

1997 HSA National Meeting (Third Quarterly Meeting)

[as reported in the *HSA Newsletter*, Vol. XII, No. 4, autumn 1997]

Executive Committee. The meeting was held in the East Asia Lounge, Kent Hall, at Columbia University, New York, on September 6, 1997. Officers present were Lee Gurga, President; Dee Evetts, Secretary; and Raffael de Gruttola, Treasurer. The meeting was chaired by Pres. Lee Gurga.

It was agreed that the existing HSA regions are in need of restructuring, and that this should be taken up by the Executive Committee during the coming year. A proposal to create three regions for Canada was approved, subject to agreement with Canadian representatives.

After discussion the following motions were approved:

- That the duties of the First Vice President be expanded to include acting as liaison between the Executive Committee and the HSA Regional Coordinators.
- That membership dues for overseas members be raised from \$28 to \$30 in 1999, to cover increases in airmail costs.
- That a travel allowance of \$100 be made available to HSA officers for expenses incurred in attending the annual meeting of the Society, the object being to maximize the number of officers attending this meeting.
- That each HSA officer should prepare a job-description binder that will be passed on to his or her successor, and circulated among the other officers, with the aim of minimizing oversights and duplication of efforts and ensuring continuity.

The Committee approved in principle the creation of an HSA logo and T-shirt. All designs should be sent to Michael Dylan Welch. The final choice will be subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

There was then a discussion of various questions raised by HSA Webmaster, Sara Brant. The main conclusions that directly affect members were:

- That besides the Information Sheet and the Newsletter, the Website will in the future also feature members' haiku. Initially these will be drawn from two sources: the annual members anthology and HSA contest results.
- That members will be asked, on the membership renewal form, if they wish their E-mail address to be posted on the HSA Website.

— *Dee Evetts*

Public meeting. The public session of the national meeting was held in the East Asia Lounge from 2:00—5:00 p.m. In attendance were Gannam Adam, Astrid Andreescu, Mykel Board, Miriam Borne, L.A. Davidson, Chuck Easter, Bernard Lionel Einbond, Dee

Evetts, Alan Gould, Michelina de Gruttola, Raffael de Gruttola, Lee Gurga, Scott Hall, John Hudak, Jim Kacian, Leroy Kanterman, J. William Kelley, Kevin Earl Lee, Dorothy McLaughlin, Brenda Gertrude Morris, Pamela Miller Ness, Al Pizzarelli, Roslyn Rabin, Bruce Ross, Hiroaki Sato, Theresa Sheehan, John Stevenson, Geri Taper, Nina Theodoru, Stefan Theodoru, Henry Traeger, Cor van den Heuvel, and Wolcott Wheeler.

cold october
studying astronomy text
sprinkling sugar into black coffee
— Scott Hall

On this splendid early fall afternoon, the meeting began with a welcome from John Hudak, the Metro-Region Coordinator, and the traditional self-introduction round-reading, a synopsis of the day's events, and then the report of the Executive Committee meeting.

The business part of the meeting began with a brief report by Secretary Dee Evetts, on the meeting of the HSA Executive Committee. President Lee Gurga then announced the nominations for the HSA elections made by the nominating committee, chaired this year by William J. Higginson. These nominations were duly seconded by members present, and there were no nominations from the floor. (A full list of the nominees appears on page 2)

A short memorial reading for Geraldine Clinton Little started the readings off. First, John Hudak read a small selection of her haiku.

Wind in the woods;
Among the broken bottles
the hepatica
— Geraldine Clinton Little

There was a question as to what "hepatica" is. The Oxford English Dictionary shows one of the definitions as a "plant of genus *Hepatica*, closely related to anemone, with lobed leaves resembling the liver."

This was followed by reminiscence of Geraldine by Hiroaki Sato, who mentioned a letter he had from her questioning the custom of kissing in Japan. Following was two of her haiku sequences ("Deep in the Forest" and "The Journey, the Illumination") read by L.A. Davidson, who also added that Geraldine loved singing as well as writing poetry, tanka, and haiku.

Chuck Easter read from his new collection of haibun, *Spirit Dance*, which is a wonderful catalog of impressions, stories, and memories from his childhood.

communion
eating the honey
of dead bees

— Chuck Easter

Hiroaki Sato introduced two friends, Wolcott Wheeler and J. William Kelley, who read short collections of their haiku. Hiroaki then passed out five sheets of paper that contained some passages from his translation of Bashô's *Narrow Road to the Interior*, recently published by Stone Bridge Press, Berkeley, Calif. He compared three versions of the translation of the texts (one of the other translations was by Cid Corman and Kamaike Susumu). He also compared a number of versions of the following haiku that was the haiku quoted in the text:

Summer grass: where the warriors used to dream

In deutzia flowers I see Kanefusa's white hair
— Hiroaki Sato, 1996

Summer grass:
stalwart warriors splendid dreams
the aftermath
— Harold Henderson, 1958

The summer grasses:
The high bravery of men-at-arms,
The vestiges of dream
— Earl Miner, 1969

Summer grasses
where stalwart soldiers
once dreamed a dream
— Makoto Ueda, 1991

Dee Evetts talked about the relationship between James Joyce's *Epiphanies* and haiku. Joyce describes his *Epiphanies* as the sudden "revelation of the whatness of a thing," the moment in which "the soul of the commonest object seems to us radiant." Two examples:

- A recumbent dog howling at a crossroads, under a dull sky: it begins to rain.
- Two mourners pushing their way through the crowd: their faces described.

— James Joyce

Dee's complete article, "The significance of Trivial Things," on Joyce's *Epiphanies* and their connection to haiku can be found in *Modern Haiku*, 21:2 (summer 1990).

To end the National Meeting, Jim Kacian led a workshop in which a participant's haiku was anonymously written on a blackboard and discussed by all present, with

suggestions for improvement and general comments following. Jim gave the workshop his usual insights and clarity.

— *John Hudak*