

International Haiku Poetry Day Gatherings 2016

Local Haiku Celebrations

Bulgaria (online)

Shoshin is an online Bulgarian haiku group. For IHPD we have prepared a short collection of haiku that include the *kigo* “spring wind”. During the week of April 17 we will be hosting a series of online workshops on the topic of regional season words:

Monday, April 11 — The poets are invited to share a favorite Bulgarian haiku. We will be looking for the seasonal reference in each poem and discussing how it helps (or not) the reader relate to the personal experience of the poet. We will also give examples of Bulgarian poems outside of haiku, where the human feelings and mood are in unison or in contradiction with the changing nature.

Wednesday, April 13 — The poets are invited to share their own verses for workshopping. Do all haiku need to have a season word? Are two season words too many for one haiku?

Friday, April 15 — There are more than 60 dialects of the Bulgarian language. The poets are invited to share words for plants, animals or events from their native region that can be characterized as seasonal phenomena.

Sunday, April 17 — We will be composing seventeen-wagon haiku “trains” (the last word of each verse becomes the first in the next one)

Contact: Tzetzka Ilieva at vidahaiku@gmail.com

*

Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Ginko in the Gardens
Watersmeet Ginko

To mark International Haiku Poetry Day in Hobart, Ron Moss and I held a ginko in the Royal Botanical Gardens. We chose to meet at the site of the Japanese Gardens, where the haiku group Watersmeet had its beginnings. This was an opportunity, not only to celebrate the day, but also to bring together poets who may be interested in continuing to share haiku activities.

Fourteen people turned out to take part, some of them old hands at haiku, some relative beginners and some entirely new to the form but with a keen desire to learn more about it. We were honoured to also have the company of Lee Bentley, co-coordinator of the Bindii Japanese Poetry Genre Group, who was visiting from South Australia.



After a brief introduction where Ron and I read some mood-setting haiku and thoughts about haiku, Ron led the way along paths that wound through autumn-coloured foliage, across wooden paths and bridges spanning shimmering ponds.



At the sound of a bell we would stop to silently observe and reflect, until another bell signaled a move to another quiet space amid the garden's various nooks and arbours.

the bell
the birdsong
waters meet
— Ron C. Moss

haiku walk
we have to slow down
to catch up
— Jane Williams

at rest above the waterfall her walking cane
— Jane Williams



After an hour or so of silent walking, observing and note-taking, we made our way to the fuchsia house where we shared our thoughts and poems and agreed to meet again for a mid-winter ginko in July. Lee read to us from the fine anthology Willow Light which she edited for Bindii, and gifted us with copies.

wrens twitter
in the fuschia house
we share haiku
— Wajan Hale

I had meant to take photos for this post, but being absorbed with pen and paper and the surrounds, I had to return the next day. This time I brought my husband, whose camera eye captured the images you see here. Fortunately the day was as glorious and sunny as it had been for our walk.

autumn garden colours turning the waterwheel
— Jane Williams

When I emailed for contributions of poems for this report I received the following from Irene McGuire – and share it here with you:

The weather couldn't have been better and the Japanese maples were doing their best to remind us of the season. I had thought to bring my binos but forgot them in the event. At our first stop I could see a flock of small birds flitting. All I could be sure of was that they were not fantails or fairy wrens. The backlighting erases all colour as well and I am not that confident of recognising their calls.

backlit song
flitting
from branch to branch

Tom noticed the trees reflecting the light from the pond as did many of us.



tall spruce
reflecting
the pond's ripples
— Irene McGuire

Another lovely gift received in answer to my call for haiku is this beautiful haiga by Ron:



— Report by Lyn Reeves / photographs by Andrew Reeves

Hopewell Township, New Jersey

A ginko (aka a haiku walk) is planned for Saturday, April 17, from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Watershed Center for Environmental Advocacy, Science and Education, Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Reserve, 31 Titus Mill Rd., Hopewell Township, NJ. Celebrate and explore haiku, a traditional Japanese form of poetry with its luminous focus on nature. Education Director and haiku poet Jeff Hoagland will provide a brief overview of the haiku tradition before facilitating a ginko or haiku walk on the Watershed Nature Reserve. Adults and teens are welcome regardless of experience!

Enjoy the emergence of spring, crafting your own haiku from observations on the trail. Bring a writer's journal and dress for springtime trail conditions – possibly wet or muddy.

Also bring a favorite haiku book and/or journal to share on the haiku table, and a haiku to share as a warm-up. Light refreshments provided.

FREE admission.

Please RSVP in advance – for more information or to register, please call (609) 737-7592.

This event is co-sponsored by the host, the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association.

Contact: Jeff Hoagland at jhoagland13@aol.com

*

Los Angeles, California

The Southern California Haiku Study Group is holding its monthly workshop at the USC Pacific Asia Museum on Saturday, April 16, 2016, followed by a festive dinner afterwards in honor of International Haiku Poetry Day. The meeting will be one hour longer than usual, starting at 1:30 and ending at 4:30, in order to have a mini-haiku book fair with titles remaining from the haiku booth at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, held April 9th and 10th on the USC campus. We have a wide variety of haiku titles available, over 100 different titles. The USC Pacific Asia Museum is located at 47 N. Los Robles, Pasadena, CA.

Contact: Debbie Kolodji at dkolodji@aol.com

*

Mount Angel, Oregon

Johnny Baranski will be giving a reading at the Mount Angel Abbey Bookstore on Sunday, April 17.

Contact: Johnny Baranski at jbsgarage@aol.com

*

New York, New York

Amy Losak will be reading a selection of Sydell Rosenberg's work at a poetry event organized by the Queens Botanical Garden in the borough of Queens, NYC. This public event is geared to an all-age audience, and may be complemented by a tour of the QBG.

Contact: Amy Losak at losak@optonline.net

*

San Francisco, California

On April 17 from 1 to 5 p.m., the Haiku Poets of Northern California will gather at Fort Mason in San Francisco. Our featured reader will be local San Francisco poet Sharon Pretti, followed by a presentation by Abigail Friedman entitled "Reading Haiku Across Borders". Abigail is traveling to the Bay Area from Washington DC to be with us. She is the author of *The Haiku Apprentice: Memoirs of Writing Poetry in Japan* (Stone Bridge Press, 2006), *I Wait for the Moon: 100 Haiku of Momoko Kuroda* (Stone Bridge Press, 2014) and *Street Chatter Fading* (Larkspur Press, 2015). This and all of our events are free and open to the public.

Contact: Sue Antolin at susantolin@gmail.com

*

Seattle, Washington

Haiku Northwest will stage a Haiku Day at the Seattle Japanese Garden on April 17 in celebration of International Haiku Writing Day. Here's the info and schedule: [https:// sites.google.com/site/haikunorthwest/2016-events/haiku-day-at-the-seattle-japanese-garden](https://sites.google.com/site/haikunorthwest/2016-events/haiku-day-at-the-seattle-japanese-garden). Should be fun, if the weather cooperates!

Contact: Michael Dylan Welch at welchm@aol.com

Sherman, Texas

The Texoma Haiku Society April Meeting (to be held at the Midway Mall Food Court, 4800 Texoma Parkway, Sherman, Texas) celebrates International Haiku Poetry Day. A Bonsai

TEXOMA HAIKU SOCIETY

**INTERNATIONAL
HAIKU
POETRY
DAY**



SUN. APRIL 17
FROM 1:00 -- 5:30PM

MIDWAY MALL FOOD COURT
4800 TEXOMA PARKWAY, SHERMAN, TX 75090

**FREE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

MORE INFO BR3PHOENIX@AOL.COM OR 903-893-8435





Verse Gallery will run throughout, featuring work not only by the Japanese masters Basho, Issa, Buson and Shiki, but classic American Poets Ezra Pound, Amy Lowell, Gary Snyder, Jack Kerouac, Richard Wright and James W. Hackett along with contemporary haikin Nick Virgilio, Elizabeth Searle Lamb, Lee Gurga, Christopher Herold, Gary Hotham, Jim Kacian, Michael McClintock, Marlene Mountain, Marian Olson, Alan Pizzarelli, Alexis Rotella, John Stevenson, George Swede, vincent tripi, Cor van den Heuvel, Stanford M. Forrester, Michael Dylan Welch, and Ruth Yarrow etc.

Our program will be as follows:

- 1:00 - Haiku Slam performed by Cliff & Brenda Roberts: What Is Haiku
- 1:30 - Open Reading
- 2:00 - Program: How To Write Haiku
- 2:30 - Open Reading
- 3:00 - Workshop Kigo: Frog
- 3:30 - Program: Haiku or Senryu
- 4:00 - Open Reading
- 4:30 - Program: How To Read Haiku
- 5:00 - Haijin: Open Reading
- 5:30 - Workshop Prize awarded

*

Shreveport, Louisiana

The Northwest Louisiana Haiku Society will host an event for International Haiku Poetry Day at the Broadmoor Branch of Shreve Memorial Library on April 17 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Contact: Carlos Colón at ccolon423@comcast.net

Stockholm, Sweden

The Swedish Haiku Society will have its annual meeting and lecture with the chairman of the society, former ambassador of Sweden to Japan Lars Vargö, in Stockholm on April 17. For more information please visit <http://www.haiku-shs.org> or <http://www.facebook.com/svenskahaikusallskapet>.

Contact: Anna Maris at anna.maris@gmail.com

*

Stratford-upon-Avon, United Kingdom

Four well known Warwickshire-based poets will be performing around Stratford-upon-Avon on Sunday 17th April in a Haiku Hike to celebrate International Haiku Poetry Day. Led by the Stratford performance poet and artist, Wendy Freeman, the group consists of Dave Reeves (poet-in-residence at the Black Country Living Museum), Matt Black (Derbyshire Poet Laureate 2011–13), and Alison Absolute (winner of Worcestershire Litfest Poetry Slam).

There will be a very rich and varied programme of Haiku, from Traditional to New Wave, spoken, musical and visual, with humour and audience participation in the presentations. They will include the use of art objects and props, and music will come from Dave Reeves, known for accompanying his poetry readings on harmonica and squeezebox.

The Haiku Hike will start at the Stratford Picture House bar at 1.30pm, where Wendy will host a Haiku Drop-In until 2.30pm; then it will move on to the Scott Bar at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre between 3.30 and 4.30pm, where all four poets will perform *The Haiku Show*. Finally, joined by former Director of Stratford Poetry Festival, Roger Pringle, the four will perform at the Dirty Duck pub, Waterside at 7.00 pm: there will also be a Haiku Open Mic as part of the evening performance.

All events are free and everyone is welcome.

Contact details for the Haiku Hike can be found at www.facebook.com/radiowildfire.

*

West Burke, Vermont

West Burke librarian Judith Hishikawa will conduct the 2nd Annual Haiku Workshop at the West Burke Public Library [123 VT RT 5A, West Burke VT 05871] on April 24 at 1:00PM. This year's theme is "Brevity: Vermont Mind - Haiku Mind - Zen Mind". "We will discuss the concepts of Oneness, Intimacy, Emptiness, Uniqueness, and Naturalness using examples from the traditional masters, and classic Vermont conversations." Please bring haiku that you are working on and your own writing materials. Coffee and refreshments are available nearby. We will go on an inspirational walk.

Contact: Judith Hishikawa at hishikawasensei@hotmail.com