

...Ordered by the Seasons

solitary frog
a world of uncertainty
the shape of water

Michael Henry Lee

row of hollyhocks—
the pulse of Westminster chimes
getting in my stride

Sheila K. Barksdale

this clear winter moon
a blackout in the mountains
of wild Alaska

Karina Young

armchair wanderlust—
I celebrate Basho's Day
with a cup of tea

Linda Papanicolaou



For information about the YTHS society
and about future contests please check
our website:

www.youngleaves.org

Contest Judges

Nanae Tamura is a haiku poet, haiku
essayist, and translator. She has written
a column in the "Shiki-shimpo" (Shiki
Newsletter) for more than two decades.
Translator for the yearly Shiki Calendar
of Ehime University, she also translated
and co-edited with Cor van den Heuvel
the book *Baseball Haiku* (W.W. Norton &
Co., 2007). She learned haiku mainly
from her third teacher, Kiyoko Tsuda,
who was a disciple of Takako Hashimoto
and Seishi Yamaguchi. She is a judge of
both the non-Japanese haiku for the
"City Haiku Post" and the Haiku Koshien
(a nationwide haiku competition for high
school students held in Matsuyama). In
her words, "I love haiku because it brings
me close to nature and has magical
power to tell me who I am always."

Nozomi Sugiyama was born and raised
in Hiroshima. After moving to Matsuyama
in 1993, she joined the Japanese haiku
group Kunugi (Japanese Chestnut Oak),
which follows the yuki teikei form of
haiku. She is the current dojin and editor
of "Kunugi," the group's monthly
magazine. As a member of the
Association of Haiku Poets, in 2010 she
published a haiku collection, *Gacho (A
Sketch Book)*. She has been teaching
haiku and renku for beginners, as well as
lecturing at the NHK (Japanese
Broadcasting Association) Culture
Center on *Oku no Hosomichi, Bashō's
Narrow Road to the Deep North*. In fear
of death by boredom, she constantly
kept herself busy. Now, however, she
believes that perhaps the most
precious resource is, indeed, idle time to
hatch haiku and enrich her life.

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Announces



Winners of the Tokutomi 2018 Haiku Contest

Eight Honorable Mentions...

marsh meadow at dusk—
cross-legged on an old log
I commune with frogs

Linda Papanicolaou

we lie on our backs
the Milky Way arcs beyond
our understanding

Debbie Strange

the smell of forest
on grandfather's pocket knife—
mushroom gathering

Kit Nagamura

my fists are clenched tight
chess under a winter moon
black knight falls early

Neal Whitman

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: first day of the year
Spring: frog, spring fever
Summer: hollyhock, balmy breeze
Autumn: mushroom gathering, Milky Way
Winter: Basho's Day, winter moon

2018 Prize-winning Haiku

Comments by the Judges
Nanae Tamura
Nozomi Sugiyama

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, with the inclusion of a season word in each haiku and the use of a 5-7-5 syllabic pattern. 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.

Cover Art Work:

Painting for the brochure
by Patricia J. Machmiller

First Prize

walk in the evening—
reminiscent of mom’s touch
this soft balmy breeze

Priscilla Lignori

In our daily lives we evaluate everything all the time without knowing it. From morning until night, we are busy giving positive or negative evaluations on whatever we see or touch, even over trivial matters. Likewise, the seeds of haiku are always around us and waiting to be found. Haiku is a work of art that scoops up these vibrations and combines them with a seasonal element giving the poet’s own evaluation or thought so that the reader and writer can share the same feeling together.

At the moment the soft balmy breeze blew, the author sensed it as his/her mom’s touch. Evening easily guides us to the reminiscence of our mom and the breeze is her sigh showing us her subtle presence. Although we sometimes feel the same feelings, we often pass them by and soon forget about them. The author stopped for a while and waited patiently until his/her feeling ripened. That will win the sympathy of all of us. Congratulations!

Second Prize

first day of the year
in the garden a junco
turns over a leaf

Greg Longenecker

Everyone has some new or fresh feelings on New Year’s Day, perhaps with some expectations or resolutions. This haiku doesn’t ask you to stand and listen to anything or to be a new person burying your past. However this poem conveys a strong message to the readers.

The author shows that he/she noticed a tiny change made by a small bird coming into the garden. We are able to find hope in his/her discovery, mentioned in the phrase “turns over a leaf,” such that it almost becomes a prayer.

How beautifully this haiku expresses a gentle moment at the beginning of the New Year by using the season word so effectively!

Third Prize

just before slumber—
the sound of gentle rain on
purple hollyhocks

Sean Kelbley

When we did our judging, we were surprised that many of the hollyhock haiku were very similar to haiku written in Japan (mostly by women) evoking similar emotional responses to those tall summer flowers. Among them, this haiku has a special taste and creates a wonderful atmosphere. The haiku says that the poet was almost falling asleep and listening to the sound of rain. Then the third line mentions the flower’s color, purple. The color has been in the poet’s mind since he/she saw the flowers previously, and then it appears in the poem. This structure enables the reader to imagine some fond thoughts and a quiet rich inner space.