing the danger of pulling the haiku apart. In this haiku one of the kigo, Easter Day, is much stronger than the other, and the two work together supporting the central idea of the theme of the haiku, resurrection.

The poet has also done a very tricky thing using the homonyms of "mourning" and "morning"; these two words, one alluding to death and the other resurrection, also support the idea of the haiku. The repeated sound of the two words is woven into the haiku in much the same way as the vines are woven into the nest. This subtlety of having the sound reflect the action is extraordinarily deft and pleasing.

In addition, these two words are both part of the larger phrase that point to the natural world: "mourning dove" and "morning glory vines." "Mourning," even as it describes a kind of dove, brings in the overtone of sorrow at Christ's death while the reference to "morning glory vines" has buried in it two words of significance: "morning" as in "a new day" and "glory," a wonderful, exuberant word which celebrates the central idea of the poem—resurrection and life everlasting.

Who could have thought so much could be packed in ten words! All praise to the poet! Glory! Glory!

jb: When I lived in Southern California we had a trellis about our doorway. The trellis supported two lovely wisteria plants. *Misty*, and *Wistful* I called them. But in the trellis was the nest of a dove. This dove family returned to build a nest every year, three years in a row, until we moved north. In the morning we would walk carefully past the nest and the doves would become very quiet. We were especially careful when there were eggs in the nest and when there were babies. And, we were most especially careful around Easter.

7621 spring snow the mallard preens its wings for another flight

jb: I've often thought that we don't give birds enough credit for doing the amazing things that they do. We take their flying and acrobatics for granted, but they don't. Mallards must be in good physical condition to make the flights that they make. Naturally, their life style helps, but it also takes exertion. If this is true, our mallard gives us a lesson in living. If you want to take another flight you should think about preparing for it...preen those wings. I see the mallards here in Walnut Creek foothills actually making practice flights before they take off in migration. They form echelons and they make several circles around the valley. This goes on for a week or two, and then, one day they are gone—not to be seen until they return from migration. It takes preparation.

pjm: I find the two kigo in this haiku, "mallard" and "spring snow," to be working independently of each other. The haiku, as Jerry has indicated, is about the mallard. I would like to suggest that the poet reconsider the first line.

7623 wind-sheened reservoir – all history is written by the amateurs

pjm: I'm not sure that I understand this haiku. I picked it to write about because of its unusual image paired with an intriguing assertion.

First of all, the image: "wind-sheened reservoir." The poet has created an image, perfectly clear, using a made-up word, "sheened." This word perfectly describes the surface of the reservoir roughened by the wind reflecting the sunlight.

Second, the sound: the middle syllable of reservoir rhymes with the last syllable of "amateur" helping to pull the two parts of the haiku together.

Third, the meaning: This is, perhaps, the most difficult part, the part I am least certain of. The assertion that "all history is written by amateurs" is literally not true. It is so boldly untrue that it makes the reader look for other meaning beneath the surface. Perhaps the writer means that all history is made by amateurs in that we are all participating in it, creating it, and we don't "act" as "historical figures," per se; we just live, reacting to each other and to circumstances. In this way history is created—a man-made thing like a reservoir is man-made, an artifact of the human.

jb: What is history anyway? Is it more than a reservoir that is *sheened* by the wind? It is certainly a reservoir. I've heard it said that history is written "by the winners." Undoubtedly the winners must pose as amateurs.

Jerry and Patricia invite your comments. Please

Paul O. Williams January 17, 1935 - June 2, 2009 by Carolyn Hall

The haiku community at large, and the Haiku Poets of Northern California, are deeply saddened by the loss of Paul O. Williams, a great friend and haiku stalwart. He passed away, suddenly and unexpectedly, on June 2, 2009.

Paul first became interested in haiku in 1964 and since then has written and published numerous haiku, senryu, tanka, haibun, and critical essays. Paul was one of the founding members of the Haiku Poets of Northern California in 1989, and served as its president in 1991-92. He was president of the Haiku Society of America in 1999, and vice president of the Tanka Society of America in 2000. He was an active member of the Yuki Teikei Society as well.

Paul wore many hats. He was professor emeritus of English at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. He was a notable science fiction writer, best known for the Pelbar Cycle, a series of seven novels with a uniquely optimistic vision of an America long after a nuclear war. Paul won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in Science Fiction in 1983. His book The Nick of Time: Essays on Haiku Aesthetics (Press Here, 2001) was winner of the Haiku Society of America's Merit Award for Best Criticism. Paul was also known for coining the word "Tontoism" to describe haiku with missing articles ("a", "an", "the") thus making haiku sound like the stunted English of the Lone Ranger's Indian sidekick.

Paul loved cats and was an origami enthusiast as well. We will miss his laughter, the twinkle in his eye, and his fatherly presence. An opportunity to gather and remember Paul will be announced later.

gone from the woods the bird I knew by song alone

for a moment the dead apple tree bears goldfinches

so hard a rain now even the mountain flows down the mountain

Calendar

AUG 8	6:00 PM Moonviewing Party at Patricia Machmiller's house. Call or directions.
SEPT	No Meeting.
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 –

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.