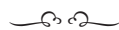


Contrapuntal-Poetry/dp/0473516519/  
ref=sr\_1\_1?dchild=1&keywords=memories+of+the+future+haiku&qid=1587789461&sr=8-1



*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*

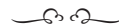
family gathering fog between mountains  
*Jacob Salzer*

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