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

Volume XXXV:1 January-February 2010

Members' Haiku for Study and Appreciation - donnalynn chase, Editor

	Members Traiku for Study and Appreciation - dormary for chase, Editor		
7904	Cell tower shadow winter sparrows broadcasting birdfeeder seeds	7912	December morning near the handicapped parking bittersweet in bloom
7905	Child soldier clenches a hand grenade – glare of Spring leaves	7913	invited to the party I watch her hate him
7906	Chord progressions - chocolate pudding smears the music book	7914	talking on his cell he trods on the violet
· 7907	knowing she's busy waiting for her to call Groundhog Day	7915	on cold pills last night dreamt a man climbed a tower carrying a monkey
7908	looking back at me in the railcar window winter night	7916	sheets of ice the perfect couple splits up
7909	fumbling for light in the garage darkness short day	7917	a night of anger waxing Wolf Moon
7910	long winter night deep into the silence my dreams travel	7918	moonless night – the possum shivers under the shed
7911	Sunday brunch – you'd never think the clock is ticking	7919	shadow play across moonlit snow skunks in love

7920	first winter alone yet dozens of valentines at the bird feeder	7930	bound for Christmas atop a fast-moving car young evergreen
7921	frozen landscape hidden from the north wind kits in a den	7931	winter garden the red ball no longer hidden
7922	backyard fence a bunch of radishes from the neighbour	7932	winter wild geese they all know the way
7923	morning frost – the sensation of chill air on my cheeks	7933	in an eddy river ice reshapes itself
7924	as I exhale the sight of breath condensing wild birds' return	7934	white spots dot inkblots of mud snow drops survive
7925	electricity out fumbling in the dark until the moon	7935	sun on skin buoyed up by sea water snow in Pittsburgh
7926	winter evening nothing matters but these words	7936	spirit-bound by gray now housebound by two feet of snow sparkling
7927	home from a ski trip on the kitchen counter the orchid's last three petals	7937	dried persimmon, ah! its ingredients – salt, sugar, sulphur dioxide
7928	winter sun – a handsome youth emerges from the old man's face	7938	Valentine's Day: alpha males love easy girls but marry bluebloods
7929	snow-capped feeder filled to the brim with quarreling sparrows	7939	buried by blizzard, I guess I start to harbor incestuous thoughts

7940	circling one goose wings the sun	7950	second night in Vegas the lights remind me of the money i lost
7941	lowering sky the slow spreading chill of an IV drip	7951	muddy road memories of childhood ooze through my toes
7942	my daily journal juncos double-scratching in deep snow	7952	snow fills the air I almost miss the white owl's flight
7943	the long road a wake of rain from the big rig	7953	new snow covers the battle-scarred ground few birds sing
7944	echoes of a scandal cottonwood rattle	7954	a rotten cold – I open the dishwasher to inhale the steam
7945	long winter drive the first time we notice a bear crossing sign	7955	occasional twitches of a winter butterfly on sun warmed stone
7946	New Year's Day another family divorce rattles our senses	7956	Shinto shrine on isolated island plum blossom
7947	winter day moon – thinking of my Mother I give her a call	7957	letter is short postscript is long spring sorrow
7948	first plum blossoms – the urge to try something new with my grey strands	7958	beneath a blue moon we welcome the New Year
7949	tangerine sky the morning freshened by rain	7959	even the woodpecker has a seed cake preference

7960	Venus in a cobalt sky holding my gaze	7970	after the storm the ivy greener than green winter lull
7961	sheets of rain into a sheltering pine the crow hustles	7971	flickering lights after the storm casserole de poulet
7962	after the rainstorm sunlight bounces off droplets a trickle of birdsong	7972	a kindling gleam no time like now first kiss
7963	crows strut between deep puddles the sky ominous	7973	putting a toe in the tide winter clouds
7964	crayola drawing cows polka dot winter hills black on bright chartreuse	7974	rain abating down the muddy lane, a girl driving geese
7965	winter afternoon harp music accompanies my snoring husband	79 75	a scarecrow picked clean to the bone – the winter wind
7966	glorious gold flames rise above the burning logs my friends are dying	7976	how quietly fall today's snowflakes on yesterday's snow
7967	no resolutions back and forth on a bare branch a phoebe swaying	7977	mid-winter – islands of old snow saved by shadow
7968	revisiting Blyth in his haiku translations winter seclusion	7978	mid-winter death mourners under weeping skies celebrate his life
7969	unable to sleep slowly over the mountain hunger moon rising	7979	she quickly knits our gossip into a pink baby bonnet

7980	waiting in pain for the doctor as he limps in
7981	burning sun rattle of a grasshopper inside the tin bucket
7982	snowman so fresh you wink an eye away
7983	cold night – cure for the cracked puddle
7984	more, fog hide the dust tinged snow
7985	faithful dog waiting and watching for one who won't be coming home
7986	at the church service the coughs blend with the singing - refrain from hand shake
7987	in my warm home watching the snow come down – thinking of the homeless
7988	wet sand and footprints I sit on their icy hearts the silence I hear
7989	waiting, just waiting such a peace within one's self

winter sea fishing

7990 the thundering surf horses coming with the storm? to hear what I feel

7991 egg shells strewn around: a baby raccoon

7992 bird's nest sits atop a tree – a mama squirrel

7993 winter night on a tree limb – a hooting owl

Members' Votes for December/November Haiku

Gregory Longenecker – 7842-4, 7843-2, 7844-10 Christine Doreian-Michaels – 7845-0, 7846-0, 7847-5 Yvonne Hardenbrook – 7848-3, 7849-9, 7850-8 Judith Schallberger – 7851-0, 7852-2, 7853-2 Patricia Carragon - 7854-2, 7855-3, 7856-1 Jeanne Cook - 7857-3, 7858-2, 7859-9 Mimi Ahern - 7860-6, 7861-0, 7862-10 Zinovy Vayman - 7863-1, 7864-0, 7865-1 Joan C. Sauer – 7866-0, 7867-0, 7868-4 Joan Ward – 7869-0, 7870-3, 7871-4 Elinor Huggett - 7872-1, 7873-2, 7874-2 Teruo Yamagata - 7875-0, 7876-3, 7877-4 Patricia Prime – 7878-2, 7879-1, 7880-1 Kirsty Karlow - 7881-13, 7882-2, 7883-7 Joan Zimmerman – 7884-3, 7885-7, 7886-2, 7887-3, 7888-6, 7889-2 Steve Cottingham - 7890-4, 7891-2, 7892-1 Neal Whitman - 7893-3, 7894-0, 7895-2 Michael McClintock - 7896-2, 7897-7, 7898-6 Ruth Holzer – 7899-7, 7900-4, 7901-6 James Lautermilch – 7902-1, 7903-2

Challenge Kigo Haiku **Deep Winter**

deep winter blast

fluted bamboo fence intones

the ballade of death

~ Zinovy Vayman

deep winter in the refrigerator watermelon

a stack

of layoff notices deep winter

~ Deborah P Kolodji

high desert winter no snow, brittle brush waving in the cold wind

deep winter -

sampling an unknown tea... so

~ Dave Bachelor unpalatable

~ Judith Schallberger

her confusion

depth of winter

at the familiar crossroad -

~ Ruth Holzer

~ Barbara Campitelli

violet wind

trees shiver in the distance

deep winter

~ Steven Cottingham

deep winter... the worn path into the pines

chessboard abandoned beside the cooling fireplace

~ Elinor Pihl Huggett

deep winter -- ----

~ Elaine Whitman

on the student's bed the new AC/DC quilt -

deep winter

deep winter

contrails of southbound jets

cross the day moon

~ Kirsty Karkow

deep winter

through the bare branches a flash of red feathers

~ Peggy Heinrich

~ Patricia Prime

deep winter the warmth

of his love letters

~ Joan Ward

the dark

between dreams deep winter

~ Desiree McMurry

deep winter

my neighbor's cat

yowling

~ Neil Whitman

hobbles on walker indoor expeditions deep winter

~ Christine Michaels

missing the old girl even more a year later deep winter evening

~ Karina Young

deep winter... fresh cinnamon from islands where it never snows

~ Michael McClintock

a black and white world weariness overcomes me – deep winter

~ Joan C. Sauer

the sizzle of flaming fireplace logs deep winter

~ Yvonne Hardenbrook

memory worsens my keys found in the compost deepening winter

~ Toni Homan

mending all caught up deep winter

the uprooted tree leaning against a tree: deep winter

~ Laurabell

~ Majo Leavick

Challenge Kigo -- Azaleas

by Ebba Story

Blossoms so dense the entire shrub is a rampant display of color. Planted in rows along the boulevards of the south, azaleas in full bloom appear like a bright crayon outline around the rest of spring's offerings in March through May. From Japan to California to South Carolina these marvelous evergreen shrubs color the spring landscape with their abundant, dense blossoms that range from white through the most subtle blush to neon pinks to embarrassing scarlet reds. Yellow, orange, purple varieties startle our eyes. Up close the long anther curves out of the wide spread blossom to entice the passing winged creatures of day and evening. Abundant. Full. Late April and May is the time of Taurus the Bull, the astrological sign ruled by Venus the goddess of love and beauty and well, fertility of course. What flowers did Ferdinand the Bull eat? Daisies maybe. Not azaleas, for they are delicious food for the eyes but poisonous to the digestive system.

In the Japanese film *Seven Samurai* (1954) by Akira Kurosawa there is a chase scene down a steep slope in a forest. The two characters are sliding and weaving their way beneath the tall leggy branches of blooming azaleas or maybe their cousins the rhododendrons. The first time I saw this film, I was as excited to see a flower that I knew so well in this distant landscape as by the breathtaking chase. I was suddenly and personally there. Now azaleas are available in pots from Safeway and other supermarkets right beside daffodils and tulips. Azaleas are a color-filled blessing from the rising energies of spring. Wherever they may be a' blooming.

Purple the mountains of evening,

The azaleas;

Not a house to be seen.

~ Shiki*

azalea display!

but look how their shadows are

all the same color

~ Dorothy A. McLaughlin**

A woman
Under the azaleas placed in the pot,
Tearing up dried cod.

~ Basho*

the silken sheen on azalea blossoms a noonday moon

~ Ebba Story

* R. H. Blyth, *Haiku: Volume 2 Spring*, The Hokuseido Press Tokyo, 1981.

** William J. Higginson, Ed., Haiku World: An International Poetry Almanac, Kodansha, 1996.

Dojin's Corner

November-December 2009 Jerry Ball and Patricia Machmiller

jb: My choices are: 7842, 7843, 7844, 7849, 7869, 7871, 7872*, 7881*, 7884, 7885, 7889, 7891, 7896, 7900*.

pjm: And mine are: 7862, 7868, 7872*, 7878, 7881, 7883, 7884, 7886*, 7888, 7889, 7890, 7891, 7897, 7898*, 7900.

(* choices with comments below)

7872 first of December firemen hoist plastic reindeer up the ladder

jb: This is a classic shasei (nature sketch) haiku. The author presents us with a literal image that is characteristic of the season for beginning of the holidays, and the reader supplies the emotion. It's nice that the firemen are brought into the image. Thanks to those in the service of others.

The language is direct and essential in line with the image itself. I recall such scenes on the covers of magazines.

pim: And so the Christmas season begins! This haiku can be read as Jerry has taken it as a simple observation of a seasonal event—an unmistakable depiction of the Christmastime hustlebustle. At first that is how I read it, but then the oddness of the scene struck me. Think of it! This holiday has so permeated our society that it seems normal for firemen to be involved in decorating some public building—a city hall or a court house, perhaps—twenty-four days before the actual event. And the decorations are with plastic reindeer, of all things. Not a star or a manger, which would represent the spiritual aspect of the season which is its essential core, but rather because it's a public building, it has to be some non-religious symbol, such as reindeer.Let me declare here that I am a fervent believer in the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. However, this haiku brings home the dilemma: by removing religion from the public square, the vacuum created

will inevitably be filled by the only god left—the God of Commerce.

7881 the cemetery and the view beyond departing autumn

jb: Here is a nature scene with a metaphor as subtext. The expression "the view beyond" is creatively ambiguous. It can mean either the literal scene "beyond" the cemetery, or (one interpretation) the spiritual scene beyond. Of course this fits well with the kigo: departing autumn. No need for a lengthy comment. It is nicely done.

pjm: I would like to preface my discussion of this haiku by noting that there are certain words which, when I encounter them in haiku, put me on alert—words such as, grave, widow, gravestone, dark, and cemetery are some. These words easily evoke feelings of melancholy, grief, or pathos. Because they have this power, they are used too often, I'm afraid, as a ploy to gain a response from the reader that the rest of the haiku does not really earn. That said, this haiku with its reference to "the view beyond," which has both literal and figurative meanings, and the larger inference comparing the transition from this life to the next to the transition from autumn to winter does reward a second and third read.

7886 thin winter moon shines on the hunger striker a watchdog barks

pjm: I found this haiku intriguing because the writer has brought together some unusual elements—a winter moon—cold, but enlightening—matches the sharp, barbed pangs of hunger and the stripped-down-to-the-basics austerity of a long fast. And the last line brings in a watchdog. This literal reference reminds us that the hunger striker's role in society. By calling attention to a cause we might otherwise overlook, he or she serves as our "watchdog." A small suggestion: I think that the poet could drop the adjective "thin."

jb: This is the sort of scene that one might see in a Japanese woodblock print. It is a lonely scene. There is apparently something unusual...i.e. the hunger striker, so there is a subtext which remains hidden. I would like to know more about the hunger striker.

7898 wrapping small gifts the slow turn of butter melted in the grog

pjm: I love this haiku. The way in which the poet has turned the ordinary into the extraordinary. And how did he or she do it? As demonstrated in the haiku—by paying attention. We can feel the person doing the wrapping is completely absorbed in the task: each fold of the paper, each tear of the tape, is done with focus and precision. The same person preparing these gifts prepared the grog, the butter of which is now melting. The whole process is a meditation. And now, we the readers, are invited to meditate on this well-crafted poem that teaches us about paying attention. The poem uses two adjectives, both ordinary, both necessary. It is important that the gifts being wrapped are small—their smallness is what shows us that the poet's attention and focus are required. And the "slow turn of butter" is essential to creating the feeling of meditation. It implies that this task of wrapping gifts is being done with care, and that gratitude like a slow turn of butter is melting into each gift.

jb: I love the expression "wrapping small gifts." The movement of the butter is a small thing too. A very nice mood piece. I like this verse better the more I read it.

7900 end of November – my old love a year older

jb: This is an introspective haiku. It is more about feelings than about the calendar. The author calls to mind all the little things that seem to happen that indicate the process of aging. Of course, if it's "my old love," the feelings are all the more poignant.

For me it is instructive to replace the expression "my old love" with some alternative to see how it feels. Consider: "my first love," or "my youngest child." Or what about: "the old tomcat," or maybe: "the promises made." Or: "our old editor." (Thank you, Jean.) It's an interesting framework.

pjm: But, Jerry, the endearing aspect of this haiku is how the meaning of "my old love" of the second line changes when we read the third line and realize that "my old love" is the same as the poet's latest love.

Jerry and Patricia invite your comments at:

You can also reach us by mailing your letters to GEPPO's Editor.

Submission Guidelines for GEPPO

due date for the next issue is April 10, 2010.

Email (preferred) your contact information, poems, and votes to **OR** mail your poems and votes with your contact information to **GEPPO Editor**,

You can submit:

- Up to three haiku appropriate to the season; poems must be in three lines. They will be printed without your name and identified with a number for appreciation and study.
- One Challenge Kigo Haiku which uses the current issue's Challenge Kigo. This poem will be printed with your name.
- Up to ten votes for haiku in current issue that you especially appreciate. Each poem you choose will receive a point (vote); submit the number of the haiku as the vote. Poems with the top number of votes are reprinted with author's name in next issue.
- Black & white artwork by email as jpg or send artwork with SASE for its return. Not all artwork will be accepted due to space and relevance as decided by editor.

November-December 2009 Haiku Voted Best by GEPPO Readers

the cemetery and the view beyond departing winter

~ Kirsty Karlow

north wind constant since word came of her passing

~ Gregory Longenecker

December evening she erases two more names from her address book

~ Mimi Ahern

the mystery of a dandelion seed in deep winter

~ Yvonne Hardenbrook

winter housefly I make your short life shorter still

~ Ruth Holzer

November seashore with wave upon wave the deep comfort of his voice

~ Mimi Ahern

Sanitarium's wind-flecked pond the moon breaking down

~ Joan Zimmerman

wrapping small gifts... the slow turn of butter meted in the grog

~ Michael McClintock

flu shot line everyone coughing on me

~ Ruth Holzer

snowstorm =

his statue loses

face

~ Jeanne Cook

rising moon in my rearview mirror misted over

~ Yvonne Hardenbrook

no heat in the chapel a quick amen

~ Kirsty Karlow

Swish of skate blades shimmering round the moon

~ Joan Zimmerman

no seam or mark remains of the whale the sparkling sea

~ Michael McClintock

Editor's Notes

Thank you all for your messages of support as the new GEPPO editor!

Corrections from previous issue:

Haiku 7842 by Greg Longenecker should read as: winter moon

passing a schoolyard of childhood taunts

Haiku 7858 by Jeanne Cook should read as:

careful squirrel the worm corners his acorn

This "Retirement Poem for Jean" was written by Judith Schallberger (not Janis Lukstein):

You are our treasure; GEPPO DIVA -Heavenly Bamboo

Exploring Blue Oak Range Reserve Saturday, April 10

Led by Roger Abe, poet-ranger extraordinaire 12:00 – 5:00 pm RSVP required – call

The adventure of taking Falls Road, as the back-door into the reserve, will provide a greater perspective to the location, more wildlife viewing opportunities, and a complete driving loop circuit. If you are interested in having dinner afterwards at Mount Hamilton Grandview Restaurant, let Roger know with RSVP.

Meet at the end of the parking lot at Alum Rock Park by noon. If the park entrance booth is operating, tell them you are visiting the Blue Oak Ranch Reserve on Falls Road (no charge). At noon we will carpool up Alum Rock Falls Road; this is a restricted road. The directions to the reserve are provided only as emergency information or if participants are too late to carpool.

Dress appropriately for the weather. If too wet, plans will be modified. Reserve roads are all dirt and best suited for regular cars in optimal conditions. Bring peanut-free snack, if desired. There is poor cell service in the areas we will be visiting.

Directions to Alum Rock Park: Take I-680 and exit (east bound) on Berryessa Road. Immediately get in the right lane and turn right on Capitol Avenue (first signal). Turn left at the next light (Penitencia Creek Road). Continue up Penitencia Creek Road into Alum Rock Park. From the entrance booth, continue up the canyon (approx. 1.5 miles) to the end of the last parking lot where we will meet to carpool.

Directions to Blue Oak Ranch Reserve: From the South: Take 101 north to 680 north, and take the Alum Rock Avenue exit. Proceed east on Alum Rock Rd to 130, the Mt Hamilton Road, and turn right. At this intersection check your odometer as you want to proceed on Mount Hamilton Road for exactly 6.7 miles. This is a narrow windy road, often with cyclists who have a death wish, so be cautious. At 6.7 miles there will be two gates on your left, and an old decrepit barn off in a field nearby. Turn left into the second of the two gates, ours is painted yellow with yellow fence and gate posts as well as orange flagging. The gate code for all reserve locks is 1492. Always lock the gates behind you and do not drive faster than 15 MPH.

From Berkeley and NorCal: Find your way to 880 south, and continue to Warren Ave./ Mission Blvd/262 exit to 680 south. Drive south towards San Jose on 680 for several miles and exit at Alum Rock Avenue. Turn left, or east towards the hills, and proceed through the small town and several lights until the road narrows to two lanes. Watch for the right hand merging turn onto 130, and take the Mt Hamilton Road. Follow the directions cited in previous paragraph.

Spring Kigo

Season: spring months: late February, March, April, and May; beginning of spring, early spring, departing spring, late spring, lengthening days, long day, midspring, spring dream, spring dusk, spring evening, spring melancholy, tranquility, vernal equinox.

Sky and Elements: balmy breeze, bright, haze or thin mist, first spring storm, hazy moon, March wind, melting snow, lingering snow, spring breeze, spring cloud, spring frost, spring moon, spring rain, spring rainbow, spring sunbeam, spring snow, slush, warm (warmth).

Landscape: flooded river/stream/brook, muddy/miry fields, muddy road, spring fields, spring hills, spring mountain, spring river, spring sea, spring tide, red tide.

Human Affairs: balloon, closing the fireplace, kite, shell gathering, grafting, planting or sowing (seeds), plowing or tilling fields, soap bubbles (blown from a pipe or wand), Sleeping Buddha's Memorial Day, spring cleaning, swing, windmill, April Fools Day/April fool, Boys Day/carp flag, Dolls Festival, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter (~ bonnet/clothes, ~ eggs, coloring/hiding ~ eggs, ~ lily, ~ parade, ~ rabbit/chicken/duckling), May Day (~ basket, ~ pole), Memorial Day, Mothers Day, Passover, Saint Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day.

Animals: abalone, bee, baby animals (nestlings, fledglings, calf, colt, kitten, puppy, fawn, lamb, etc.), butterfly, bush warbler, cats in love, crane, flying squirrel, frog, horse-fly, lizard, pheasant, robin, mud snail, soaring skylark, stork, swallow, tadpole, hummingbird, nightingale, wild birds' return (geese, etc.).

Plants: anemone, artichoke, asparagus sprouts, azalea, bracken, bramble, camellia, cherry blossoms, cherry tree, crocus, dandelion, daphne, blossoms or leaf buds of trees and shrubs (almond, apple, apricot, maple, oak, pear, peach, pine, wisteria, etc.), forget-me-not, grass sprouts, hawthorn, hyacinth, lilac, lily of the valley, mustard, pansy, parsley, plum blossoms, plum tree, California poppy, primrose, seaweed or laver (nori), sweet pea, shepherd's-purse, tulip, violet, willow, pussy willows or willow catkins.

YTHS GEPPO Editor

lacksquare This is a reminder - we haven't re	ceived your dues for 2010.
🗖 Thank you for your 2010 renewal	or new membership.
☐ Complimentary issue from YTHS) .
Membership information is	& in previous GEPPO

	YTHS 2010 Calendar	May 31	"In-hand Deadline" for Annual Tokutomi Memorial Contest (details at
March 13	Haiga Workshop at Chase Studio. 1:00-5:00 pm.		youngleaves.org and in previous GEPPO.)
	San Jose. Bring haiku to "transform" into haiga (haiku painting). Facilitated by donnalynn. Please RSVP.	June 12	Meeting/Ginko at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga. 1:30 - 5:00 pm.
April 10	Wildflower Hike at Blue Oak Range Reserve. 12:00 - 5:00 pm. Roger Abe will lead hike. (details in this GEPPO). Please RSVP.	July 10	Tanabata Celebration at Anne Homan's Livermore home. 6:00 pm -? Please bring a peanut-free dish for pot luck.
April 1/4	•	July 24	Deeper Into the Season II WS
25	Deeper Into the Season II - Haiku Workshop at Monterey Dunes. Fa-	August	No meeting or event scheduled.
cilitated by Patricia Machmiller. 9:30am - 4:30pm. Cost: \$60 per day; payable to YTHS. RSVP	Sept. 16 through 1	Annual Asilomar Retreat. 9 More information TBA.	
	payable to Title Te VI	Oct. TBD	Moonviewing at Patrick Gallaghar's.
May 8	Annual Japanese Tea House Haiku	Oct. 31	Deeper Into the Season II WS
	Workshop & Reading at San Jose Friendship Garden. 10:00 am – 4:30	Nov. 3	Planning Meeting at Carol Steele's.
	pm. Featured readers TBA.	Dec. 11	Winter Party at Patricia Machmiller's.