GEPPO

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

Volume XXXV:2

March - April 2010

هجيبهم البع يتقتر لالا الماليفيسين للمالين

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

7994	a turtle also crosses the road swallows return	8002	garden tour i notice my neighbor's butterfly tattoo
7995	in this city I swing Babe Ruth's bat — cusp of spring	8003	spring peeper the distant glint of an ant hill
7996	an empty shelf of chili powder Cinco de Mayo	8004	the neighbor boy shooting baskets starry night
7997	sky blush above rolling hills first sprouts	8005	land of milk and honey — cocoa-colored boot prints in the sea of mud
7998	another week of visiting the hospital spring melancholy	8006	reflection of the window clearing steaming up on the edge of my cup
7999	Valentine's Day — sharing tea with life stories at Fuji Towers	8007	pebbly riverbed the herring run has become our herring harvest
8000	tofu factory where a deep bow is still felt — white camellias	8008	five year-old with kite wills it into the wind high hopes
8001	full-moon Passover I spontaneously purchase a kaballah set	8009	after sidewalks, she clears snow from rock garden YES snowdrops

8010 another torn muscle 8020 hiding eggs so no one will find them ... waiting for PT's miracle a mallard and her mate March wind 8021 full moon slack tide ... 8011 parting from the clouds through the shallow brine a pregnant doe a sea slug views the sky 8022 smoke streaked sunset at rest 8012 on the forest floor the last persimmon a fallen sentinel falls 8023 8013 **Final days** winter pear with one slice the ginko-leaf bookmark in his empty diary the worm is made homeless 8014 8024 Line upon line the waves whether the window is open or closed break, collapse, break again spring peepers my friend's slow death 8015 in the space 8025 Shooting stars between birdsongs girl in a sequined dress the rest of spring strums her ukulele 8016 8026 tea party spring hills young leaves a puppy nibbles at the tip of the branch on his littermate's ear 8017 vernal equinox — 8027 balmy breeze I weep and laugh sweet gum buds swell a little every day without shame 8018 full moon 8028 spring thaw the new baby ice cream truck's return at her breast hello! 8019 spring haze 8029 first cup Philosophy for Dummies by firelight slips from my hand spring rain rain rain

- 8030 pruning shears clear leafy tangles fresh tea brewing
- 8031 a scrub jay surprisingly mute beak stuffed with twigs
- 8032 Memorial Day I rush with water to the dying plant
- 8033 look! spoons snuggling in the silver drawer ... Valentine's Day
- 8034 a child stirs kisses into chocolate fondant ... Mother's Day
- 8035 nudged by the currents thick strands of seaweed litter the beach
- 8036 rigging tap-tapping against the mast first spring storm
- 8037 on beating wings a pheasant rises from the ploughed field
- 8038 up and down the tree two squirrels playing tag first day of spring break
- 8039 a cellist scoots past us heading into the stage door looks like rain

- 8040 twittering deep in the willows in a moment — dawn
- 8041 a hazy moon above city lights glasses broken
- 8042 end of drought burned trees fly in mud slide
- 8043 cherry blossoms after heavy snow hardy souls
- 8044 lingering snow the bamboo moves upright
- 8045 Passover faint wine stains on the cloth
- 8046 every year a bit of purple my one hyacinth
- 8047 a nurse with ashes on her forehead steps back into the CCU
- 8048 a warbler waits for the glint of sunlight on insect wings
- 8049 forgetting why I stepped outside balmy breeze

8050 camellia blossoms 8060 waiting for a friend lie saturated with rain still she has not come so many clogged days drawing out my day 8051 8061 a butterfly lands morning call she's looking the other way from overseas this first day of spring All Fool's Day 8052 clumps of daffodils 8062 mist shrouded graveyard here and there along the road a weak sun starts to shine a smiling neighbor wisps of fog rise up 8053 the peepers 8063 nights of rain and snow silent tonight finally one bright star the sound of rain make a wish 8054 the abandoned house 8064 dead baby fawn purple irises circling above still live there vultures 8065 8055 a smiley kite cherry blossoms snatched carpeting the parking lot from a little hand springwind 8056 early April dawn 8066 spring homecoming in an empty plate all around hummingbirds locks of gray hair 8067 8057 first snow a kingfisher in mid spring memories of a catfish leap in air spring 8058 8068 gray winter open sky ... in a field of wildflowers shivers within its corpse a single headstone ecstatic bird song 8059 talkative friend 8069 boiling eggs throughout the day quiet for potato salad -April Fool's Day Easter Eve alone

- 8070 April wind his last kite on the attic stairway
- 8071 when I was a kid giving up canned peas for Lent understanding squat
- 8072 sitting under the arbor apricot blossoms dance by kisses from angels

every year against soot-soaked bricks blaze of azaleas ~ Christine Michaels

swept off my feet... an azalea blossom in her hair

~ Elinor Pihl Huggett

having to say bye on a day when azaleas blanket the hills ~ John J Han

Challenge Kigo Haiku Azaleas

waking from a dream a cave opens deep in azaleas

~ Wendy Wright

ICU waiting room the azalea plant we couldn't take in

~ Deborah P. Kolodji

luring azaleas yet, I long to know you by your scent

~ Judith Schallberger

petticoat dress didn't i find Easter eggs beneath the azaleas? ~ Michele Root-Bernstein

rain passes all fallen azalea blooms upside down

~ Zinovy Vayman

beginning of spring somewhere and everywhere earthquake rumbles ~ *Kirsty Karkow*

as the light fades from the azalea blossoms I lock the doors ~ Pat Prime

azaleas in bloom his headstone must be dusty time to visit papa

~ Neal Whitman

home in a pot azalea blooms bonsai style

~ Janis Albright Lukstein

white azalea the afternoon seems cooler

~ Ruth Holzer

pink azalea sympathy basket she hated pink

~ Mimi Ahern

Challenge Kigo Haiku - continued

along the highway such a welcome sight bright azaleas blooming ~ Joan C. Sauer

azalea blossoms not a single color left snails help themselves ~ Majo Leavick

surrounded by shredded dead bark the azalea blazes

~ Jeanne Cook

a long time ago azaleas bloomed where I stand inhaling the past ~ *Toni Homan* he chooses the magenta azalea from the rest ~ *Joan Ward*

busy commuters speeding past rows of azaleas ~ S

~ Steven E. Cottingham

Challenge Kigo - Miner's Lettuce

by Ebba Story

Wild and edible, tender, juicy, crunchy, fresh, wild and edible. And free, unless you purchase it at local farmer's markets. Miner's lettuce makes its annual appearance in late winter and is most apparent in April through May and June in California. It ranges from southern Alaska all the way to Central America but greatly prefers the damp cool valleys of mid-California. Now, I'm one for eating wild plants and I grew up chewing on Georgia weeds. Since I first discovered this luscious Miner's lettuce, I've made it a staple in my wanderings through the California woods. It's such a refreshing nibble. The Gold Rush miners of 1849 gave Claytonia perfoliata its common name. These tough guys included Miner's lettuce in their diets (both raw and cooked) to prevent scurvy. It does have a slightly tangy flavor - evidence of the vitamin C in its leaves.

Miner's lettuce is most easily found in shady, damp (not wet) spots. Roundish leaves stand up on slender stalks and make a dense above-the-ankle carpet. Tiny white flowers extend out of the center of an encircling pair of rounded leaves. The flowers are so very small they failed to make it into my wildflower ID books. Miner's lettuce –green, green, so very green. And when the hotter, dry months of summer arrive, Miner's lettuce turns a deep red and eventually fades away. When the following rainy season arrives, the seeds sprout and once again Miner's lettuce colors and flavors the earth with its humble self.

single file through Miner's lettuce the clasp of his hand

Miner's lettuce the emerald green in a wood nymph's song filtered sunbeams she whispers a secret to the Miner's lettuce

open gate goat kids and I in the Miner's lettuce

6

Congratulations to New YTHS VP

The YTHS board voted Wendy Wright into a newly created role of Southern California Vice President. The position was created to represent the many active haiku members in that region. In addition, Wendy will help leverage local talent and abilities to help sustain YTHS activities and assist President Carol Steele. Her term runs until October 2012. Thank you Wendy & all YTHS Board Members for your effort!

Members' Votes for January- February Haiku

Joan Zimmerman - 7904-4, 7905-1, 7906-5 Gregory Longenecker - 7907-1, 7908-6, 7909-3 Barbara Campitelli - 7910-3, 7911-1, 7912-1 Dave Bachelor - 7913-3, 7914-7, 7915-0 Ruth Holzer - 7916-6, 7917-0, 7918-3 Elinor Pihl Huggett - 7919-5, 7920-0, 7921-1 Patricia Prime - 7922-7, 7923-2, 7924-0 Peggy Heinrich - 7925-4, 7926-6, 7927-4, 7928-7, 7929-3, 2730-2 Desiree Mcmurry – 7931-6, 7932-5, 7933-8 Christine Doreian-Michaels – 7934-0, 7935-0, 7936-0 Zinovy Vayman – 7937-0, 7938-2, 7939-1 Michele Root-Bernstein – 7940-3, 7941-4, 7942-9 Deborah P. Kolodji - 7943-5, 7944-4, 7945-0 Judith Schallberger - 7946-0, 7947-0, 7948-8 Steven E. Cottingham – 7949-4, 7950-0, 7951-6 Kirsty Karkow - 7952-3, 7953-3, 7954-3 Teruo Yamagata - 7955-5, 7956-2, 7957-2 Joan Ward - 7958-1, 7959-2, 7960-1 Elaine Whitman - 7961-0, 7962-1, 7963-0 Mimi Ahern - 7964-0, 7965-4, 7966-1 Karina Young - 7967-3, 7968-1, 7969-4 Neal Whitman - 7970-0, 7971-0, 7972-0 Michael McClintock - 7973-4, 7974-1, 7975-2 Yvonne Hardenbrook – 7976-6, 7977-1, 7978-1 Laurabell - 7979-4, 7980-3, 7981-2 Jeanne Cook - 7982-3, 7983-1, 7984-0 Joan C. Sauer – 7985-2, 7986-2, 7987-0 Toni Homan - 7988-1, 7989-2, 7990-0 Majo Leavick – 7991-0, 7992-0, 7993-0

Dojins' Corner January-February 2010 Patricia Machmiller and Jerry Ball

pjm: My choices from the last *GEPPO* are: 7918, 7919, 7932, 7933, 7941, 7942, 7947, 7949, 7951, 7957, 7962, 7965*, 7966, 7967*, 7968, 7969, 7970, 7975.

jb: My choices are: 7908, 7909, 7911, 7913, 7914, 7916, 7922*, 7923, 7928, 7929, 7931, 7933*, 7940, 7948, 7949, 7951, 7956, 7957, 7973*, 7975, 7976, 7979.

Starred numbers (*) have been chosen for comment.

7922 backyard fence a bunch of radishes from the neighbor

jb: Frost said, "Good fences make good neighbors." There's more than one way to interpret that. Fences separate property and in doing so help to minimize squabbles. But they can also be agents of good will when a neighbor uses the fence to place a small gift. Sometimes a small thing has lasting value, like a "bunch of radishes." Twenty years ago a student left a handful of cherries as a gift on the windshield of my car. I haven't forgotten.

The language in this haiku is commendable: simple, direct, a shasei. Also, it flows, it reads softly. It is not over stated, but only about a small act of good will. Very nice verse. And notice, there are no verbs.

pjm: A bunch of radishes, just pulled, with the dirt (I imagine) still clinging to the roots are handed across the fence in a simple, neighborly gesture of friendship as down-to-earth and homey as the radishes themselves. The use of radishes as a connection between humans reminds me of Issa's haiku:

> the radish-puller points the way with a radish

The Issa radish is, of course, a long, white daikon radish, not the round, red ones I imagine in the 7922 poem. \rightarrow

Dojins' Corner - continued

7933 in an eddy river ice reshapes itself

jb: The language is minimal, yet conveys a strong idea. The "river ice" is literally "reshaping itself," under the influence of the physics of the season. This can be read as a simple description of the change of concrete river phenomena: some parts of the ice melt and new areas are frozen. Thus, the ice is reshaped. However, there is a subtext. Like ice, in an eddy, we all have an opportunity to "reshape ourselves." The metaphor is insightful, positive; and, for me, delightful.

pjm: It's the cusp of spring. The ice on the river is breaking up; caught in a great whorl, the giant slabs collide and, jammed together, grind their edges off. Upon first reading one thinks of this reshaping as a positive, but upon further thought, the process is ultimately destructive. Soon the ice will be totally annihilated, a destruction as complete as death itself; necessary, yes, for spring and its process of renewal, but for the ice there will be no return.

7951 muddy road memories of childhood ooze through my toes

pjm: I was particularly caught by this haiku because its evocation of a childhood memory is through the sense of touch. I truly hope the poet was actually able to go barefoot in the mud as an adult! He or she made me long to do the same.

jb: Memories flood in in many ways, including the ooze of a muddy road. Touch is a great source of mnemonic delight. The author has caught the fluidity of memory in the tactile metaphor. This is a narrative haiku where the substance of the verse is carried in the verb "ooze." "Muddy road" is a spring kigo. So an adult is (or seems to be) walking barefoot on a nice day in springtime. The sensation of mud in the toes is delightful and yields a flood of childhood memories. Tactile memories are often very strong, and there are likely olfactory sensations as well. And the author is right, memories, sometimes, do seem to "ooze" through the toes.

7965 winter afternoon harp music accompanies my snoring husband

pjm: What harmony and warmth this haiku evokes. I didn't realize until I read this how cozy and companionable a snore can be especially when its bass is accompanying a harp's soprano!

jb: Do I dare call this "chamber music"? We apparently have a harp and nostril duet. This, for me, is a good humored haiku, and I enjoy playing with the images called to mind. The harp is one of the most ancient of instruments, along with the flute, drum, and voice. This is undoubtedly a repetition of an ancient scene, and I see a patient wife (possibly) busy with projects rising to the moment with a grin.

7967 no resolutions back and forth on a bare branch a phoebe swaying

pjm: Winter. A time of reflection. The poet is clearly in the moment satisfied to see a single phoebe (I see it as a black phoebe—this haiku is a study in black and white) having just landed, sway back and forth. The immediacy of the image is conveyed with no extra frills in traditional form, like a sumi painting. For the poet and for the reader no resolutions are necessary—only appreciation, a humble benediction, of this simple, barely drawn scene.

jb: Ah, the indecision of a new year ... no resolutions. It's not that we haven't kept them, we just haven't made any. And, looking out the window, or across the yard, there is a phoebe whose swaying, on a bare branch, acts as a mirror to my psyche. As an added touch, the phoebe in ancient Roman myth is a personification of the moon. Quite a reflection. \rightarrow

7973 putting a toe in the tide ... winter clouds

jb: As I read this haiku it undergoes a metamorphosis. At first I think of summer on the beach and cavorting in the surf. Then I realize my reading is incorrect, there are "winter clouds." It's not summer. And secondly, I didn't put a toe "into the surf," the toe was "put" "in the *tide*." The tide is not the surf. "Surf" is local. Tide is much more universal. The word "tide" connotes greater forces: rotation of the earth, combined with movement of the moon and the "winter clouds" are what put me in contact with the tide.

pjm: It took rereading this haiku to feel that initial shock of cold when one first puts a toe in a *winter* ocean current. Like Jerry I didn't know it was winter until the last line where I see the winter clouds, heavy and dark. There is calamity here. And devastation. I suggest that the poem would have even more impact if "winter clouds" were the first line.

Jerry and Patricia invite your comments. Contact

or through donnalynn chase in care of *GEPPO*.

January - February 2010 Haiku Voted Best by GEPPO Readers

my daily journal juncos double-scratching in deep snow

~ Michele Root-Bernstein

in an eddy river ice reshapes itself

~ Desiree Mcmurry

first plum blossoms the urge to try something new with my grey strands ~ Judith Schallberger

talking on his cell he trods on the violet

backyard fence a bunch of radishes from the neighbor ~ Patricia Prime

winter sun a handsome youth emerges from the old man's face ~ Peggy Heinrich

looking back at me in the railcar window winter night

~ Gregory Longenecker

~ Dave Bachelor

sheets of ice the perfect couple splits up

~ Ruth Holzer

winter evening nothing matters but these words

~ Peggy Heinrich

winter garden the red ball no longer hidden

~ Desiree Mcmurry

muddy road memories of childhood ooze through my toes ~ Steven E. Cottingham

how quietly fall today's snowflakes on yesterday's snow ~ Yvonne Hardenbrook

YTHS Members' Anthologies for Sale

2001 Spring Sky, ed. June Hopper Hymas -- \$5 2003 Migrating Mist, eds. Anne M. Homan and donnalynn chase -- \$5 2004 The Heron Leans Forward, eds. Anne M. Homan and donnalynn chase -- \$5 2005 Growing a Green Heart, eds. Anne Homan and Patricia J. Machmiller -- \$6 2006 Flying White, eds. donnalynn chase and June Hopper Hymas – \$7 2008 Muse of the Bird-Song Tree, ed. Paul O. Williams -- \$8 2009 Extinguished Candles, ed. June Hopper Hymas -- \$8 Contact donnalynn chase to purchase or mail checks payable to "YTHS" to her. Cost includes shipping.

2010 Members' Anthology Haiku Due May 31

Editors: June Hopper Hymas and Jerry Ball SUBMIT by email if at all possible. SEND to both email addresses below: June Hymas ud Judith Schallberger during three copies via U.S. Mail to: Judith Schallberger, 5830 Arapaho Drive, San Jose, CA 95123.

GUIDELINES:

- CONTRIBUTORS must be current, paid-up members of Yuki Teikei Haiku Society; the anthology is a membership benefit, without additional charge.
- ELIGIBLE haiku should be unpublished but may have appeared only in the GEPPO.
- EACH haiku should have only ONE kigo or season word.
- SEND at least seven or more of your best haiku; choices add balance to the anthology.
- INCLUDE your name & contact information on submission(s).
- MUST be received by May 31, 2010.

The anthology will be distributed at the Asilomar Retreat this September. Copies will be mailed after the retreat to those who did not attend. Additional copies may be purchased at \$8 each postpaid from Judith Schallberger.

YTHS's Annual Asilomar Retreat September 16-19 at Pacific Grove

The Society is happy to announce that the featured presenter for their Asilomar Retreat in 2010 is Margaret Chula, one of the most accomplished English-language haiku poets. Margaret Chula started writing haiku while she was living in California in the early seventies before moving to Japan. She studied haiku and other Japanese literature during the twelve years that she lived there. Also in Japan she taught English at Kyoto Seika University and taught creative writing and haiku at Doshisha Women's College. She now makes her home in Portland, Oregon. Her collections of haiku, Grinding My Ink, and Shadow Lines have won first place for haiku in the Haiku Society of America's annual National Book Awards.

The 2010 Asilomar Retreat will take place Thursday September 16 through Sunday September 19. This year's conference will include an escorted tour of Tor House, Robinson Jeffers stone house near-Carmel. In addition there will be the traditional activities, including writing workshops, a chance to do art, an introduction to renku-writing and an evening spent on that poetry, nature walks, and other events. An additional feature of this years retreat will be a party celebrating the 35th anniversary of the founding of the Society.

A \$450 fee covers the conference, three nights lodging, and meals Thursday dinner through Sunday lunch. Attendees who register and pay in full by June 15 will receive a \$50 discount in fee. The registration deadline is August 1.

Register with a deposit check of \$100 or more (payable to the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society) to one of the registrars: Patricia Machmiller,

For more information and registration form, go to the YTHS website at youngleaves.org or email Patrick Gallagher at

In-hand deadline: May 31, 2010

Prizes: \$100, \$50 and \$25. Final selection will be made by a distinguished haiku poet.

Contest Rules:

- Haiku in English of 17 syllables, in a 5-7-5 pattern.
- Each haiku must use one kigo, and only one kigo, taken from the contest list.
- Haiku will more than one recognized kigo will be disqualified.
- Prize winning poems and commentary may printed by YTHS in GEPPO, anthology, and other publications.

2010 Contest Kigo List

first visitor
hazy moon
tiger swallowtail
autumn loneliness
basketball

Submission Guidelines

• • • • • • • • •

- Entry Fee is \$7 per page of three haiku.
- No limit of entries.
- Entries will not be returned.
- Submit four copies of each page with your name and address on only one copy.
- Entries are to be typed on 8 ½ x 11 size sheet of paper.
- Checks or money order payable to "Yuki Teikei Haiku Society".
- Oversee entrants please use International Postal Money, in US 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.
- Contest open to anyone, except YTHS President and Contest Chair.

Send entries to:

Alison Woolpert, YTHS Contest Chair

Submission Guidelines for GEPPO

due date for the next issue is June 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.

WANTED: Haiku for YTHS's Saijiki

The Yuki Teikei Haiku Society hopes to release its regional saijiki at this year's Asilomar retreat. To achieve this, current editor Anne Homan needs haiku to be considered to exemplify each kigo in the saijiki. The deadline for these submissions is July 15, 2010. Please submit your poems to her by e-mail or regular mail (see below).

Check YTHS's Jr 2009 Anthology for a list of all kigo being considered for use in the saijiki. You can contact Anne at

YTHS GEPPO Editor

YTHS 2010 Calendar

	YTHS 2010 Calendar	July 15	Saijiki Haiku Due to Anne Homan See information in this issue.
May 31	"In-hand Deadline" for Annual Tokutomi Memorial Contest See details in this issue.	July 24	Deeper Into the Season II - Haiku Workshop at Monterey Dunes. Facilitated by Patricia Machmiller.
May 31	"In-hand Deadline" for Annual 2010 YTHS Membership Anthology - See details in this issue.		9:30am - 4:30pm. Cost: \$60 per day; payable to YTHS. RSVP or
June 10	Next GEPPO due date for votes & haiku	August	No meeting or event scheduled.
-		August 1	Asilomar retreat conference registra-
June 12	Meeting/Ginko at Hakone Gardens in Saratoga. 1:30 - 5:00 pm.		tion deadline.
		Sept. 16	Annual Asilomar Retreat in Pacific
June 15	Asilomar early registration due - save \$50 by paying in full for conference	through 19	Grove. More information in this issue
		Oct. TBD	Moonviewing at Patrick Gallaghar's.
July 10	Tanabata Celebration at Anne Homan's Livermore home. 6:00 pm - ? Please bring a peanut-free dish for pot luck dinner.	Oct. 31	Deeper Into the Season II WS
		Nov. 3	Planning Meeting at Carol Steele's.
		Dec. 11	Winter Party at Patricia Machmiller's.