

Contrapuntal-Poetry/dp/0473516519/
ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=memories+of+the+future+haiku&qid=1587789461&sr=8-1



New Bridges: The Portland Haiku Group Anthology, edited by Jacob Salzer (2018, A CreateSpace Publication, Portland, OR) 148 pages, 6x9”, perfect bound, ISBN: 978-1721042371. \$12.50 from amazon.com

Reviewed by Shasta Hatter

New Bridges by the Portland Haiku Group contains haiku and tanka by well-known and new poets in the Portland, Oregon area. It contains over 250 poems by 17 poets. The theme of the anthology is building bridges to new friendships through haiku and tanka. Structurally, the book is divided into three-line haiku, two-line haiku, one-line haiku, and tanka sections. This structure allows each form to shine in its own way.

This first offering by the Portland Haiku Group opens with haiku to honor Johnny Baranski (1948-2018) in memoriam. Baranski was a well-known haikai, a long-time member of the Portland Haiku Group, and a prominent member of the Haiku Society of America. He died suddenly in January of 2018 while this book was being developed. This haiku by Clayton Beach alludes to Baranski’s history as an activist while expressing the loss of a valued mentor and friend:

convict 14302
a dragonfly zooms off
into the blue

This simple and heartfelt haiku by Carolyn Winkler honors Baranski’s continuing influence:

watching over us
the words he left
behind

This emotional start to the book carries us into the theme of the anthology: the notion that haiku can build bridges between each other and the larger community. The poems appeal to our senses and often contain deep implications, as in these two haiku from the three-line section:

chain clangs
on an empty flagpole
wind's ragged song
Nancy Norman

spring wind
raked stones in the dry garden
flow without moving
Margaret Chula

Resonance continues in the two-line haiku section. Bridges between us and nature are revealed. A sampling of the high-quality work can be seen in these two haiku:

a heron muddies clear water
opening an old love letter
Clayton Beach

still river fading
into frogs and shadows
Thomas Martin

In the one-line haiku section, the ability to deliver a sensory and intellectual experience comes to fruition. The poems range from topical to sensual. Each haiku delivers a complete poetic event:

There, here, everywhere...Charlottesville
David H. Rosen

her rough edges smooth to a lover's touch
Johnny Baranski

figs oozing nectar: edible sunshine
Linda Dalal Sawaya

family gathering fog between mountains
Jacob Salzer

The tanka section brings the anthology to a beautiful conclusion. Here the poets spread out a bit to build more bridges between the reader and the poet. The poems have emotional range and a strong sense of place as these tanka illustrate:

the surf
drowned out by softness
of his words
tearful expression talking
about his father
Jim Rodriquez

what is truth
to a butterfly
sipping
the sweet honey centers
of white clover
Margaret Chula

The talent and dedication of the Portland Haiku Group is on display in this book. It documents the way haiku causes us to capture the juxtaposition of images, and discover connections. You will surely find something to treasure on each page as you enjoy this vibrant collection.



Long Winter Sunset by Doris Heitmeyer, Edited by vincent tripi. Illustrations by Hyde Meissner, (Swamp Press, 2019) Volume was typeset in Centaur and printed on Classic Crest For price information contact Swamp Press, Northfield, MA