

1st Prize

**first birdsong at dawn
umami percolates through
my mother's kitchen**

Wakako Rollinger

Umami is a strong taste that is not sweet, sour, salty, or bitter and that is often referred to as "the fifth taste," which comes from dried kelp, dried and fermented bonito chips, and dried shitake mushrooms and is indispensable for Japanese dishes. On New Year's morning, the mother cooks a special New Year's soup containing mochi, vegetables, and chicken. From very early, auspicious air fills the house and the minds of the family. An excellent start to a new year! (Emiko)

2nd Prize

**hillside snow angels
the Zephyr train engineer
blasts two short whistles**

Alison Woolpert

Snow angels can be seen on the mountain-side. At the moment a tourist train passes by, it whistles sharply twice. The train is outlined against the white background, and then we hear the whistles. The sound echoing in the silence of this snowy place reaches the reader's ears too. In other words, the placement of the sounds echoing in the silence in this haiku is a success without being overbearing. Moreover, it also makes the landscape infinitely larger. (Nanae)

3rd Prize

**they stop together
then move on separately
the rabbit and time**

Clark Strand

This haiku reminds me of White Rabbit, a character in Lewis Carroll's 1865 book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. At the story's beginning, he appears wearing a waistcoat, a pocket watch in his hand, and muttering, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!" The haiku suggests an opening of something, perhaps a party, but this time with no haste! (Emiko)

Honorable Mentions

herbal scented breeze-
reading the tea leaves as they
settle in my cup

Betty Arnold

an ice cream sandwich
licking around the edges
of a lazy day

Marcia Burton

joining in the fun
our old lab adds some yellow
to each snow angel

Tracy Davidson

a mimosa tree
icicles hang from each branch—
buttermilk biscuits

Johnnie Johnson Hafernik

nursing home visit . . .
a sweet taste of mom's childhood
in her ice cream cone

Barrie Levine

as autumn deepens
she sketches a new pattern
for her needlework

Priscilla Lignori

snow angel morning
for a moment his young face
giggling through the dust

Richard Matta

sky in dusky pink
a breeze scented with turned earth
ruffles the paper

Desiree McMurray

mother's recipe—
bread rises in the oven
this Day of the Dead

Lorraine Padden

filled up with sunlight
but frozen all the way through
temple icicles

Clark Strand



Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi Haiku Contest

The Annual Tokutomi Haiku Contest of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society (YTHS) is named for Mr. Kiyoshi and Mrs. Kiyoko Tokutomi, bilingual speakers of English and Japanese. They founded the Society in 1975 to foster writing haiku in English along traditional Japanese guidelines. YTHS studies (but is not limited to) this form. The Tokutomi Haiku Contest is the longest-lived contest in the West that requires contest entries to follow this traditional form.

Contest Guidelines

This contest is for English language haiku written in the traditional form of three lines using a 5-7-5 syllabic pattern. Each poem is required to contain one (and only one) season word (kigo) from the following list chosen for this year's contest:

New Year: year of the rabbit, first birdsong

Spring: frog, fledgling, smiling mountain

Summer: rose, fragrant (or scented) breeze/wind, ice cream

Autumn: autumn deepens, yellow leaves, Obon, Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead

Winter: icicle, snow angel, rabbit

Contest Judges 2023

Emiko Miyashita, a Japanese haiku poet, resides in Tokyo. She has been a regular commentator for *Geppo's* "Dojin's Corner," the quarterly journal of YTHS, since 2014. She is a member of Haiku

Canada, a council of the Haiku International Association, a vice-chair of the English-Speaking Union of Japan, and a director of the JAL Foundation.

Nanae Tamura is a Japanese haiku poet, essayist, and translator. She translated and co-edited with Cor van den Heuvel the book *Baseball Haiku: The Best Haiku Ever Written about the Game* (2007). Her great pleasure is writing a column for the Shiki Newsletter, and being an active member of the Shiki Museum. Yearly, she judges the English entries to the Matsuyama City Haiku Post Contest, and once a month, she holds a kukai for two local haiku groups.

Artist

kris moon kondo is a long-time friend and member of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society. In 1992, she met Kiyoko Tokutomi, who in 2000 stayed with her in her mountain home in Japan.

kris' artwork, inspired by our 2023 kigo, is presented in this brochure.



Yuki Teikei Haiku Society



Winners of the Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi 2023 Haiku Contest

